Transatlantic Economic Council
Facilitators Report to Stakeholders
November 16, 2015

1. Senior officials from the U.S. Government and the European Commission gathered on November 16, 2015, to review progress, discuss new opportunities, and take steps to re-energize joint collaboration under the Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC), which brings together officials from external trade, regulatory, commercial, and scientific agencies in the EU and the U.S. Government to support innovation and growth. Catherine Novelli, Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment at the U.S. Department of State, and Jean-Luc Demarty, Director General of Trade for the European Commission, led the effort as senior facilitators.

2. The facilitators agreed that the variety and depth of technical cooperation prove the high value of the TEC as a way to encourage partnerships among a variety of agencies and stakeholders between the United States and the EU that support the innovation ecosystem. Several work streams reached key milestones in 2015; these successes demonstrate that the United States and the EU can work together to solve practical problems, in particular in emerging sectors. These are long-term efforts that help contribute to the alignment of transatlantic standards and regulation and enable the growth of innovative, export-oriented industries in the United States and the EU. Both sides agreed to work on further communication of these TEC-led achievements in 2016. The TEC will continue to give strategic direction and focus as needed to our collaborative efforts, playing a complementary role to our ongoing T-TIP negotiations.

3. Facilitators discussed ways to coordinate more closely with the work of our scientific, research and development agencies in pursuit of several potential workstreams, including unmanned aircraft systems, quantum information systems, marine technology, and automated vehicles. Both sides agreed to consult with stakeholders early in 2016 to get input on development of potential work in these areas, and others that stakeholders identify.

4. The United States and the EU share a strong interest in the pursuit of both fundamental research and potential commercialization of new ideas as well as in the development of the best research and testing methodologies, while ensuring that these efforts produce positive outcomes for businesses, consumers, researchers, and workers. Facilitators agreed to pursue a more flexible framework for the advancement of science and technology cooperation between the US and the EU, particularly between Horizon 2020 project participants and their U.S. counterparts.

5. This report summarises the accomplishments of the TEC since the last meeting of the facilitators in February 2015. Stakeholders are invited to share their views with TEC subject leads directly. Consultation events will be arranged separately in the EU and the United States in early 2016.

e-Mobility

6. Both the United States and the EU have a shared interest in the rapid development of cost-efficient solutions to e-Mobility, which is one of the most rapidly growing and highly innovative areas of the transatlantic market. Interoperability within and between electric vehicles and smart grids is a key issue for the deployment and full exploitation of transport electrification, and the integration of renewable energy sources and storage (such as solar and natural gas power generation) into the grid. These are key elements in smart cities and for a decarbonised economy.

7. TEC Principals endorsed in 2011 a comprehensive e-Mobility Work Plan for more focused cooperation on the development of globally-relevant, voluntary e-vehicle standards, global technical regulations in the UNECE, and battery safety and transport. Key partners are the U.S. Department of Energy, the EU's Joint Research Centre (JRC) and stakeholders from industry.

8. Progress in 2015 on the Work Plan includes

a. Establishment of an improved interoperability test matrix, where 16 different full electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles have been tested at JRC in Ispra for their interoperability with more than 60 different charging devices from EU, U.S. and Swiss producers[1];

b. Demonstration in October 2015 of the initial prototype for the hardware for a global testing device for all interoperability aspects between electric vehicles and charging devices, representing the first physical product of harmonized testing methodologies for electric vehicle charging mechanisms between the US and EU markets;

c. Presentation of initial results from direct current fast charging interoperability tests (Combined Charging System type) at the global Interoperability Coalition Workshop in Ispra in October;

d. Completion of a test installation to measure energy efficiency and emissions at DG JRC's electric and hybrid vehicles testing facility in March 2015;

e. Development of a portable system to monitor electric and functional parameters to measure energy efficiency and the electric driving range under real world driving conditions;

f. Construction of an anechoic chamber for electromagnetic testing of e-vehicles in Ispra;

g. Continued close dialogue with stakeholders, via scientific cooperation and participation in meetings such as the Transatlantic Business Council's Stakeholder Event.

