



European  
Commission



# A NEW EU-US AGENDA FOR GLOBAL CHANGE

December 2020



“In a changing global landscape, I believe it is time for a new transatlantic agenda fit for today’s world. And I believe it is Europe who should take the initiative.”

President Ursula von der Leyen, November 2020

Following the **election** of President Biden and Vice-President Harris by the people of the United States of America, combined with a **more assertive and capable European Union**, and a **new geopolitical and economic reality**, the European Commission and the High Representative are putting forward a proposal for a new, forward-looking transatlantic agenda for global change.

This proposal is centred on areas **where EU-US interests converge, our collective leverage can best be used and where global leadership is required**. It has a united, capable and self-reliant EU at its core, which is **good for Europe, good for the transatlantic partnership and good for the multilateral system**.

“A capable and strategically aware European Union is the best partner for the United States – and it is also what we need ourselves.”

High Representative/Vice-President Josep Borrell, November 2020



## THIS NEW TRANSATLANTIC AGENDA WILL BE GUIDED BY:

- Stronger multilateral action and institutions
- Pursuit of common interests and leveraging our collective strength
- Looking for solutions that respect our common values of fairness, openness and competition



## EU-US fact box: An unrivalled global partnership

➤ Almost 1 billion people



➤ 1/3 of global trade



➤ First humanitarian donors worldwide



➤ 1/3 of global Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

➤ 60% of global Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

➤ Leading development assistance providers

## Four focus areas:

HEALTH RESPONSE | GREEN LEADERSHIP | TRADE & TECH | GLOBAL ACTION AND SECURITY

# WORKING TOGETHER FOR A HEALTHIER WORLD: COVID-19 AND BEYOND



There is no greater need for global cooperation in the short term than in tackling the coronavirus pandemic. We must work together to protect lives and livelihoods and learn the lessons from the crisis.

### The EU and US should:

- Ensure funding for the development and equitable global distribution of **vaccines, tests and treatments** - starting by joining and contributing to ACT-A and COVAX initiatives.
- Develop a **pandemic playbook for preparedness and response** and step up cooperation and data sharing.
- **Facilitate trade in essential medical goods**, starting by joining the Trade and Health Initiative under the WTO.
- Work to **reinforce and reform the World Health Organization**.
- Collectively **learn the lessons** from the pandemic and work closer together on **prevention, preparedness and response**.



# WORKING TOGETHER TO PROTECT OUR PLANET AND PROSPERITY



*“Glasgow (COP26) and Kunming (COP15) will be landmark moments in the world’s ability to push back against climate change and biodiversity destruction. Europe will be at the forefront of brokering ambitious commitments. The U.S. is also well placed to support us.”*

President Ursula von der Leyen, November 2020

Climate change and biodiversity loss are the **defining challenges of our time**. They require **systemic change** across our economies and **global cooperation** across the Atlantic and the world.

### The EU and US should:

- Coordinate positions and lead efforts for **ambitious global agreements** at next year’s landmark UN Summits on Climate and Biodiversity – starting with a joint commitment to net-zero emissions by 2050.
- Propose a new transatlantic **green trade agenda**, including a Trade and Climate Initiative within the WTO and measures to avoid **carbon leakage**.
- Form a **transatlantic green tech alliance** to ensure greater cooperation on developing clean and circular technologies and creating lead markets.
- Jointly design a **global regulatory framework for sustainable finance**.
- Lead the **fight against deforestation** and step up **ocean protection**.



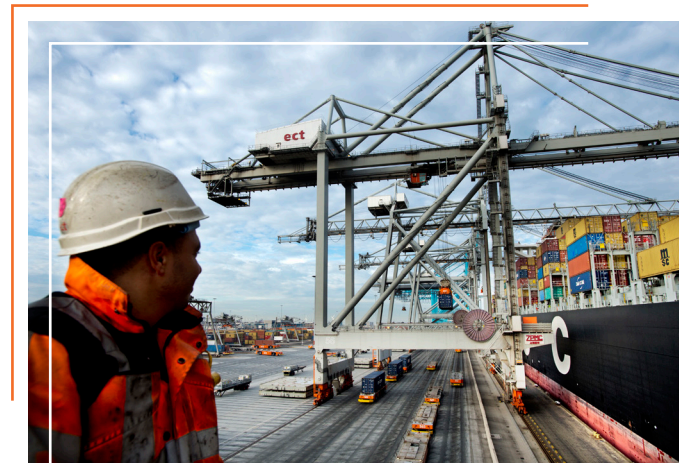
# WORKING TOGETHER ON TECHNOLOGY, TRADE AND STANDARDS



Europe and the United States account for about a third of the world's trade and the standards we set reach every corner of the world. **Our shared values of human dignity, individual rights and democratic principles** make us natural partners to harness rapid technological change and face the challenges of rival systems of digital governance. This gives us an unprecedented window of opportunity to set a **joint EU-US tech agenda and to strengthen open and fair trade**.

## The EU and US should:

- Work together to lead **WTO reform** efforts and **solve bilateral trade irritants** through negotiated solutions.
- Establish a **new EU-US Trade and Technology Council** to help, facilitate trade, develop compatible standards and promote innovation.
- Open a **transatlantic dialogue on the responsibility of online platforms and Big Tech** - to find global solutions for fair taxation and market distortions in the digital economy.
- Develop a common transatlantic approach to **protecting critical technologies in light** of global economic and security concerns – starting by discussions on 5G.
- Work on an **AI Agreement** and intensify cooperation to **facilitate free data flow with trust**.
- Renew cooperation on **regulation and standards**, starting by re-engaging on conformity assessment negotiations and aligning positions in international bodies.



# WORKING TOGETHER TOWARDS A SAFER, MORE PROSPEROUS AND MORE DEMOCRATIC WORLD



The EU and the US share a fundamental interest in strengthening **democracy**, upholding **international law**, supporting **sustainable development** and promoting **human rights** around the world. **A closer EU-US partnership** will be crucial to support democratic values around the world, as well as global and regional stability, prosperity, and conflict resolution.

## The EU and US should:

- The EU is ready to play a full part in the **Summit for Democracy** proposed by President-elect Biden, making joint commitments to fight the rise of authoritarianism, human rights abuses and corruption.
- Coordinate responses to common challenges to **promote regional and global stability**.
- Strengthen our joint commitment to transatlantic and international security, starting by establishing a new **EU-US Security and Defence Dialogue**.
- **Strengthen the multilateral system**.



## NEXT STEPS

The Commission and the High Representative invite the European Council to endorse this new transatlantic agenda, which could then be launched at an **EU-US Summit** in the first half of 2021.

When the transatlantic partnership is strong, the EU and the US are both stronger. It is time to reconnect with a new agenda **for transatlantic and global cooperation for the world of today**.

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