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Enhanced EU–US communication has been essential in developing a closer understanding of respective policy positions and a better coordination of activities. The [1990 Transatlantic Declaration](#) introduced structured political dialogues to allow for EU-US discussion on a great variety of regional and horizontal themes. The [New Transatlantic Agenda \(NTA\)](#) which followed in 1995 now governs the relationship.

This ambitious agenda of cooperation between the EU and the USA in a large number of areas requires intensive dialogue. The **yearly summits** between the Presidents of the European Commission and the European Council and the President of the United States are the apex of an intensive dialogue. The summits are prepared by a group of senior level representatives (SLG) composed of senior officials from the EEAS, the European Commission, the EU Presidency, the Council Secretariat and the US State Department, which has been entrusted to oversee work under the NTA. The SLG meets four to six times a year and prepares reports to summit leaders on achievements and new priorities. It is supported in its work by a task force, which ensures the day-to-day implementation of decisions taken.

Under the [EU's Industrialised Countries Instrument for 2007-2013](#), over €20 million are earmarked for the cooperation with the United States under the 3 focal areas: **dialogues, people to people and cooperation**. Following an [Annual Work Programme](#), tenders or call for proposals for the various instruments ([EU Centres of Excellence](#), people to people actions, dialogues and outreach activities) are published on that [same website](#) and are opened to EU and US participants.

In recent years, the development of more informal and operational *ad hoc* contacts have allowed for a more detailed understanding of our respective priorities and policies, provided early warning of potential problems and improved the coordination of policy planning and assistance. The EU and the US have continued to work together in the field of both **civilian and military crisis management and conflict prevention**. In March 2008, both sides concluded a [work plan on crisis management and conflict prevention](#), setting out the concrete steps to operationalise co-operation in a number of areas, with specific elements on conflict prevention and early warning. Close cooperation continues in stabilisation efforts in the Balkans, in particular concerning the [EULEX Kosovo rule of law mission](#).