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**“Focusing on the future”
Opening Remarks**

Transatlantic Week 2021

Transatlantic Policy Network (TPN)

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Let me open this 2021 TPN Transatlantic Week event by welcoming you - the extended transatlantic policy network - to our programme.

Good morning to you if you are joining in Washington DC or the Americas, and good afternoon to all colleagues in Europe, and Brussels in particular.

At a series of sessions over the next two days we aim to make an interactive transatlantic contribution to advancing the transatlantic partnership which lies at the heart of the TPN Mission.

And before we break for summer, it is a great moment to reflect on what has been achieved in what has been achieved in the last six months in rebuilding transatlantic trust and confidence.

A month after a good and successful EU-US Summit, it is also a great moment to focus on what needs to come next this autumn in order to turn ambitions into outcomes.

As someone once said: "Wishes don't clean dishes!"

Indeed, there is a lot of work ahead of us.

I want, in a moment, to offer a message that calls for global leadership built on transatlantic compromise but before I do that, let me say a word or two on what we will talk about over the next hours, today and tomorrow, before we close.

As many of you will know TPN is working on a TA 2030 Vision Project with the Vision all about what transatlantic partnership can deliver in terms of global value systems, security, sustainability and economic progress.

This event will mark the launch of the 'Substantive Phase' focused on priorities for action in the period between now and 2024.

Our agenda for today and tomorrow will concentrate on what needs to happen so that we can continue - what has always been our strength – to rebuild trust in a strengthened transatlantic relationship.

As what is ahead of us will require Congressional and Parliamentary rule making, linking international and domestic political agenda, we are going to share some fresh ideas about the new institutions we need for a renewed Transatlantic Agenda and about strengthening the NATO security bridge.

I trust we will advance thinking in two specific areas: first, how we together should handle the electrifying speed of Digital Transformation, and secondly, how we manage shifts in geopolitics with the rise of China.

In Europe, we are becoming familiar with the way the Biden Administration works and its preference for professionalism, for conduct of diplomacy, and for the re-adoption of an internationalist - and where needed - a transatlanticist approach to things.

European governments and institutions have responded with proposals for a transatlantic partnership to meet global challenges. Here, we share not only interests, we share values. We can be confident that trust will continue to be rebuilt by behaving with decency, diplomacy and professionalism.

Now that fences are being mended, the EU and US leaders can focus on establishing the transatlantic partnership of the future.

We need to focus on what brings us together, and the June Summit has been a stepping stone for this, a sign of revived and constructive approach.

This fall, the American and European co-chairs of the Trade and Tech Council will meet, take stock of the progress achieved, and hopefully see first outcomes of the joined work.

Transatlantic leaders will also need to find the basis for compromise in many key areas, notably about the global sustainability agenda. By delivering a coherent approach that is sufficiently aligned, EU and US leaders will have the opportunity to operate as a credible pillar for global, values-based leadership.

Robert Zoellick, a good friend of the TPN Network, reminds us in his acclaimed history of U.S. Diplomacy and Foreign Policy, that only in 'fantasy' negotiations, does one side win all. The best leaders should always be looking for landing zones and compromises, and keeping an eye constantly on the 'real prize'.

This is the moment for transatlantic leaders to demonstrate the breadth and strength of this partnership. And the understanding that to move forward input from society and business is needed.

Let us engage and deliver on the numerous landing zones that we have!

And so, with that good advice in mind I wish you a fruitful Transatlantic Week!