

Transatlantic Tech Exchange

Technology is at the center of policy debates in the United States and the European Union. Policies that are poised to reshape the digital landscape for millions in the EU are siloed from US initiatives, even though they will have major consequences globally. There is often a risk that the U.S. and EU will pull in different directions, despite shared principles.

In order to address this gap, the German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) is convening a Transatlantic Tech Exchange (TTX) with support from Stiftung Mercator to foster mutual understanding on technology policy issues affecting US and EU citizens and build relationships between policymakers, innovators, industry, and civil society.

GMF will bring a TTX cohort of 16 – 20 MEPs to the US in March 2024. In the first part of the tour, TTX participants will travel to Washington, DC for meetings with Congressional offices, federal government experts including the Department of Commerce and Federal Communications Commission and thought leaders. Half of the delegation will then travel to Austin, Texas—where an increasing number of high-tech start-ups are based—for consultations with leading technology executives and thought leaders. The other half will travel to Sacramento, California—the state capital—to engage with state-level policymakers focused on tech. GMF will do our best to accommodate preferences between Austin and Sacramento.

The meetings and consultations will focus on three central core themes:

1. Internet governance and digital platform accountability
2. New technologies including artificial intelligence
3. Multilateral transatlantic initiatives like the EU-US Trade and Technology Council and the Declaration for the Future of the Internet

Study Tour Itinerary: 17 – 23 March 2024

Fall 2023 – Winter 2024: pre-exchange private virtual events and logistical briefing for MEP staff

Sunday, 17 March: travel from Brussels to Washington, DC

Monday & Tuesday, 18-19 March: meetings and convenings with Congressional offices, federal government experts, think tanks

Wednesday, 20 March: travel from Washington, DC to Austin, Texas or Sacramento, California

Thursday & Friday, 21-22 March: consultations with entrepreneurs, leading technology executives, state policymakers, and thought leaders, public event

Saturday, 23 March: travel from Austin, Texas or Sacramento, California to Brussels

The trip will be accompanied by three GMF staff members. All costs will be covered by the study tour organizers. Flights will be business class and accommodations will be four-star hotels.

The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit, transatlantic organization headquartered in Washington, DC, with offices in Ankara, Belgrade, Berlin, Brussels, Bucharest, Paris, and Warsaw. GMF strives to champion democratic values and the transatlantic alliance by strengthening civil society, forging bold and innovative policy ideas, and developing a new generation of leaders to tackle global challenges. GMF delivers hope by upholding the dignity of the individual and defending freedom in the spirit of the Marshall Plan.

The Digital Innovation and Democracy Initiative (GMF Digital) is dedicated to ensuring that technology supports democracy, security, and prosperity in the United States, Europe, and around the world. GMF Digital develops commonsense solutions to what seem like intractable technology policy challenges. We bring together a diverse community of experts, policymakers, and other stakeholders to shed light on the challenges of a digital world and define policy solutions. Our work builds transatlantic consensus on strategies that advance innovation and strengthen democratic values.