

**October 2022**

The US administration of President Joe Biden has adopted a more cooperative approach to the EU than that of his predecessor, and strongly signalled the return of US support for multilateralism, including commitment to NATO, the [World Health Organisation](#) and the [Paris Agreement](#). US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has stressed the importance of 'alliances and partnerships', and new forums for EU-US cooperation have been set up, including the [EU-US Trade and Technology Council \(TTC\)](#), which met for the [second time](#) in France on 16 May 2022, the [EU-US Dialogue on China](#), the [EU-US High-Level Dialogue on Russia](#) and the [EU-US Dialogue on Security and Defence](#).

While the two sides have also worked to [resolve or mitigate](#) long-running [trade disputes](#), there are persistent disagreements, for example with regard to [WTO reform](#). Most recently the European Commission has been [concerned](#) about a recent US law on [tax credits for clean vehicles](#) assembled in North America, in what may be a breach of WTO rules. On 25 March 2022, an [agreement in principle](#) on a new EU-US Data Privacy Framework was announced. On 7 October 2022 President Biden signed [Executive Order 14086](#), which – together with [regulations](#) issued by the Attorney General – introduces new rules seeking to address the points raised in 2020 in [Schrems II](#) by the Court of Justice of the European Union.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has however strengthened transatlantic ties. There has been [close coordination](#) on sanctions and the US has made a [significant contribution](#) to Ukrainian and European security. The European Commission and the US [have also agreed](#) to set up a joint task force on energy security, which will work to increase the supply of liquefied natural gas (LNG) from the US.

This topical digest, produced for Members of the European Parliament, presents EPRS publications discussing various aspects of transatlantic relations and US governance.

EU-US RELATIONS**US: Economic indicators and trade with the EU**

Infographic by Györgyi Macsai, September 2022

EU-US Trade and Technology Council - Impact of the war in Ukraine and the way forward

Briefing by Marcin Szczepanski, September 2022

So far, the TTC has focused mostly on information-sharing, joint mapping, risk identification and exploring options for closer cooperation in the future. Its success may well depend on the degree of alignment the parties can achieve across the policy areas and on whether they can move from joint identification of issues to elaborating common responses and solutions to them. The European Parliament supports the establishment and work of the TTC, while calling for a more democratic scrutiny over it. The next TTC meeting will take place before the end of 2022 in the United States.

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Outcome of the Madrid NATO Summit, June 2022

'At a glance' note by Sebastian Clapp, July 2022

The new concept states that the EU is a 'unique and essential partner for NATO'. The two organisations share 21 (23 once Finland and Sweden join NATO) Member States in common. EU-NATO cooperation focuses on issues of common interest such as crisis management.

The EU chips act: Securing Europe's supply of semiconductors

Briefing by Guillaume Ragonnaud

Semiconductors (or chips) are the engines of the digital transition. Their production relies on complex and vulnerable global supply chains. Against the backdrop of global chip shortages, of a global 'subsidy race' in the world's main producing regions.

Proposed anti-coercion instrument

Briefing by Marcin Szczepański, June 2022

While the new framework is primarily designed to deter economic coercive action through dialogue and engagement, it also allows – as a last resort – to retaliate with countermeasures comprising a wide range of restrictions related to trade, investment and funding.

EU gas storage and LNG capacity as responses to the war in Ukraine

Briefing by Lasse Boehm and Alex Wilson, April 2022

The European Commission and the United States recently agreed to set up a joint task force on energy security, to work towards importing an additional 50bcm of US LNG to the EU annually, until at least 2030.

Russia's war on Ukraine: US response

'At a glance' note by Matthew Parry and Marcin Szczepański, April 2022

The United States imposed a battery of sanctions and multilateral measures on Russia following its invasion of Ukraine, while also providing Ukraine and its EU neighbours with military, economic and humanitarian aid.

Russia's war on Ukraine: NATO response

'At a glance' note by Sebastian Clapp, April 2022

To avoid direct confrontation with Russia, NATO has made clear that it will not deploy forces to Ukraine, which is not a NATO member, nor will it enforce a no-fly zone over Ukraine. The delivery of weapons and equipment to Ukraine (by individual NATO Allies) and the imposition of unprecedented sanctions are being organised predominantly outside the NATO framework.

