***CAIDP Update*** 2.36 (Sept. 30, 2021) – *EU-US Trade Council Advances AI Policy*

The EU-US Trade and Technology Council agreed this week to several key points on transatlantic cooperation for AI policy. The declaration was adopted in the larger context of working groups focused on technical standards, clean tech, data governance, security and human rights, investment screening, and other topics. According to the Joint Statement, the objectives of the TTC are to "coordinate approaches to key global technology, economic, and trade issues; and to deepen transatlantic trade and economic relations, basing policies on shared democratic values."

The meetings were led by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo, U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai, EU trade chief Valdis Dombrovskis, and European Commissioner for Competition Margrethe Vestager. CAIDP sent a Statement to the Trade Council in advance of the meeting in Pittsburgh.

Annex III of the Joint Statement set out nine points and four areas of cooperation for Artificial Intelligence. "The United States and European Union affirm their willingness and intention to develop and implement trustworthy AI and their commitment to a human-centered approach that reinforces shared democratic values and respects universal human rights," said the EU-US Joint Statement. The US and EU countries previously endorsed the OECD AI Principles. The Council supported AI "inclusion" and "diversity" along with "innovation and economic growth." The negotiators called-out "social scoring," an AI technique developed by the Chinese government to align personal behavior with the philosophy of the Chinese Communist Party. The EU-US Council said, "These systems pose threats to fundamental freedoms and the rule of law, including through silencing speech, punishing peaceful assembly and other expressive activities, and reinforcing arbitrary or unlawful surveillance systems."

The EU-US Trade Council said it would work together to implement the OECD AI Principles. The Council committed to develop measurement and evaluation tools to assess bias and mitigation in AI systems. They pledged to "explore cooperation on AI technologies designed to enhance privacy protections." They also pledged to undertake an economic study examining the impact of AI on the future of workforces, to develop "AI consistent with an inclusive economic policy that ensures the benefits of technological gains are broadly shared by workers across the wage scale."

The Trade Council also supported a risk-based approach to AI regulation, adopted in the EU AI Act, but which has drawn criticism from EU NGOs who argue that AI regulation should be rights-based.

In an earlier Statement, CAIDP said "We support the goal of the Trade and Technology Council to strengthen the transatlantic alliance on digital policy, and to promote trustworthy AI. Democratic governments should also work together to ensure that democratic values are preserved as technology moves forward." CAIDP noted a recent statement of UN Human Rights Commissioner Michelle Bachelet who urged a moratorium on the sale and use of AI that pose a serious risk to human rights until adequate safeguards are put in place.