



Ms. Margrethe Vestager
Executive Vice President
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
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Brussels
Belgium

4 October 2022

Dear Executive Vice-President,

The EU-US Trade and Technology Council (TTC) is a landmark political initiative that we hope will shape the Transatlantic agenda on key global trade, economic, and technology issues for years to come. It will promote increased cooperation, sustainable economic growth, and stability against a background of rising geopolitical turmoil, economic uncertainty and volatility in global supply chains.

The TTC has already proven its value as a platform for the EU and the US to coordinate their positions on top-of-the-agenda priorities, as attested by the unprecedented coordination on the adoption of sanctions following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

However, not all the Working Groups established under the TTC have enjoyed the same expeditious pace of work. It is time for the rest of the TTC to shift into top gear as well as to identify concrete deliverables as soon as possible. A sense of frustration is growing at the mismatch between potential and tangible results. In preparation for the third ministerial-level meeting of the TTC, we would like to present a few examples of priority areas for European businesses.

- Accelerating cooperation on emerging technologies, notably implementing common principles on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and focusing on joint efforts in international standardisation. This has been a key point in the conclusion of the last TTC meeting, and concrete outcomes should be prioritised to speed up the development and uptake of trustworthy AI.
- Enhancing cooperation and dialogue on joint transatlantic 6G research cooperation – Both the EU and the US are already engaged in 6G research activities. So far, interactions are occurring mainly at the technical level. Political support and prioritisation are needed to achieve a joint approach that could foster investment in a technology-neutral way. Increased research cooperation can create synergies and support global leadership ambitions in 6G.
- Establishing transatlantic cooperation on semiconductors - The European Chips Act and US Chips Act have similar objectives in strengthening their respective



domestic semiconductor industries, backed by very large funding. This is another area where strategic cooperation beyond manufacturing, from research to open markets would be mutually beneficial, and would also boost the return on investments.

- Regulatory cooperation and Conformity Assessments - with rising cost pressure on industry there is a strong case to make processes more efficient across the Atlantic by reducing whenever possible the regulatory burden on public authorities and companies and avoiding unnecessary delays and duplications. This is key to strengthening critical highly regulated supply chains and sectors such as pharmaceuticals and medical devices, as well as responding better to the needs of EU and US citizens. The TTC should deliver a roadmap that shows the way forward to secure conformity assessment agreements for all relevant sectors.
- Export Controls - a coordinated approach in the multilateral context and concrete actions to reduce costs for transatlantic operators is key, by the promotion of best practices, including in the licencing process.
- Climate and Clean Tech – Given the ambition of European industries within this area and their strong leadership position in the market, the two sides should work towards improving transatlantic trade and investment in climate neutral technologies, for instance by exploring common approaches towards accelerating governmental approval process of new renewable energy projects so that carbon reduction targets can be met in a timely manner.

The TTC should also serve as a platform to discuss and promote a coordinated EU-US approach on major global challenges like climate policy and digitalisation in multilateral institutions such as the WTO, OECD, ITU, or the UNFCCC.

Additional effort must be put towards ensuring meaningful consultation with stakeholders. So far, stakeholders have not been provided an opportunity to engage in a structured dialogue with and receive feedback from the European Commission regarding the input that they have provided. Neither the public sessions back-to-back with the ministerial-level meetings of the TTC, nor the virtual platform allow for an effective and meaningful two-way exchange. This must be addressed as soon as possible.

Beyond the work of the TTC, the key priority for European business remains improving the bilateral relationship across the Atlantic. The EU and the US should work together with the clear objective of effective cooperation in different policy areas, including jointly addressing current energy-related challenges as well as the ongoing discussions to establish a global arrangement on sustainable steel and aluminium. Other areas where the transatlantic partners should work to find urgent and permanent solutions are the disputes on steel, aluminium, and civil aircrafts. Adequate solutions for cross-border legally secure data transfers remain urgent and necessary. These can only be achieved through a swift conclusion of the "Trans-Atlantic Data Privacy Framework" as the successor to the EU-US "Privacy Shield".



In the same vein, the two partners should avoid unilateral actions that damage the bilateral relationship or that put our common objectives in jeopardy. For instance, the measures that the US has adopted to support the economy and reduce inflation will likely have a negative impact on bilateral trade by hampering imports of European electric vehicles. This could in turn make the fight against climate change in both the EU and the US more costly. Therefore, we call on the EU and the U.S. to work towards a negotiated solution as soon as possible.

As a general principle, we must ensure that measures that either side takes in support of their respective economy, the strengthening of technological capabilities or improved resilience do not have a negative impact on Transatlantic trade and do not discriminate against our respective economic operators. A retreat by either the EU or U.S. into self-reliance would be harmful to the transatlantic economy and the cost would be huge. Promoting increased transatlantic trade, innovation and market access would not only mitigate the impact of the current geopolitical and economic situation but create more opportunities for investment and jobs.

This letter has also been sent to Executive Vice-President Dombrovskis.

Yours sincerely,



Markus J. Beyrer