



**Brussels / Washington DC, June 10, 2021**

Dear President von der Leyen, dear President Biden,

The Trans-Atlantic Business Council (“TABC”) is a cross-sectorial business association representing companies headquartered in the EU and U.S. that serves as a key business interlocutor to both the US government and the EU institutions on issues impacting the transatlantic economy.<sup>1</sup>

The TABC aims to promote and enhance transatlantic economic integration and strengthened political ties between the EU and US, while reinforcing the role of business as a major stakeholder in various EU-US official dialogues.

In view of the forthcoming EU-US Summit, and roughly six months after the Biden Administration took office, the TABC calls on both sides to undertake tangible actions to improve the transatlantic economic relationship.

The TABC takes the view that there are two key priorities for action in the short-to-medium term.

First, as we have called for in our 25 February letter to Commission’s Executive Vice-President Dombrovskis, we consider paramount that EU and US solve current trade and regulatory disputes and gaps, including steel and aluminum tariffs and countermeasures, Boeing/Airbus duties, and agree on a new data transfer framework. Recent decisions for temporary truces are certainly positive signs, but businesses need longer-term certainty and thus a final, permanent settlement of the current disputes.

The elimination of such outstanding economic and political obstacles will be instrumental to achieving the second priority action we would like to see pursued. The EU and the US should work towards a renewed long-term partnership on trade, investment and digital, through the creation of an EU-US Trade and Technology Council (TTC), on the basis of what was proposed by the EU over six months ago. The TABC very much hopes that a TTC can be announced officially at the forthcoming EU-US Summit, thus being one of the Summit’s tangible outcomes.

The TABC would like the TTC to be the key high-level EU-US forum for joint strategic thinking and discussion on key issues that will define the future global economic landscape, including in terms of growth, innovation

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<sup>1</sup> The TABC was created in 2013 as the result of a merger between TransAtlantic Business Dialogue (“TABD”) and European-American Business Council (“EABC”). The TABD was convened in 1995 by the U.S. Department of Commerce and the European Commission to serve as the official dialogue between American and European business leaders and U.S. Cabinet Secretaries and EU Commissioners.



and job creation, and where a joint EU-US policy and regulatory approach is needed to defend and promote transatlantic values, principles, and leadership. The TTC should focus on the macro areas of trade policy and digital/tech, with an overall cooperative approach guided by the principles of regulatory fair treatment and non-discrimination between the two blocks.

On trade, EU and US should use the TTC to define a shared approach to solve current pressing challenges. From an institutional perspective, a joint EU-US approach on WTO reform and market access issues would ensure that the multilateral trading system of the future is solid, efficient, and modelled on transatlantic values and principles.

On digital/tech, we would like the TTC to focus on competition, digital resilience, platform policy, artificial intelligence, digital trade, tech raw materials and semiconductors, and low carbon technologies. An aligned EU-US approach and potential adoption of common standards in various digital/tech area would be paramount. In line with this, the TTC could discuss policy and regulatory developments of interest and relevance to both sides of the Atlantic, such as platform regulation (e.g. EU's Digital Services Act and Digital Markets Act), artificial intelligence regulatory frameworks, digital tax etc.

The TABC has traditionally played an official businesses representation role in the framework of various EU-US official fora, including for example the Transatlantic Economic Council and the EU-US IPR Working Group. We thus stand ready to thoroughly engage with a future TTC, and look forward to a regular and structured partnership with the TTC on behalf of the transatlantic business community.

Yours sincerely,

**Ms. Dagmar Schnelle**  
Director, Government Affairs  
Audi AG  
**Co-Chair, TABC (Europe)**

**Mr. Josh Denney**  
SVP, Director of Government Affairs,  
BBVA USA  
**Co-Chair, TABC (United States)**