

Question for written answer E-009228/2016
to the Commission
Rule 130
Rachida Dati (PPE)

Subject: EU-US cooperation on tackling climate change

To enter into force, the Paris Agreement must be ratified by at least 55 countries responsible for at least 55% of greenhouse gas emissions. That requirement was met when the agreement was ratified by the EU on 4 October 2016, with the result that it entered into force on 4 November 2016.

US participation is essential to the global effort, given that the US is the world's second largest greenhouse gas emitter. While it participated in the agreement under Obama's presidency, it is unclear whether the US will continue to do so under President Trump. During his campaign, the newly elected President advocated the use of fossil fuels and claimed to be a climate change sceptic.

In light of this, the EU must take a leading role in protecting the environment and establish itself as a negotiating partner with the US.

Is the Commission planning to open talks with President Trump immediately after his investiture, with a view to securing from the US a reaffirmation of its commitment to the agreement?

How does the Commission intend to persuade reluctant countries to pull their weight and prevent a possible domino effect if the US undermines the Paris Agreement?