

Professor Danuta Hübner

“EU-US bilateral relationship plays a key role in the global world”

Launch TPN Staffers Exchange

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Thanks to Bruce and Vivien and Jeffries for bringing us together and add this new level of extremely important human capital to our work to keep the transatlantic partnership resilient and fit for next generations.

Most of you are not new kids on the block, you have been always with us as source of sustainability and inspiration.

Good to see you.

You know that TPN has never been a free lunch. We have always felt the weight of responsibility, we had difficult periods when the task was to ensure resilience of the relations till better time would come.

I can promise you, there were and will be periods of satisfaction but the EU buzz line that ‘yes, a lot was achieved but a lot remains to be done’, applies here.

I am happy that you are ready to support our work and share with us the responsibility in a more formal and visible way.

We meet for the first time and you will decide how to tailor-make this network.

So I would like to tell you how important is this relationship.

We all know that the EU and US are and must remain strategic partners and allies – politically and economically.

Our bilateral relationship plays a key role in the global world.

For the last two years we have worked together to secure the foundation for our economic, technological and trade partnership.

Today it is strong and resilient.

As you probably know our transatlantic trade surpasses today the pre-pandemic levels.

We also see highly interconnected supply chains and mutual investment.

Both our trade and investment support millions of jobs in the EU and the US.

I would like to hear this message more often in the speeches of our political leaders and lawmakers.

Recent data talk about 4.8 million jobs in US companies in the EU and 4.6 million created by European companies in the US.

And these are only jobs directly generated by trade and investment.

There are more indirect that come as spillovers.

We all saw our partnership working and delivering in the context of current geopolitical challenges and Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

By working together we have built a broad alliance of worldwide democracies against the autocratic aggressor.

Since the EU-US Summit in June 2021, we have found pragmatic solutions to ongoing costly trade irritants and took action to avoid new disputes.

We set up the EU-US Trade and Technology Council to create a space for strengthening our cooperation and deliver concrete outcomes.

Having said that I must also admit that a lot remains to be done.

We need permanent solutions to remaining bilateral disputes.

A meaningful example here is the need to find agreement on a Global Sustainable Arrangement on Steel and Aluminium.

We need EU-US cooperation on WTO issues.

EU-US trade and investment relations are firmly anchored in the World Trade Organization.

A strong joint commitment to WTO reform should remain a key element of our bilateral relations.

EU-US cooperation and co-leadership has historically been a driving force for progress in GATT/WTO negotiations.

Today we must update the WTO's rules and tools to ensure its relevance.

A strong international rules-based trade system is essential in an increasingly polarised world and to shield us from a weaponisation of trade policy.

This is in the interest of both the EU and the US.

For some months now our joint task force works with a view to find credible solutions to address the elements of the US Inflation Reduction Act which we in the EU find discriminatory and distortionary towards the EU.

We share the American objective and ambition to remake its economy, reindustrialise itself, boost broadly understood national security, revive left-behind places, bring jobs and dramatically reduce its carbon emissions.

It is a courageous, far reaching industrial policy for decades to go.

Achieving the objectives will profoundly change American economy.

It comes in a period of crucial relevance, we need decisive climate action.

The EU and US alone are putting forward almost EUR 1 trillion to accelerate the clean energy economy.

This has the potential to massively boost the path to climate neutrality.

EU and UE are also committed to support the transition in the global south.

You have probably noticed that the European Commission has just announced draft of our own Green Deal Industrial Plan.

Our plan comes against the backdrop of high energy prices triggered by the Russian aggression and the changing geopolitical environment.

We want to speed up the net-zero industrial transformation.

The Green Deal Industrial Plan is about ensuring access to the technologies, products and solutions that are key to the transition to net-zero and that will bring new source of economic growth and quality jobs.

The plan aims at securing competitiveness, attracting investments in the net-zero industrial base and in green industrial innovation.

The plan will have to pass the test in the next European Council and the EP will play its role as legislator.

So yes we have our strategic plans of remaking our economies but I am convinced that we should work towards ensuring that our respective incentive programmes are fair and mutually reinforcing.

We should avoid hurting transatlantic economic interests.

I must admit that the US government's commitment to cooperate on our concerns is encouraging.

I hope you will agree with me that for our fair and transparent transatlantic trade and investment we need competition based on the principle of level playing field.

So I trust that our policy packages addressing climate change and the transition to a low-carbon economy will build resilience of the transatlantic marketplace in a mutually supportive way. That should be our goal.

I also hope that the EU-US Trade and Technology Council will continue to be the cornerstone of the positive transatlantic trade agenda.

We in the EP have been strong supporters of the European Commission plans to exploit fully the potential of the TTC and its open ended character.

Let me finish by sharing with you one more element of our reflection, well known to Bruce.

The transatlantic assembly.

Some of us are convinced that adding to our Transatlantic Legislative Dialogue The Transatlantic Assembly could give an element of institutional safety and stability.