Refugee and asylum systems

EU-US Explainer by Anita Orav, EPRS, with Pelin Ensari, April 2022

The refugee and asylum policies of the European Union and the United States are aligned with the human rights principles of the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. However, structural weaknesses in application processes and resettlement programmes have disrupted humanitarian processing, and left both EU and US systems battling massive backlogs in applications.

Outcome of the meetings of EU leaders, 24-25 March 2022

Briefing by Suzana Anghel and Ralf Drachenberg, March 2022

The meeting included a joint session with the President of the United States of America, Joe Biden, and it formed part of a trilogy of summit meetings in Brussels (NATO, G7 and EU) demonstrating Western unity in support of Ukraine and in response to President Vladimir Putin's unacceptable violation of international law.

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Taxing the digital economy – New developments and the way forward

Briefing by Marcin Szczepanski, October 2021

The two-pillar solution agreed under the auspices of the OECD will put an end to this fragmentation. Pillar One would reallocate taxation rights concerning the largest and most profitable multinationals, and Pillar Two would introduce a global minimal corporate tax rate.

EU-USA: a transatlantic technology alliance

EPRS video, September 2021

Despite recent transatlantic misalignments in political developments, the geopolitical dimensions of technology, and vulnerabilities stemming from interdependence, continue to head the political agenda on both sides of the Atlantic.

EU-US Trade and Technology Council – New forum for transatlantic cooperation

Briefing by Marcin Szczepanski, September 2021

The establishment of the TTC has been widely welcomed as an important step towards bridging existing gaps and moving on with a forward-looking agenda, focused on strategic areas and new ways of cooperation. While there is a genuine will to work together on common challenges, some difficult issues such as unresolved issues from the past and different approaches to regulating digital markets persist, and it remains to be seen whether the TTC will lead to the creation of an ambitious joint policy that influences trade and technology worldwide.

The situation in Afghanistan – Essential benchmarks for EU engagement

Briefing by Beatrix Immenkamp, September 2021

The departure of United States (US) and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) troops from Afghanistan marks the end of a 20-year military campaign that was launched in 2001 to eliminate the Taliban's ability to provide sanctuary for international terrorists, especially al-Qaeda, and stabilise the country with the help of a democratically elected government.

Parliamentary Democracy in Action – Comparing the EP and five national parliaments

Study, EPRS, September 2021

This study concentrates on some of the aspects discussed in the European Parliament President's Focus Group exercise, notably the organisation of plenary sessions, the exercise and protection of parliaments' prerogatives, parliamentary diplomacy and/or the communication capacity of parliaments. This present study seeks to address these areas, with the aim of identifying where best practice exists and where there might still be room for improvement.

Bilateral trade

EU-US Explainer by Matthew Parry, July 2021

The EU and the US are each other's biggest economic partners, but have not yet been able to conclude a free trade agreement. Politically sensitive bilateral trade issues include US access to EU agricultural markets, EU access to US public procurement markets, data privacy regulations, climate policies, and taxation and regulation of major – chiefly American – digital service providers in the EU market.

Advancing democracy in the world

EU-US Explainer by Naja Bentzen, July 2021

As the pandemic adds to the pressure on democracy worldwide, there is a growing sense of the urgent need to protect democracy and its institutions in a concerted and coordinated manner. On both sides of the Atlantic, growing domestic threats to democracy have added to the external challenges, but also offer global momentum for stronger democratic alliances. In their June 2021 joint summit statement, the EU and the US pledged to

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support democracy across the globe. As international flagships of democracy, meanwhile, both the European Parliament and the US Congress are strongly engaged in advancing democracy in third countries.

Resilient supply chains in the green transition

EU-US Explainer by Gregor Erbach with Ann-Kathrin Merz, July 2021

The green transition will increase demand for critical minerals, high capacity batteries, and semiconductors. Dependence on a few countries (e.g. China) for these critical inputs and technologies has sparked interest in policies to increase supply chain resilience, for instance through greater domestic production.

