

TRANSATLANTIC POLICY FORUM

What is Transatlantic Policy Forum (TAPF)?

- A joint initiative of European and US policy institutes aiming at stimulating Transatlantic debate on **key policy issues** and challenges facing the EU and the USA in the near future
- A platform for the **exchange of opinions** among the US and EU experts on a number of policy issues, resulting in the formulation of **recommendations** targeted particularly at the Czech EU Presidency in the first half of 2009 and the EU-US summit to be held in June 2009

What policy issues are we tackling?

TAPF covers **four policy areas** in which the current state of Transatlantic co-operation is **evaluated**, strengths and weaknesses are identified and recommendations are formulated as to where and how the co-operation could be **improved**.

These areas are:

- **Energy security and global climate change**
- **Transatlantic market and WTO-related issues**
- **Democracy assistance and promotion worldwide**
- **EU-US co-operation in the EU neighbourhood, particularly in Western Balkans, Eastern Europe and the Caucasus area**

How do we implement this initiative?

- The expert team constitutes **Transatlantic Task Force**, divided into **four Working Groups**, one for each topic, led by experts from the partner organizations
- Each Working Group is composed by **EU and US experts** on a parity basis
- Leading expert of each Working Group is to draft a **policy paper** which is subjected to **peer review** by another expert from the other side of the Atlantic and **discussion** within the Working Group
- The Working Group as a whole endorses **recommendations** for the future EU-US **co-operation** in each policy area
- The recommendations of all the Working Groups are endorsed by other experts from both sides of the Atlantic are then compiled into a document addressed to the **EU and US leadership**

Who are the partners?

The partners are **leading policy institutes** from the United States and the European Union. The European Union partners represent the countries of **2008-2009 Team Presidency**, i.e. France, the Czech Republic and Sweden.

TAPF leading institute:

- **EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy, Prague, www.europeum.org**

TAPF Partners:

- German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMFUS), Washington D.C., www.gmfus.org
- Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Washington D.C. www.csis.org
- Notre Europe (Paris), www.notre-europe.eu
- Swedish Institute for European Policy Studies (SIEPS), Stockholm, www.sieps.se
- Prague Security Studies Institute (PSSI), Prague, www.pssi.cz

What events are we planning?

- **Advocacy events in Washington, Brussels, Paris, Prague and Stockholm**

The aim of these events is to convey the **recommendations** of the **Transatlantic Task Force** to relevant stakeholders of the three countries holding the EU presidency, the US administration and the EU institutions (European Commission, Secretariat General of the Council and relevant Permanent Representations), ensuring their resonance in the agenda of the respective EU presidencies, new US leadership and the EU-US summit in 2009.

- Paris: December 2008
- Washington, Prague, Brussels: January - March 2009
- Stockholm: September 2009

- **Transatlantic policy conferences in Prague and Washington D.C.**

The aim of the conferences is to stimulate a wide public debate on the policy issues covered by TAPF and to give floor to a variety of other stakeholders such as officials, political parties' representatives, civil society, experts and journalists.

- Prague: May 2009 – prior to the EU-US summit
- Washington D.C.: June 2009 – during the EU-US summit

Other partners involved

The initiative is implemented with the financial support of **European Commission Delegation in Washington D.C.** It enjoys full backing of the **Office of Government of the Czech Republic**, namely the Vice-Premier for European Union Affairs **Alexandr Vondra** who is in charge of the preparation of the Czech Republic's Presidency of the Council of the European Union. The project partners invite other potential partners to support this initiative in order to ensure a stronger resonance and broader support within a wider Transatlantic policy community.

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