9. A major achievement in 2015 was the inauguration of the European Commission's DG JRC state-of-the-art laboratory for electric vehicles and smart grid interoperability on 29 October, with high-level presence from both sides of the Atlantic. The new Interoperability Centre is a twin

[2] http://hitcomp.siframework.org/

facility to the already operational US Interoperability Centre at Argonne National Laboratories (Chicago, Illinois). The European Interoperability Centre combines four state-of-the-art laboratories, which focus on energy efficiency of electric and hybrid vehicles; interoperability of smart grids; electromagnetic compatibility; and battery testing.

Facilitators encouraged DOE's Argonne National Laboratory and the JRC to continue their active cooperation towards implementation of the Letter of Intent between the JRC and the DOE to test and verify equipment, connectivity technologies, communication protocols, and standards. Following the success of the event at Ispra, facilitators welcomed the proposal to institute annual coordination meetings between DOE's Argonne National Laboratory and DG JRC.

e-Health

10. Both the United States and the EU recognize the potential of health-related information and communications technology (ICT), referred to as e-Health, to contribute to meeting global health policy challenges. In December 2010 a Memorandum of Understanding was agreed between the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the EU on this subject, including development of a Roadmap guiding the activities of collaboration. Over the last three years this Roadmap has focused on two high priority areas (work streams):

- Standards Development: DG CONNECT and HHS, through the Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT (ONC), have cooperated on the exchange of patient summary records, and delineated an action plan to advance the development and use of internationally recognized standards on patient summary templates. Patient-controlled access to health records can empower individuals, support care, and improve clinical outcomes and patient safety.

- Workforce Development: DG CONNECT and ONC have supported development of stakeholder-driven solutions to common workforce training. This process resulted in development of a free, on-line interactive assessment tool called "HITCOMP" (Health –IT Competencies)[2]. This tool can be used by employers, educators, managers, and job seekers in the e-Health field. It identifies a standard set of competencies and knowledge among all staff in healthcare, and recommended training, standards and tools required to address these gaps. These solutions should help develop and expand skilled e-Health workforces both in the United States and Europe.

11. Facilitators agreed that it is essential that stakeholders (public and private) are fully involved in the work of the Roadmap, its evolution and updates. They welcomed the recent publication of the revised Roadmap which is currently undergoing a public stakeholder consultation[3] on both

[2] http://hitcomp.siframework.org/

[3] For the EU: https://ec.europa.eu/digital-agenda/en/news/public-stakeholder-consultation-next-phase-eu-us-cooperation-ehealthhealth-it; For the US: www.healthit.gov/policy-researchers-implementers/public-stakeholder-consultation-eu-us-cooperation-ehealthhealth-it

sides. International standards developed under the Roadmap could also lead to interoperability solutions through other platforms to support global innovation in health care, such as for mobile health or community care, which we intend to focus under the new "Innovation" plank of the revised Roadmap.

Raw materials

12. Transatlantic cooperation in the area of raw materials has made progress since the last TEC meeting. The 2012 TEC Raw Materials Roadmap is based on five pillars: 1) trade cooperation; 2) raw materials data flows and information sharing; 3) resource efficiency; 4) research and development in substitution and product design; and 5) waste shipments. Facilitators also underlined that the issue of raw materials will continue to be prominent in the TEC, and were pleased with stakeholder engagement in 2015 in developing ideas for a revised action plan.

13. Facilitators agreed on the importance of continuing the active cooperation on raw materials and requested colleagues to review and modernize the U.S.-EU Raw Materials Action Plan in the first quarter of 2016. In particular, facilitators noted the need to strengthen the EU-US joint efforts to promote a cooperative approach, bilaterally and in multilateral institutions, to facilitate reliable and undistorted global trade in raw materials.

Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)

14. The United States and the EU recognize SMEs as critical motors of growth and job creation and key sources of innovation and entrepreneurship. Since 2011, the TEC has included a specific work stream with the objective to enhance transatlantic cooperation on issues relevant for U.S. and EU SMEs in order to increase trade and investment opportunities. As a result six workshops have taken place to exchange best practices and find collaborative ways to fulfil that aim. Meetings gathered U.S. and EU officials together with Member States' representatives, SME stakeholders and business associations. Participants discussed concrete examples to stimulate growth in our SMEs in the context of a transatlantic market. Issues tabled included SME access to finance, IPR, entrepreneurship, access to standards, support to cluster policy, information sharing and SMEs internationalisation.

