

Key Priorities

Working together to develop a joint policy agenda on China, transatlantic partners should focus on quick wins. Such quick wins will be important for their impact with China as well as for establishing confidence on both sides of the Atlantic that this cooperation is attainable and worthwhile. With these considerations in mind, we suggest the following policy priorities for transatlantic cooperation over the next six to 18 months:

Pushing for an Economic Level Playing Field

Transatlantic partners must continue to engage in a long-haul push for the implementation of Chinese commitments regarding market access in China, subsidies, intellectual property (IP) protection, and government procurement rules. However, the immediate transatlantic agenda should focus on steps that can be taken independently of China but that are likely to have effects with the political leadership in Beijing, such as:

- Resolving transatlantic economic disputes to enable more robust cooperation in dealing with China
- Promoting a more joined-up strategic outlook on China's economic trajectory
- Reforming the WTO and working on plurilateral initiatives
- Leveling the playing field with China in third markets through cooperation on the ground

Bolstering Economic Security

In the face of Chinese efforts to acquire critical technologies and know-how abroad, both sides of the Atlantic have undertaken major efforts to upgrade their investment screening regimes and have placed greater attention on the issue of export controls. Against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic, which acutely exposed strategic vulnerabilities, transatlantic partners have also sought to reduce dependencies on China for the supply of critical materials and technologies. Moving forward, key areas to address include:

- Closing gaps in and future-proofing technology control toolboxes
- Improving supply chain and technology security through diversification
- Mitigating the risks of Chinese economic coercion

Competing for Tech Leadership

Transatlantic partners, while also competitors themselves, have a joint interest in competing for tech leadership vis-à-vis China. The US, Canada, and Europe should selectively strengthen coordination on maintaining a competitive edge in critical foundational, emerging, and frontier technologies (like quantum computing, synthetic biology, and artificial intelligence) and on creating a conducive environment for their deployment, including by:

- Setting tech standards together
- Fleshing out and coordinating rules for the technology sector
- Aligning principles on artificial intelligence governance and ethics
- Developing a shared approach to managing the human rights implications of technology
- Promoting jointly funded research and development in foundational and emerging technologies
- Developing joint guidelines to protect basic science research at universities

Providing Alternatives on Infrastructure and Connectivity

The challenge China's global infrastructure policy poses is well recognized in North American and European capitals. Together, transatlantic partners provide enormous resources for building connectivity worldwide. However, they have failed to coordinate and communicate their level of engagement. Building upon the June 2021 G7 and EU-US Summits, transatlantic priorities should include:

- Developing a coordinated transatlantic approach
- Mobilizing the EU for action
- Taking flagship projects forward
- Promoting a joint narrative
- Joining forces with like-minded partners

Setting the Agenda in International Institutions

It will be critically important that transatlantic partners coordinate their respective norms- and values-based initiatives. However, there is also agreement that the US, Canada, and Europe must intensify practical efforts to pursue a transatlantic agenda across the whole of the global governance architecture, including by:

- Establishing a transatlantic dialogue on international institutions
- Coordinating on policy in international institutions to counter harmful Chinese initiatives
- Coordinating on personnel questions in international institutions to counterbalance Chinese representation

Preserving Liberal Society and Promoting Human Rights

Transatlantic partners should capitalize on opportunities to jointly double down in defense of liberal society, human rights, and political freedoms vis-à-vis China. Increasing coordination between the United States, Canada and Europe as well as coordination within the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and with the Global South should be a key component in pursuing transatlantic priorities, such as:

- Setting the terms of civil society interactions – starting with the Beijing Olympics
- Combatting digital authoritarianism
- Elevating anti-corruption as a national security priority
- Formalizing consultation in the OECD and with the Global South

Sustaining a Balance of Power for a Free and Open Indo-Pacific

While European nations are less exposed to China’s hard power and are less engaged in the region, their security interests are significantly impinged upon by the trajectory of Chinese policy. In the near term, common transatlantic priorities should include:

- Developing a joined-up approach on security in the Indo-Pacific
- Upholding international law and engaging with partners in the region
- Supporting Taiwan and preparing for contingencies
- Engaging China on global security issues