



2021/2038(INI)

23.4.2021

DRAFT REPORT

on the future of EU-US relations
(2021/2038(INI))

Committee on Foreign Affairs

Rapporteur: Tonino Picula

CONTENTS

	Page
MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION.....	3

MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

on the future of EU-US relations (2021/2038(INI))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the joint communication of the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy of 2 December 2020 on a new EU-US agenda for global change (JOIN(2020)0022),
 - having regard to the joint statement of the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue of 24 August 2020 on EU-US relations,
 - having regard to its resolution of 12 September 2018 on the state of EU-US relations¹,
 - having regard to its resolution of 20 January 2021 on the implementation of the Common Foreign and Security Policy – annual report 2020²,
 - having regard to its resolution of 20 January 2021 on the implementation of the Common Security and Defence Policy – annual report 2020³,
 - having regard to Rule 54 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the opinion of the Committee on International Trade,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (A9-0000/2021),
- A. whereas the US remains the EU's closest strategic partner;
- B. whereas the EU and the US share a fundamental interest in shaping the international environment;
- C. whereas the election of Joe Biden as President of the United States and Kamala Harris as Vice-President has created new opportunities to reset the transatlantic relationship;
- D. whereas the Biden administration has declared its intention to re-establish close relations with the EU and other democratic allies;
- E. whereas the Biden administration has reversed some of the most damaging unilateral actions of the Trump administration;
- F. whereas constructive dialogue is needed to address the transatlantic divergences;
- G. whereas, while pursuing transatlantic cooperation in areas of shared interest, the EU

¹ OJ C 433, 23.12.2019, p. 89.

² Texts adopted, P9_TA(2021)0012.

³ Texts adopted, P9_TA(2021)0013.

should also foster its strategic autonomy in defence and economic relations;

- H. whereas the EU and the US have the largest bilateral trade and investment relationship and enjoy the most integrated economic relationship in the world;
 - I. whereas both the EU and the US share a number of new common challenges such as the socio-economic impact of the pandemic, the promotion of global health, the climate emergency, the fight against global criminal networks, and the digital and green transformation as a means of sustainable modernisation;
1. Welcomes the adoption of the new proposal of the Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy for an EU-US agenda for global change in December 2020 as a blueprint for a renewed transatlantic partnership;
 2. Calls on the Council, the Commission and the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) to reassert the continued relevance of the strategic transatlantic relationship for the rebuilding and reinvigorating of the multilateral rules-based international order, the global strengthening of democratic values, and the promotion of human rights, sustainable development and inclusive growth;
 3. Calls for a new transatlantic agenda that privileges multilateral cooperation for a healthier world, the fight against climate change, promotion of peaceful resolution of conflicts and reform of economic governance, by putting the fight against inequalities at its centre;
 4. Underlines the need to establish stronger structures for legislative cooperation and an inclusive transatlantic dialogue based on both legislative branches, such as a transatlantic legislators assembly; encourages the US Congress to enhance the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue by authorising it as a United States-European Union Interparliamentary Group;
 5. Calls for strengthened interparliamentary cooperation between Members of the European Parliament and Members of Congress in different thematic areas that could enable the exchange of best practices on global, but also on shared, domestic challenges, such as addressing economic and social inequality, protection of human rights and democratic standards, universal health coverage, legislative convergence on AI, responsibility of online platforms and a just transition towards climate neutrality;
 6. Emphasises the importance of visa reciprocity between the EU and the US and encourages both sides to find a mutually acceptable solution that would enable a visa-free regime for all EU citizens;

Restoring multilateralism

7. Emphasises that the announced return of the US to multilateralism provides an opportunity to re-engage with the US in repairing and rebuilding the transatlantic relationship and strengthening together the global rules-based order in the spirit of our shared democratic values;

8. Urges the stepping up of joint EU-US efforts on climate change, green technology, carbon adjustment, sustainable finance and biodiversity;
9. Calls for transatlantic leadership on health diplomacy, notably the reform of the World Health Organization and equitable global distribution of the COVID-19 vaccines, tests and treatments, in particular in lower-income countries, while safeguarding the vaccines as a global public good; insists on fostering cooperation to establish better procedures for preparing for future pandemics, including through complementary supply chains;
10. Calls for coordinated efforts to achieve ambitious commitments at the UN summits on climate change and biodiversity in 2021;
11. Finds it necessary to work together with the US on strengthening the multilateral trading system and reforming the World Trade Organization;
12. Believes that the EU should reaffirm together with the US the centrality of the Sustainable Development Goals, or the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as a framework for effective multilateral cooperation, involving also China;
13. Calls for enhanced coordination on the use of the human-rights sanctions mechanisms;
14. Welcomes the Biden administration's announced commitment to re-engage with the UN Human Rights Council, signalling the US's renewed intention to promote human rights globally;
15. Encourages the US to join the Rome Statute establishing the International Criminal Court;
16. Encourages the US to move towards the abolition of the death penalty, the reform of the criminal justice system, including through addressing systemic racism, and the end of all discrimination against LGBTIQI persons; urges dialogue and exchange of best practices between the EU and US on promoting racial and gender equality;

Facing security and defence challenges together

17. Supports a rebalancing of the responsibilities in the transatlantic security relationship by fostering greater self-reliance for EU Member States in matters of defence as a way to lessen the burden on the US;
18. Considers it necessary to foster cooperation not only on traditional security threats, but also on new ones such as hostile foreign technological dominance, hybrid threats, disinformation and cybersecurity;
19. Supports the creation of the EU-US Security and Defence Dialogue and calls on the VP/HR to launch it as soon as possible;
20. Stresses the common need to defend global democracy against rising authoritarianism, also within the transatlantic community, by, inter alia, fostering inclusive social and economic policies that address the root causes of inequalities and fighting extreme nationalist views that provide a fertile ground for far-right movements to thrive;

21. Supports the proposal of President Biden to hold a Summit for Democracy with like-minded democracies;

Closer foreign policy coordination

22. Believes that the EU should engage more with the US in the Western Balkans and eastern Europe in order to build resilient, prosperous, democratic multi-ethnic societies there, capable of resisting the disruptive influence of both local and external authoritarian forces;
23. Calls for a comprehensive EU-US dialogue on China that should address the areas of divergence, such as the Comprehensive Agreement on Investments, and explore possibilities for EU-US cooperation with China in multilateral frameworks on common challenges, such as climate change;
24. Underscores the need to explore areas of convergence and possible cooperation with the US on China, notably regarding the protection of human and minority rights, de-escalation of tensions in South-East Asia, coordination of actions in the Indo-Pacific region, setting technological standards, protecting intellectual property rights and the fight against disinformation; supports closer coordination on these and other issues of common concern;
25. Calls for close cooperation to jointly address the range of threats emanating from the Russian Federation, such as the continued destabilisation of Ukraine and Georgia, interferences in democratic processes in the EU and the US, hybrid threats and disinformation campaigns, while at the same pursuing selective cooperation in the areas of shared transatlantic interest, notably in the area of arms control;
26. Supports closer cooperation with the US and Latin American countries in promoting multilateralism, democratic values, sustainable development, human rights and international law standards;
27. Welcomes the recent engagement of the US in the negotiations on a revival of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) as a cornerstone of a global non-proliferation regime and a foundation for de-escalation in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf region; calls for renewed transatlantic efforts to meaningfully revive the Middle East Peace Process, leading to a viable two-state solution;
28. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the Commission and the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and, for information, to the US Department of State and the US Congress.