The Nord Stream 2 pipeline – Economic, environmental and geopolitical issues

Briefing by Martin Russell, 1 July 2021

With bipartisan support from Congress, in December 2019 Donald Trump signed the Protecting Europe's Energy Security Act (PEESA), included in the National Defense Authorization Act for 2020. PEESA envisages sanctions for companies owning ships involved in laying the Nord Stream 2 and TurkStream pipelines at depths of over 100 feet (30 metres).

EU-USA: a renewed security and defence alliance

EPRS video, January 2022

The EU and the US share one of the longest and most complex defence and security relationships. Impressively, 79 % of citizens in NATO countries, 21 of which are EU Member States, consider the relationship between North America and Europe as important in handling security challenges.

Harnessing the momentum in transatlantic relations – Potential areas for common action during the Biden presidency

In-depth analysis by Tania Latici, Suzana Anghel, Piotr Bakowski, Meenakshi Fernandes, Liselotte Jensen, Matthew Parry and Marcin Szczepanski, June 2021

This study focuses on three main topics that are at the top of the transatlantic policy agenda. First, it explores pathways towards a transatlantic green deal by looking at climate action, trade and climate diplomacy. Second, aspects related to the social fabric of transatlantic societies are analysed through the lens of violent extremism, the rule of law and technological disruptions. Third, prospects are examined for crisis-proofing the transatlantic space by engaging with the areas of defence, health security and multilateralism.

G7 summit, June 2021 – Asserting democratic values in the post-crisis context

Briefing by Ionel Zamfir, June 2021

The G7 Summit on 11-13 June 2021 under the UK presidency was expected to mark a return to strong global cooperation among the world's major democracies after a one-year break caused by the pandemic. Key issues to be discussed by the world's major economies included accelerating the end of the coronavirus crisis, and ensuring a resilient, equitable and sustainable recovery. The US initiative to set a minimum global corporate tax could make history for the Group, representing a major change in the international taxation system.

The emerging contours of President Biden's foreign policy

Briefing by Matthew Parry, June 2021

The Biden administration's policy papers, positions and statements identify two broad priorities that guide its foreign policy: first, 'building back better' on a global scale, in pursuit of the same imperative at home. Second, working with allies to counter the threats to US interests posed by authoritarian rivals such as China and Russia, while working tactically with those same rivals on shared challenges.

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EU-USA: a transatlantic climate alliance

EPRS video, September 2022

Both the EU and the US possess significant monitoring capacities and extensive datasets. Directing some of these towards early warning systems for extreme events, and long-term climate resilience research and planning for at risk communities, could perhaps increase stability on the ground.

President Biden's leaders' summit on climate

'At a glance' note by Liselotte Jensen and Matthew Parry, May 2021

The summit, one of a number of events leading up to the (delayed) 26th United Nations Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in November 2021, prompted several other countries to pledge new targets. The EU has welcomed the new US targets, but questions remain about their level of ambition and feasibility.

NATO looks to the 2030s

'At a glance' note by Tania Latici, March 2021

Launched by the Secretary General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Jens Stoltenberg, in June 2020, the NATO 2030 process aims to generate recommendations on ways to strengthen and adapt the alliance. NATO created a marketplace of ideas with inputs from stakeholders, to inform the revision of its guiding strategic policy document, the 'strategic concept'.

US foreign policy after the 2020 Presidential election: Issues for the European Union

Briefing by Elena Lazarou and Jana Titievskaia with Cecilia Handeland, December 2020

While foreign policy under the Biden administration is expected to depart from some of the key tenets of President Trump's foreign policy, experts also point to a high possibility of continuity in areas such as trade and relations with China. However, on climate change, multilateral cooperation and support for NATO, expectations are high regarding a potential return to deep levels of transatlantic consensus and cooperation.

EU-US dispute over civil aircraft subsidies

'At a glance' note by Jana Titievskaia, November 2020

A short background to the long-lasting WTO dispute, including tariffs, countermeasures and retaliation.

