



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & PUBLIC POLICY MONTHLY UPDATE

Compiled by Mary Saunders, Vice President, Government Relations, American National Standards Institute (ANSI)

ANSI Government Relations is tracking current legislative and regulatory initiatives of significant relevance to the standardization community. Select highlights of federal and Congressional activities in the following focus areas are provided below.

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The United States hosted the third ministerial meeting of the U.S.-EU Trade and Technology Council, and the 117th Congress checked off several big items on its end of year to do list in December.

U.S.-EU Trade and Technology Council Issues a Joint AI Roadmap

The U.S.-EU Trade and Technology Council (TTC), a task force that U.S. and EU officials formed last year to help coordinate policy between the two regions, had its third ministerial [meeting](#) on December 5, 2022. One of the key outcomes of the meeting was the launch of a [joint AI roadmap](#) that introduces a three-pronged plan to “guide the development of tools, methodologies, and approaches for AI risk management and trustworthy AI.” These steps provide a practical pathway for the TTC to translate its high-level ideas into concrete actions.

First, the EU and United States plan to develop shared terminologies and taxonomies when it comes to operationalizing “trustworthy AI” and risk management. While both sides are pursuing risk-based approaches to AI and share common values around democracy, human rights, and freedom, as noted in the roadmap, they “have different views on regulatory approaches,” such as who should be responsible

for risk assessment and what is the right balance between regulatory and voluntary measures. The two sides are not trying to harmonize regulation through the TTC but rather are trying to ensure their respective policies are interoperable by having a shared understanding of key terms such as *trustworthy*, *risk*, *harm*, *risk threshold*, *bias*, *robustness*, *safety*, *interpretability*, and *security*. To do this, they intend to map terminology and taxonomy in key EU and U.S. documents such as the U.S NIST AI Risk Management Framework, the U.S. Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights, and the EU's AI Act, and develop a shared understanding.

The second area the roadmap focuses on is providing allied leadership in international AI standards—and this area will be a key litmus test for whether the TTC can deliver meaningful cooperation and action. Both sides state that they seek to “create consistent ‘rules of the road’ that enable market competition, preclude barriers to trade, and allow innovation to flourish,” by cooperating on R&D for AI standards, promoting continual U.S.-EU expert-level information sharing, and convening their respective stakeholders to ensure appropriate representation at important standards-setting bodies and organizations.

However, as the Information Technology Industry Foundation (ITIF) explains in a [2022 report](#), Europe's statements about working with the United States on technology standards haven't matched its actions so far, which have excluded experts from foreign firms that have for years played a constructive role in European standards setting. Following through on this element of the roadmap provides the TTC with an opportunity to prove it can deliver on building meaningful ways to work cooperatively on tech standards toward shared goals.

Third, the roadmap states that the EU and United States will develop knowledge-sharing mechanisms to better monitor and measure existing and emerging AI risks. For instance, the roadmap says, “both parties intend to take actionable steps towards a tracker of existing and emergent risks and risk categories based on context, use cases, and empirical data on AI incidents, impact, and harms.” In essence, the TTC envisions this tracker would serve as a sort of baseline for detecting and analyzing AI risks that would be continually updated to include “the dynamics of development and use, improvements in understanding of the potential harms to shared values, compound risks due to the interaction of several systems, or unknown but predictable risks that could arise from new AI methods and/or contexts of use.” The short-term objective is to establish what the objectives and methodology of such a tracker would be with a long-term view toward creating benchmarks and evaluations of AI risks.

The joint AI roadmap is a solid effort to take practical steps forward on several of the ideas presented for transatlantic AI cooperation in the [TTC's inaugural meeting](#). Now the job for the TTC and its various working groups is to implement the plan.

National Defense Authorization Act Signed into Law

President Biden signed the Fiscal 2023 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) into law on December 23, 2022. The 62nd annual NDAA supports a total of \$857.9 billion in fiscal year 2023 funding for national defense. Within this topline, the legislation authorizes \$816.7 billion for the Department of Defense (DOD) and \$30.3 billion for national security programs within the Department of Energy (DOE). This \$45 billion increase above the President's budget request will address the effects of global inflation, provide additional security assistance to Ukraine, and accelerate implementation of the National Defense Strategy. Highlights include:

- Authorizing critical investments in battle force ships, submarines, aircraft, combat vehicles, long-range artillery, and other equipment to maintain a combat advantage;
- Increasing investments in the Pacific Deterrence Initiative and authorizing the Taiwan Enhanced Resilience Act of 2022, which is designed to increase U.S. security cooperation with Taiwan;
- Authorizing increased funding for the European Deterrence Initiative and the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative;
- Strengthening and securing the national supply chain and supporting the defense industrial base, including temporary authorizations to waive certain restrictions related to contracts for munitions to support Ukraine or to increase the Defense Department's stocks of critical munitions;
- Modernizing military technology and capabilities, including hypersonic weapons, artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, and biotechnologies;
- Authorizing \$1 billion for the National Defense Stockpile to acquire rare earths and critical materials required to meet the defense, industrial, and civilian needs of the United States;
- Strengthening the Department of Defense's cybersecurity strategy and capabilities.

The NDAA also serves as a legislative vehicle for a number of non-defense authorizations, including several major authorization bills from other committees.

Omnibus Appropriations Bill Signed into Law

On December 23, the House passed, 225 to 201, with one Member voting present, the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, an omnibus spending bill consisting of all 12 fiscal year 2023 appropriations bills. President Biden signed the Act into law on December 29. The nearly \$1.7 trillion appropriations bill averted a government shutdown and funds the federal government through fiscal year 2023, which ends September 30, 2023.

An omnibus spending bill is a combination of appropriations bills that each authorize funds for different parts of the government. Less than half of the contents of the bill cover the regular discretionary

spending of the federal government. The rest of the bill includes supplementals for Ukraine (\$44.9 billion) and disaster relief (\$27 billion); electoral count reform and presidential transition improvement; legislation like No Tik Tok on Government Devices, the Secure 2.0 Act of 2022, the Strong Veterans Act of 2022, and the Contract Act of 2022; Post Office designations, extenders, and technical corrections of the just enacted National Defense Authorization Act; and miscellaneous provisions on aviation-related, oceans-related, financial services, water, and consumer protection matters.

Following apportionment¹ of appropriated funds by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and agency consultation with Congressional committees, where necessary, on specific spending plans, funds are expected to be released to agencies early in 2023.

¹ An apportionment is an OMB-approved plan to use budgetary resources (31 U.S.C. 1513(b); Executive Order 11541)