15. This work led to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Department of Commerce International Trade Administration and the European Commission's DG ENTR on joint U.S.-EU SME business cooperation. This was renewed as a Cooperation Arrangement in 2015. It aims to facilitate the exchange of information on business events and joint networking opportunities for SMEs. It also envisages cooperation on specific SME events and relevant business partnering activities. Another Cooperation Arrangement on clusters was agreed in 2015 between the US Department of Commerce and DG GROW, to facilitate transatlantic linkages

between EU and US clusters, and to better help SMEs find strategic partners in thematic areas of mutual interest. As a follow-up, a US-EU workshop on Cluster Mapping and Cluster-Based Economic Development Policies was organised in Boston and Washington, DC from 17 to 19 November 2015 in collaboration with the US. Department of Commerce, DG GROW and the Institute for Strategy and Competitiveness at Harvard Business School.

16. These closer contacts between both administrations contributed also to the inclusion of an SME Chapter within the context of the T-TIP negotiations. This is intended to ensure that SMEs in the EU and US can fully benefit from TTIP, including by ensuring easy access for SMEs on both sides to comprehensive information about trading across the Atlantic.

17. Facilitators noted the report of the 6th SME workshop in Washington on April 21, 2015, which inter alia focused on how e-commerce platforms can expand export opportunities for SMEs, access to finance in the transatlantic market, and potential for cluster cooperation. Workshop participants also discussed ideas for potential inclusion in the SME chapter of the T-TIP agreement.

18. Other activities reviewed include the initiative launched in 2015 by the U.S. Commerce Department, to promote Transatlantic Cooperation on Incubators, Accelerators and Startups or "TCIAS," which involves a wide range of government, private sector and academic stakeholders on both sides of the Atlantic, and which is carried out under the auspices of the Commerce-DG GROW SME Cooperation Arrangement. New opportunities were also reviewed for transatlantic cooperation at two major trade shows in 2016: the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas, and the Hannover Trade Fair.

19. Facilitators agreed to host the next SME workshop in Tallinn, Estonia, in June 2016. There is a common agreement to continue exchange of best practices on SME-related topics as well as use the existing SME work stream to update businesses and business associations on progress achieved in T-TIP negotiations, paying particular importance to solutions beneficial for the smallest companies.

Biobased economy

20. The United States and EU confirmed their commitment to continue their cooperation on biobased products. To advance this work, facilitators agreed that the two sides would host a joint expert-level meeting in 2016 to exchange information on the progress of standardisation work in CEN and ASTM for biobased products, with the objective of clarifying the landscape for SMEs on both sides of the Atlantic, and therefore helping to incentivise growth in this innovative area. This expert level meeting is envisaged for the second half of 2016, and will build upon the standardisation work on bio-based products including bio-based content and tools for certification.

21. USDA/Commerce participated in a DG GROW-sponsored workshop on public procurement in the biobased sector in October 2015. USDA also shared best practices and lessons learned with EU stakeholders at the annual European Forum for Industrial Biotechnology in October 2015. This event substantially contributed to the development of information and guidance materials on

what bio-based products are, their capabilities, and the most relevant product groups for procurement and, hence, for the preparation of such information and guidance materials. USDA and DG GROW will again meet to discuss bio-industries benchmarking (economic impact analysis of bio-based industry in February 2016 in Seville, Spain at the JRC IPTS, with participation of DG RTD. This is expected to contribute to better understanding of data collection and analysis in the context of global bio-economy dialogue.

Nanotechnology

22. Facilitators were pleased to note the regular contacts between the U.S. Emerging Technologies Interagency Policy Coordination Committee and the EU Inter-Service Group on nanotechnology, in the form of bi-annual videoconferences, the most recent having taken place on June 14, 2015. The focus of the discussion was an EPA proposed TSCA reporting rule that was open for public comment, and outcomes from the US-EU Communities of Research meetings, which involve robust discussion of US-EU scientific cooperation and agenda-setting in areas relating to environmental, health and safety issues. They also discussed standards development work in European standardisation bodies.

23. Facilitators recommended more frequent contacts with stakeholders to inform them of the discussions in this forum. They recommended that this approach continue, in order to informally exchange information about regulatory developments and U.S.-EU research collaboration. The next nanotechnology dialogue will take place on 3 March 2016.