**Texte 1**

**The President’s priorities**

From tackling the pandemic to reviving the economy, Joe Biden has a lot of work to do. The year ahead in America will be a big improvement on its awful predecessor. The country was wracked by such a series of scandals and disasters in 2020 that, by the time voters limped to the polls, Donald Trump’s impeachment trial ten months’ earlier barely warranted a mention.

A quarter of a million Americans were dead of Covid-19. Over 10 million jobs had been lost. The racial grievances highlighted by the Black Lives Matter protests – some of the biggest in American History – had been inflamed by the president’s race-baiting on the trail. Mr Trump’s refusal to accept the election result then put even the country’s democracy in doubt. Many of those problems will carry others into 2021.

The economy will be shaky as long as the virus remains rampant. The mistrust of the electoral process that Mr Trump has encouraged among his supporters will be long-lasting. Yet the simple fact of his ejection from the White House – after he became the fourth president in a century to fail to won a second term - has transformed America’s prospects of managing its troubles.

In Joe Biden, America will have a competent president who respects expertise and is committed to bringing people together. Mr Biden will signal this in an opening flurry of executive actions. He will cancel America’s withdrawal from the World Health Organisation, rejoin the Paris Climate Agreement and reinstate the Obama’s administration’s protections for illegal immigrants brought to America as children.

Mr Biden will end his predecessor’s policy of separating illegal child migrants from their parents. He will issue a national mask mandate. His administration will also take rapid steps to rebuild America’s Trump-bruised institutions. It will restore credible scientists to the Environmental Protection Agency and reintroduce fire-walls to protect the Independence of the Department of Justice.

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