

PRESS RELEASE

Recommendations of the *Transatlantic Policy Forum*

Tour of the Capitals: Paris, first stop

Six European and American Think Tanks Reflect on a New European-American Relationship

Wednesday, December 17, 2008

10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Maison des Arts et Métiers (9 bis avenue d'Iéna)

With the arrival of a new American administration, and on the eve of important personnel changes in the European political community (European Commission and Parliament), six European and American think tanks initiated a Transatlantic Forum in 2007, assembling about thirty researchers and high-level experts to propose paths to a new partnership between the European Union and the United States.

The Forum's participating think tanks are the *Center for Strategic and International Studies (Washington)*, *Notre Europe (Paris)*, *Prague Security Studies Institute*, *Swedish Institute for European Policy Studies (Stockholm)*, et *The German Marshall Fund of the US (Washington and Paris)*, as well as the think tank that initiated the forum, *Europeum (Prague)*.

The Paris presentation of the Forum's recommendations will be the first in a series of meetings that will rotate during 2009 among participating capitals (Washington, Brussels, Prague, and Stockholm), both before and after the next EU-US summit in Washington, and in the context of the Czech and Swedish presidencies of the European Union. The task force comprised of these six think tanks will present a first round of policy recommendations, notably in four key areas:

1. **Energy security and climate change,**
2. **EU-US cooperation in the EU neighborhood,**
3. **WTO and other trade issues and challenges,**
4. **The promotion of democracy.**

The morning will be devoted to presenting and discussing the first findings of the four thematic working groups with the goal of defining the first round of transatlantic policy recommendations.

The afternoon political round table will test the validity of the morning's proposals in the presence of notable political figures and diplomats. As we near the end of the French presidency of the European Union, this round table will also represent an effort to provide a future plan of action for coming Transatlantic Policy Fora based on the conclusions of the Paris meeting.

Some of the speakers include: **S.E Ambassador Vaclav Bartuska** (Ambassador, Czech Foreign Affairs Ministry), **François Bayrou** (President, Mouvement Démocrate), **Joachim Bitterlich** (Executive Vice President, Veolia Environnement), **Laurent Cohen-Tanugi** (Lawyer and essayist), **Sandro Gozi** (Member of Italian Parliament), **S.E Ambassador Gunnar Lund** (Ambassador, Swedish Embassy), **Denis Simonneau** (Chief of Staff, French Secretary of State for European Affairs), Vice-Prime Minister of the Czech Republic, **Alexandr Vondra**, and **Seth Winnick** (Minister Counselor for Economic Affairs at the United States Embassy in France).

This first *Transatlantic Policy Forum* in Paris is made possible thanks to the support of *The Institute of European Democrats* in Brussels and also the European Commission delegation of Washington.

The policy papers from this project are available in English at www.notre-europe.eu

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