Understanding EU-NATO cooperation: Theory and practice

Briefing by Tania Latici, October 2020

While the pandemic has tested the resilience of EU-NATO cooperation, being met with coordination and a robust crisis response, questions remain regarding the way forward. The need to clarify the relationship between the EU and NATO's mutual defence clauses has become apparent. The materialisation of the EU's strategic sovereignty ambitions, not least through multiple defence cooperation initiatives, will also be a test.

The future of multilateralism and strategic partnerships

Briefing by Elena Lazarou, September 2020

As coronavirus leaves parts of the world more fragile and vulnerable, it also precipitates the need for a reformed multilateral system that is 'fit for purpose' and able to address the challenges of the future. New practices to enrich multilateralism will be important for the further development of international cooperation.

The CJEU judgment in the Schrems II case

'At a glance' note by Hendrik Mildebrath, September 2020

In its July 2020 Schrems II judgment, the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU) declared the European Commission's Privacy Shield Decision invalid on account of invasive US surveillance programmes, thereby

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making transfers of personal data on the basis of the Privacy Shield Decision illegal. Furthermore, the Court stipulated stricter requirements for the transfer of personal data based on standard contract clauses (SCCs).

Economic focus: the international role of the euro

By Carla Stamegna, pp. 55-76 in the Economic and Budgetary Outlook for the European Union 2020, January 2020

The section gives an overview of how the euro has developed as a global currency since its introduction in 1999, while exploring the underlying dynamics and the evolving structure of the international monetary system. After examining where the euro stands at present and what the implications are of further development of its international role, attention is paid to the way this role relates to the ECB's monetary policy. The section ends with an examination of policies supporting the euro's international role.

The end of the INF Treaty? A pillar of European security architecture at risk

Briefing by Beatrix Immenkamp, February 2019

The INF Treaty put an end to the cold-war missile crisis between Moscow and Washington that lasted from 1978 to 1985. It was a landmark nuclear-arms control treaty between the US and the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics that eliminated and prohibited ground-launched intermediate ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges between 500 and 5 500 km. In 2019, the Treaty's future was in the balance.

European Deterrence Initiative: the transatlantic security guarantee

Briefing by Tania Latici, July 2018

The European Deterrence Initiative (EDI) is a US military programme supporting the activities of the US military and its allies in Europe. Activities under the EDI include training of forces, multinational military exercises and development of military equipment and capabilities.

EU-US trade and investment relations: Effects on tax evasion, money laundering and tax transparency

In-depth analysis by Isabelle Ioannides, March 2017

This study analyses EU-US trade and investment relations to assess whether and, if so, to what extent these relations have impacted on issues related to tax evasion, money laundering and tax transparency. Challenges remain on questions of beneficial ownership, cross-border exchange of information, privacy issues, and designated nonfinancial businesses and professions.

FEATURES OF US GOVERNMENT

The 2022 US mid-term elections: Legislation meets politics

Briefing by Gisela Grieger, October 2022

On 8 November 2022, the US will hold midterm elections. All 435 seats of the House (of Representatives) and 35 of the 100 Senate seats are on the ballot.

Growing transatlantic divide on abortion rights

'At-a-glance' note by Gisela Grieger, October 2022

On 24 June 2022 the U.S. Supreme Court issued its opinion in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, which overruled the *Roe v. Wade* decision from 1973 and held that there is no federal constitutional right to abortion.

United States climate change policies: State of play ahead of COP27

Briefing by Liselotte Jensen and Gisela Grieger, graphics: Ville Seppälä, October 2022

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The US was responsible for 12 % of global emissions in 2019. Its 2019 per capita emissions of 18 tonnes CO₂ equivalent (tCO₂e), is triple of the world average and over double the EU level.

Right to health, a comparative law perspective - United States of America

Study by the Comparative Law Library Unit, May 2022

The United States does not recognise a right to health. Governments are responsible for providing a healthy environment for individuals who are in their custody, such as prisoners, but there is no overall recognised right. US health policy is grounded upon the federal system, which assigns certain duties to the central government and the state governments.

