



WORK PACKAGE I WORKSHOP

University of Edinburgh
10-11 September 2012

WORKSHOP REPORT

The Transworld consortium's Work Package 1 - which seeks to develop a 'conceptual framework for the redefinition of the transatlantic relationship' - met for a two day workshop in Edinburgh on 10-11th September to present draft papers or 'deliverables' (now available at: <http://www.transworld-fp7.eu/> under 'publications'). The topics covered a wide range of issues related to transatlantic relations: the historical evolution of the relationship, three 'scenarios' for the future of transatlantic relations, the impact of the multipolar global structure, the determinants and features of international alliances and the implications of European integration for transatlantic relations.

On Day One, Prof. John Peterson (Edinburgh University) presented his paper - co-authored with Nathalie Tocci and Ricardo Alcaro (IAI) - '**Multipolarity: Multilateralism, Leadership and Transatlantic Relations**'. The paper advocated the adoption of a foreign policy analysis (FPA) approach to understanding transatlantic relations. The paper argued that an FPA framework offers "greater analytical capture" than alternative frameworks, since International Relations (IR) were increasingly fragmenting into different power constellations depending on the area of policy. It considered the near-term future of multilateralism and the nature of transformational leadership. In debate with discussant Chad Damro (Edinburgh University), the analytical approach was analyzed and the discussion moved to address what a new strategic bargain between the EU and the US could involve. A transatlantic free trade area was highlighted as one ambitious proposal where the EU has the capacity to act strategically as an international partner. The draft was welcomed as a good opening to the work package and areas for refinement and development were identified.

In the second session of Day One, "**The Evolution of the Transatlantic Partnership**" came under consideration. Maria Green-Cowles and Michelle Egan (American University of Washington DC) presented a comprehensive paper examining all major crises in the partnership since the end of the Second World War and proposing possible future scenarios and trends after the US Presidential election in November. Discussant Andrew Byrne (Edinburgh University) offered a constructive critique and the paper elicited comments from Michael Smith

(Loughborough University) and Ettore Greco (IAI). Michael Smith suggested that the idea of an enduring partnership may be a chimera; instead, selective collaboration on discrete issue areas is more likely to produce fruitful results. In this light, seeking grand bargains on wide-ranging issue areas may in fact be a provocation; acting as a lightning rod for tension and differences. The breadth of the paper led participants to suggest that a second draft may produce two distinct papers; the first reflecting on the evolution of the partnership and identifying lessons from the historical record. A second (later) paper could provide valuable assessments of the prospects for cooperation in light of the election results in November.

On Day Two, the workshop opened up with discussion on Meltem Müftuler-Baç's (Sabanci University of Istanbul) draft paper '**The Implications of European Integration for Transatlantic Relations**'. The paper's linkage of key developments in (especially) EU Treaty reforms was welcomed by discussant Dan Kenealy (Edinburgh University), and extensive discussion followed which offered suggestions for refinement and revision.

Thomas Risse's paper, entitled "**Determinants and Features of International Alliances and Structural Partnerships**" was presented by Nelli Babayan (Free University of Berlin), who received useful feedback from discussant Michael Smith (Loughborough University). It was suggested that the US and EU economies were more *interpenetrated* than *integrated*, and thus a major economic cooperation agreement – extending to harmonization of regulations – could create significant jobs and growth on either side. One question that arose in this discussion, as well as at other points in the workshop, was about how incentives that the US and Europe face might change as emerging powers became more important players in IR.

The workshop concluded with Nathalie Tocci and Riccardo Alcaro's (IAI) paper, entitled "**Three Scenarios for the Future of the Transatlantic Partnership**" and a group discussion – following a thoughtful intervention from Shaun Breslin (Warwick University) – focused on adopting a coherent conceptual framework across the work package. It was agreed that power might be less 'fungible' across different policy arenas than was the case (say) during the Cold War, that a variety of transatlantic *relationships* existed in different policy arenas, and in the case of the scenario 'enduring partnership' that the capacity for conflict between the US and Europe might actually increase.

Having shared extensive comments and suggestions on developing the drafts further, the work package leaders set out a detailed timeframe of deliverables, milestones and deadlines for the remainder of the work package and the successful completion of phase one of the Transworld Project.