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“The Transatlantic relations in the context of global challenges”
Conversation with Congressman Jim Costa and Professor MEP Danuta
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It is a privilege for me to be in this conversation with our tireless friend, Congressman Jim Costa.

The previous European Union and United States Summit is still fresh in my memory, but today we can see how dramatically the world has changed since the previous Summit.

The transatlantic relations have been given an unprecedented boost over the last three years. The transatlantic response to the war in Ukraine demonstrates the strength of our alliance.

And we are all aware of the need to future proof these relations, the most comprehensive and dynamic in the world, with a strong global angle that has gained in importance in the geopolitically polarized world. Collective transatlantic actions can be a powerful catalyser for global change, also because they are based on shared fundamental values.

The transatlantic relations deserve to be seen in the context of global challenges. In the years to come those will not be narrowing. We will need to further deepen our bonds, bring in new flows of trade, investment, technology, and climate related policies.

Sometimes we run the risk of taking these relations for granted. This Summit is one more opportunity to cement them, but it is also an opportunity for the leaders to focus on the most difficult points in our relations.

There is a geopolitical context for this Summit, which requires confirmation of our long-term commitment to peace, democracy, to multilateralism, to uninterrupted support to Ukraine. It will not come as a surprise that the summit will cope with the unfolding conflict in the Middle East.

We expect from the Summit confirmation of our multiple dialogue streams regarding peace and security in the global world flooded by conflicts and risks. We hope to see clear commitment regarding defence cooperation as we trust there is now better understanding in the US of the compatibility of our European efforts with the NATO. I expect to see a forward looking text coming from the Summit, stock taking but also bringing new aspirations.

The Summit is the last opportunity before the new political cycle kicks in to look at bilateral and global future proofing at the backdrop of the most difficult international environment. And it is legitimate to ask whether there is more we should be doing together to advance a pro Ukraine outcome to war with Russia, to manage, compete and engage with China, but first of all to break the awful cycle of atrocity and reprisal in Israel and Gaza.

I personally hope, on the basis of recent statements of the US Trade Representative, Katherine Tai, that we will see greater appreciation for the WTO reform. But already now we know that we stand together for a values driven, secure and prosperous global order.

Many issues are expected to be reflected in the Joint Statement, but we are also aware of the importance of the domestic political setting in the US and the pre campaign mode. And as we advance towards the Summit we have expectations that the words chosen by the leaders in their communication can help unify and strengthen us.

We also want to see clear demonstration of the strength of our resolve with practical progress across a whole spectrum of issues that make up the transatlantic agenda. With a meeting of the EU-US Trade and Technology Council set for early December, and another one in spring, the Summit offers an important staging post.

The leaders need to offer their strong political encouragement to find ways of supercharging TTC to deliver compromises, alignment and outcomes in the working groups and technical work that lies ahead.

After the epochal 2021 Summit which solidified foundation for our joint work, we focused on a big number of issues which one day might add to a comprehensive cooperation framework. TTC is certainly a very powerful supportive platform here.

We are facing the end of negotiations and hopefully the summit will announce the outcome on the common duties to protect our economies against the imports of steel and aluminium from non market economies with excess capacity. Here we expect solutions to the issue of LPF but also of decarbonization. We expect permanent lifting of the section 232 tariffs and of the rebalancing measures. The agreement must be legally binding by January 2024. The idea was to agree to provide an adequate tariff protection and to invite, once we find a solution, other like minded countries to join.

My hope is that on Critical Minerals Agreement we will unlock the benefits for EU firms to be part of the value chain for batteries in the US.

We have been talking a lot recently on the European side of the Atlantic about sparing no effort to futureproof our transatlantic bonds. I am convinced on many issues the Summit will help identify a mutually supportive way of action to achieve a win-win outcome and build resilience of transatlantic market place.

I also think that many futureproofing dialogues and actions helping to scale up clean tech will make our innovations more affordable, accessible and attractive for our businesses. And I am also hopeful that we will find a common ground for de-risking our relations with China, though maybe not yet on Friday. I agree, it would be easier if China were willing to play its part. There is a lot we can do as transatlantic partners

to contribute to global prosperity without compromising on the values and policies that our citizens demand.