US Congress and trade policy tackling China

'At a glance' note by Gisela Grieger, March 2022

Members of both the House and the Senate see an urgent need both for a trade policy offensive specifically for the Indo-Pacific region to maintain US leadership in setting international standards and norms, and for an upgrade of defensive trade policy tools to address China's unfair trade practices. Congressional initiatives have coincided with debates in the European Parliament on the EU's Indo-Pacific strategy and on legislative proposals set to expand the EU's toolbox of autonomous trade measures.

US Congress approach to US-Taiwan relations

'At a glance' note by Gisela Grieger, March 2022

Perceived as a vibrant democracy, worth protecting to secure peace and security in the Indo-Pacific region, the Biden administration invited Taiwan to the 2021 US Summit for Democracy, defining shared values rather than statehood as the criterion for participation. However, like the Trump executive, Biden's administration has not delivered on Congress's call to start talks with Taiwan on a free trade agreement, but has embraced an alternative framework for engagement.

Strong bicameralism: Pressures for change in inter-institutional legislative negotiations in the EU, the USA, and Germany

In-depth analysis, EPRS, March 2022

In this paper, Gijs Jan Brandsma, Associate Professor at Radboud University, Nijmegen, and Christilla Roederer-Rynning, Professor at the University of Southern Denmark, reflect on the means for finding agreement between the two chambers in bicameral legislatures.

US-Russia relations – Geopolitical, security, economic and human dimensions

Briefing by Martin Russell, February 2022

Economics play a much lesser role in US-Russia relations than geopolitics. Trade and investment between the two countries are limited, and since 2014, they have been constrained by sanctions. Washington's economic superiority gives it a certain amount of leverage over Moscow; however, the Russian economy has proved more resilient to US restrictions than might have been expected.

US approach to preventing imports of goods made using forced labour

'At a glance' note by Gisela Grieger, January 2022

In recent years, the US has taken a range of steps to strengthen US legislation and enforcement practice from a human rights, trade and foreign policy perspective in the fight against the widespread use of forced labour in the increasingly complex global supply chains of the 21st century.

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EU and US clean energy innovation policy: EU-US Explainer

'At a glance' note by Liselotte Jensen, November 2021

As the EU and US increasingly recognise the potential locked in breakthrough, clean-energy technologies, they are upgrading their innovation journey with a focus on market deployment.

Who does what in security and defence?

EU-US Explainer by Tania Latici with Tristan Krause, September 2021

Despite the historical transatlantic security and defence relationship, the institutional landscapes of the EU and the US are distinct and complex. This document seeks to give an overview of who does what in security and defence institutions on both sides of the Atlantic.

Regulation of the digital sector

EU-US Explainer by Naja Bentzen with Tristan Krause, July 2021

With online platforms and markets enmeshed in our societies and economies, the need to revisit and update existing digital regulations is becoming increasingly apparent. The debate around these reforms in the US, the EU and elsewhere touches on fundamental questions of privacy, transparency and free speech and the dynamic between private firms and governmental oversight is complex.

The principles of equality and non-discrimination, a comparative law perspective – United States of America

Study by the Comparative Law Library Unit, March 2021

This study provides a brief history of the evolution of the principles of equality and non-discrimination developed in United States federal law and major events that furthered the development of the principles. It provides a detailed review of relevant constitutional, statutory, and case law with respect to these principles.

Trump's disinformation 'magaphone' – Consequences, first lessons and outlook

Briefing by Naja Bentzen, February 2021

The US presidential election and its aftermath saw domestic disinformation emerging as a more immediate threat than disinformation by third countries. While political violence has been the most tangible physical effect of manipulative information, corrosive conspiracy theories have moved from the fringes to the heart of political debate, normalising extremist rhetoric. At the same time, recent developments have confirmed that the lines between domestic and foreign attempts to undermine democracy are increasingly blurred.

The role of the Electoral College in US presidential elections

Briefing by Andrej Auersperger-Matić and Matthew Parry, November 2020

The Electoral College is a temporary body established every four years in conjunction with the federal elections, with the task of electing the President and Vice-President of the United States. Article II, Section 1 of the US Constitution (1787), as modified by the 12th Amendment (1804), provides the constitutional framework for the process, which is supplemented by federal and state laws, and political party rules.

