



UNITED STATES COUNCIL FOR
INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

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SEEKING COMMON CAUSE 2025: THE FUTURE OF TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS

US Council for International Business (USCIB) and
The Transatlantic Policy Network (TPN) Seminar

Wednesday 19 February 2025, 09:00-17:45
Stanhope Hotel, 9 Rue du Commerce, 1000 Brussels

Program

OBJECTIVE:

The year 2025 will be a critical one with respect to transatlantic relations as both sides launch new governments and policies impacting the two largest economies with \$1.3 trillion in bilateral trade. Both will experience new leadership with new perspectives on the partnership. This event will discuss the potential flashpoints in the economic relationship but also where the two sides can collaborate to solve ongoing problems in the global arena. It will provide companies with a better sightline on the economic priorities, legislative and regulatory actions and where industry can work with the governments to promote common cause. This event is **informal and off-the-record under Chatham House rules** to allow for an open and frank dialogue among all participants.

09:00-9:15 hrs **Welcome:**

Whitney Baird, President and CEO, US Council for International Business
James Elles, Chairman, Transatlantic Policy Network

09:15-10:45 hrs **Panel 1:**

The Transatlantic Relationship in 2025: Same Challenges, New Realities

The year 2025 marks a new chapter in US-European relations with the onset of a new European Parliament, new European Commission and the return Donald Trump to the US Presidency. Yet both the EU and US share common challenges – fostering competitiveness; driving innovation and manufacturing transformation; and promoting national and global security. With the incoming Trump Administration threatening tariffs against the EU for trade and other concerns, cooperation to solve common problems may be strained and the bilateral bedrock of stable trade and investment may be shaken. What is the future of the Transatlantic relationship, and will allies find partnership in 2025?

Moderator: **George Riddell**, Trade Strategy Director, Ernst & Young

Discussants: **Amélie Coulet**, Senior Manager, Government and Regulatory Affairs, IBM Europe

Anthony Gooch Gálvez, Secretary General, European Round Table for Industry (ERT)

Claudia Selli, Vice President European Union Government Affairs, AT&T

Rupert Schlegelmilch, Former Director for the United States, Canada, Latin America, DG Trade, European Commission (invited)

11:00-12:30 hrs Panel 2:

Transatlantic Competitiveness: The Costs, Risks and Future of Regulation

The US and EU strive to create economic conditions where businesses thrive, the environment is protected, and workers have an equal chance at success. But they approach these goals differently, with a marked divergence on regulatory measures. A recent report by Mario Draghi, former European Central Bank President, faults inconsistent and overly restrictive regulations for handicapping EU companies and hindering growth. While the US is blamed for regulatory inaction, particularly in the digital and climate space. This panel will explore Business approach to competitiveness challenges in the EU and US and opportunities for collaboration.

Moderator: **Lisa Schroeter**, Global Director of Trade & Investment Policy, Dow Chemical

Discussants: **Nick Lockhart**, Partner, Sidley Austin

Luisa Santos, Deputy Director General, BusinessEurope

Anne-Lise Thieblemont, Vice President Government Affairs, Qualcomm

Jörn Fleck, Senior Director, European Center, Atlantic Council

12:45-14:15 hrs: Lunch Keynote/Fireside Chat

Moderator: **Whitney Baird**, President and CEO, US Council for International Business

Speaker: **Bernd Lange**, Chairman, Trade Committee, European Parliament (invited)

14:30-16:00 hrs: Panel 3:

Competition vs Collaboration: What's Next on Digital

An important goal of the US-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC) was aligning policies and practices with respect to digital issues, yielding new partnerships on emerging issues such as artificial intelligence and 6G telecommunications networks. With the outlook for the TTC in question, what is the future for digital cooperation and will a new US Administration reengage on digital trade on the global stage?

Moderator: **Thomas Spiller**, Vice President, Public Policy, Europe, Middle East & Africa, The Walt Disney Company

Discussants: **Hendrik Bourgeois**, Vice President Government Affairs Europe, Intel

Jeffries Briginshaw, Senior Director and Head of EMEA Government Relations, NetApp

Joël Guschker, Associate Director for International Affairs & Trade Policy, Digital Europe

16:15-17:45 hrs: Panel 4:

How to Bridge US-EU Policies Toward China

The US and EU economies are under strain from Beijing's non-market practices – unfair import competition, subsidies, technology transfer, intellectual property theft, and more. As tensions between with China grow, where will the US and EU continue to work together to confront distortions and de-risk, including through alignment on export controls, investment screening and economic sanctions. How will WTO consistency factor into policy choices?

Moderator: **Esa Kaunistola**, Director, Strategic Relations, Microsoft

Discussants: **Stormy Mildner**, Executive Director, Aspen Institute, Germany

Jamie Shea, Professor of Strategy and Security, University of Exeter

Mayra Souza, Global Trade Director, International Flavors & Fragrances

Dr. Olaf Wientzek, Director Multinational Development Policy Dialogue, Konrad Adenauer

18:00-19:30 hrs Cocktail Reception

About USCIB

The United States Council for International Business (USCIB) powers the success of US business across the globe. Our members include US-based companies and professional services firms from every sector of the economy, with operations in every region of the world. As the US affiliate of leading international business organizations including Business at OECD (BIAC), The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), and The International Organization of Employers (IOE), USCIB advances the US business perspective to policymakers and regulatory authorities worldwide and works to facilitate commerce, support sustainable development, and build trust in multilateral systems. USCIB is also the national guaranteeing and issuing association for ATA Carnets, a unified international customs document that allows for the temporary import and export of various types of goods into a foreign country without paying duties or taxes. Learn more at www.uscib.org.

About TPN

Launched to promote the closest possible partnership between the Governments and the peoples of the European Union and the United States, the Transatlantic Policy Network (TPN) has a proud record of achievement as well as vital ambitions for the future.

From a small original base of support in the European Parliament and the US Congress, TPN has grown into a broadly based multi-party group of EU and US politicians, corporate leaders, think tanks, civil society stakeholders, and academics. Through regular informal dialogue and the maintenance of close personal relationships, TPN participants keep the two administrations focused on the indispensable goal of a strengthened Transatlantic Partnership.

Concentrating on the present but thinking about the future, TPN's meetings and publications have outlined strategies for establishing the Transatlantic Partnership to be in a position to help set the rules for the global economy in the 21st century.

Looking at long-term trends to define the priorities for the Partnership ahead, TPN helps frame the debate on how governments should anticipate challenges, measure risks, and adopt the necessary policies for global economic and political stability. Learn more at www.tpnonline.org.

SOCIAL MEDIA

We will be taking photos of the panels for use on social media. If for any reason your photo cannot be shared, please let us know.