

Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET)

Preparation Module

The question of EU-US relations:

The European Union and the United States have a longstanding partnership which is built on shared values, interests, military, and economic ties. However, with shifts in US leadership, ensuring continuity and stability in transatlantic relations becomes crucial. Bearing in mind that the US elections are imminent, how can the EU assume a more defined role in the long-standing partnership between the two transatlantic partners?

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the 60th iMEP session in Athens. We, the Committee Presidents, are thrilled to have you join us on the AFET committee!

You have all proven yourselves to be remarkable individuals who aspire to achieve, but most importantly, hold a love and vision for this union, and all the nations which form it. During this experience, you shall become the prime component of this grand mechanism, and every action you take will have a great impact on the way others view the issues at hand, and eventually, impact the decisions of the real European Parliament.

Throughout your time in Athens, you will make many new friends, and improve on your debating skills by engaging in the committee meetings and then the GA, and we look forward to working with you to make this an experience to remember.

With this in mind, it is of great importance that all delegates are adequately prepared before our discussions in Athens, so you have a well-rounded knowledge of the topic we will be discussing. We've compiled some links and resources to help you prepare.

These links are meant to give you a good understanding of the subject, but you are encouraged to research even on your own.

Your committee presidents,

Nicholas Samut and Stephanie Oliveira Afonso

In your research, focus on finding answers to the following questions:

1. ***What are the biggest issues with our current EU-US relations, and how can we amend such issues?***

Key points of interest would be the economy (How can we ensure economic stability and prosperity for the European people?), influence on the global stage (How can we increase the EU's impact on global affairs, and reduce our need to rely on other nations?), independence (How can we have a mutually beneficial relationship with the US without damaging our independence, or their own?), shifting powers (Considering both the EU and US operate on elections, how can we improve longevity and continuity between the US and EU in spite of major ideological changes?).

2. ***How could the 2024 elections in the US affect the future of our relations?***

Key points to investigate: the campaigns of Donald Trump (Republican leading candidate) and Joe Biden (Democrat leading candidate).

3. ***What are the best ways to ensure both a stronger EU and US, through our joint relations and efforts, in order to preserve our shared Western values?***

Key points to consider would include the threats posed by the People's Republic of China (PRC), trade relations between the EU and US to be improved, and the equality of the relationship between both parties.

Research References:

The materials below offer an excellent opportunity to engage with the subject. Remember that while you may already possess personal experiences related to this topic, these links aim to provide a broader perspective. Don't worry about reading every single article; it's not like we will quiz you. We would also like to encourage you to do your own research into this issue, even in your native language. Try to aim for the newest stuff (you know, preferably from this century), find things the EU has already done, and then brainstorm to come up with some brilliant ideas of your own to solve the issue at hand.

We would also like to make sure you are aware that many of the articles you will find are tinged by US election propaganda for either one of the parties and to always check the actual statements of candidates before blindly trusting any banter in articles or videos so that your research is as authentic as possible.

1. ECONOMICS 101:

- a. <https://youtu.be/HfN8BnRJryQ?si=zuoXozPyVRSsDo0s>
- b. <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/b/bot.asp#:~:text=The%20Bottom%20Line-.The%20balance%20of%20trade%20is%20the%20difference%20between%20a%20country%27s.more%20goods%20than%20it%20imports.>

60th INTERNATIONAL MEP ATHENS 2024**2. OFFICIAL CURRENT TRADE RELATIONS WITH THE US:**

- a. <https://ustr.gov/countries-regions/europe-middle-east/europe/european-union#:~:text=U.S.%20goods%20and%20services%20trade,billion%3B%20imports%20were%20%24723.3%20billion.> (US site)
- b. https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/united-states_en (EU site)
- c. Very useful site with great statistics (click the “plus” sign next to “Full article”):
https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=USA-EU_-_international_trade_in_goods_statistics

3. CONTEXT:

- a. EU and US economy and position (Videos):
 - i. https://youtu.be/Qp2IALaLeQw?si=NOytDKcfawY_t4Mg
 - ii. <https://youtu.be/R4O1kiGTPgY?si=8Tr59BkvflmQwK7S>
 - iii. <https://youtu.be/YhKiDG3EvX4?si=8sqJhL1peVghNAER>
 - iv. <https://youtu.be/tsahMxXdW30?si=zPIRWAnbYoE7Yj-n>
 - v. <https://youtu.be/7xCPYuQPFXE?si=5GyGoipFfoSujbbp>

FURTHER LINKS:

TTC:

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trade_and_Technology_Council

Issues of International Instability:

<https://www.socialeurope.eu/eu-us-relations-key-to-geopolitical-stability>

EU-US innovation relations:

https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-2020-2024/europe-world/international-cooperation/bilateral-cooperation-science-and-technology-agreements-non-eu-countries/united-states_en

Donald Trump on NATO (EU and US struggle):

<https://www.politico.eu/article/donald-trump-says-he-wont-quit-nato-if-europe-pays-its-way/>

The EU-US Trade and Technology Council (TTC):

Here are some key points about the TTC:

Establishment:

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- The TTC was established during the EU-US Summit on June 15, 2021, in Brussels.
- It represents a commitment to strengthen technological and industrial leadership and expand bilateral trade and investment between the EU and the US.

Objectives:

Through the Council, the EU and the US work together to:

- Ensure that trade and technology serve their societies and economies while upholding common values.
- Strengthen their technological and industrial leadership.
- Expand bilateral trade and investment.

Recent Achievements (Sixth Ministerial Meeting, April 2024):

- Advancing Transatlantic Cooperation on AI, 6G, and Emerging Technologies:
- Reaffirmed commitment to a risk-based approach to artificial intelligence (AI) and support for safe and trustworthy AI technologies.
- Announced a new dialogue between the EU AI Office and the US AI Safety Institute.
- Adopted a common vision for 6G technology and signed an administrative arrangement for research collaboration.
- Extended administrative arrangements for building resilient semiconductor supply chains.
- Released a Digital Identity Mapping Report to identify opportunities for transatlantic interoperability in emerging technology standards.
- Promoting Easier, Sustainable, and Secure Trade:
- Emphasised sustainable trade through the Transatlantic Initiative on Sustainable Trade.
- Agreed to publish a Joint Catalogue of Best Practices on Green Public Procurement to accelerate publicly financed sustainability projects.
- Facilitated digital tools in trade and aligned technical standards for e-invoicing systems.
- Addressed clean energy compatibility in e-vehicle charging infrastructure.
- Advanced negotiations toward a Critical Minerals Agreement to strengthen supply chains for electric vehicle batteries.
- Discussed economic security challenges and efforts to de-risk and diversify trade and investment relations.

In summary, the TTC represents a values-based partnership aimed at fostering innovation, addressing global challenges, and promoting secure and sustainable transatlantic trade and technology.