Understanding US Presidential elections

Briefing by Matthew Parry and Carmen-Cristina Cîrlig, October 2020

Because the US President is simultaneously head of state, head of government and commander-in-chief, the presidential elections are a hugely important part of American political life. Although millions of Americans vote in presidential elections every four years, the President is not directly elected by the people. Citizens elect the members of the Electoral College, who then cast their votes for the President and Vice-President.

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Ratification of international treaties, a comparative law perspective from the United States of America

Study by the Comparative Law Library Unit, July 2020

This study describes relevant constitutional, statutory, and other legal provisions with respect to the making and ratification of treaties, as well as legal provisions relating to the making of executive agreements, which also constitute binding international obligations of the United States. The study also discusses the approach to international law taken by the US legal system, and the position of treaties and executive agreements within the hierarchy of US laws.

United States: Export Control Reform Act (ECRA)

Briefing by Elena Lazarou, November 2019

In 2018 the United States of America introduced the Export Control Reform Act (ECRA), aiming to restrict the export of emerging and foundational technologies potentially used for civilian and military purposes ('dual use technologies') not having been subject to export control in the past.

Freedom of expression, a comparative law perspective – The United States

Study by the Comparative Law Library Unit, October 2019

This study analyses the legislation in force, the most relevant case law, and the concept of freedom of expression with its current and prospective limits. The legislative foundation for freedom of expression law in the US is grounded in the First Amendment to the Constitution. Based on this text, the Supreme Court has created the freedom of expression doctrinal framework by which lower courts and other branches of government are bound. Unlike other jurisdictions, the US grants broad freedom of expression protections based largely on the idea that 'good' speech will prevail over 'bad' speech in the open market.

The right to respect for private life: digital challenges, a comparative-law perspective – The United States

Study by the Comparative Law Library Unit, October 2019

This study analyses the legislation in force, the most relevant case law and the nature of the right to respect for private life. Unlike jurisdictions that have adopted an omnibus approach to privacy protection, the US takes a sectoral approach to regulating privacy.

US presidential executive action

Briefing by Micaela Del Monte, March 2017

Executive orders (EOs) and memoranda raise questions, including what actions the President may legally and unilaterally take, for what purposes the President may use his executive authority, and what he can actually do without passing through Congress.

How Congress and President shape US foreign policy

Briefing by Micaela Del Monte and Elena Lazarou, March 2017

This briefing explores the powers conferred to the Congress to conclude international agreements, to regulate commerce with foreign nations, to use military force and to declare war. It also explains how Congress performs its oversight – or 'watchdog' – functions with regard to foreign policy, the tools at its disposal, and the role of committees in the process.

The incoming US Congress's powers to overturn regulations of the previous administration

'At a glance' note by Micaela Del Monte, January 2017

Congress can introduce and pass legislation that modifies regulations made by agencies. However, passing new legislation can be cumbersome, and the opposition can delay action. As an alternative, under certain

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circumstances and within a specific timeframe, Congress can use an expedited procedure, laid down in the 1996 Congressional Review Act (CRA), to overturn federal regulations passed by an outgoing administration.

Oversight of the US executive – The Congressional experience and its lessons for the EU

In-depth analysis by Cornelia Klugman, November 2016

This analysis presents the results of original research into the US system of oversight, based on a series of interviews with policy practitioners, including members of Congress, assistants to members of both houses of Congress, and people working in the US administration, think tanks and academia.

The role of constitutional courts in multi-level governance – United States of America: The Supreme Court

Comparative Law Library Unit, November 2016

This report provides information about the Supreme Court of the United States, how it is organised and functions, the mechanisms by which cases reach the Court and how it treats treaties that have not been ratified by the United States government.

FURTHER READING

EU strategic autonomy in the context of Russia's war on Ukraine

What Think Tanks are Thinking, Marcin Grajewski, March 2022

The Biden challenge in foreign policy

What Think Tanks are Thinking, Marcin Grajewski, March 2021

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