



Committee on Foreign Affairs  
The Chair

302817 12.02.2014

U.S. Senator Robert Menendez  
528 Senat Hart Office Building  
Washington, D.C., 20510  
United States of America

Ref.: D(2014)6724

Dear Senator Menendez,

In the framework of the on-going dialogue and cooperation between our Committees, I would like to draw your attention on two specific issues which are currently in the focus of discussions in the European Parliament- Iran and Ukraine. On these topics, I believe, mutual understanding and good coordination between us can only be beneficial and help us achieve our common goal of promoting peace, security, the rule of law and democracy worldwide.

Regarding Iran, we have welcomed the conclusion of the interim nuclear agreement in November 2013 between the E3/EU+3 and Iran, as well as the agreement on the implementation of the Joint Plan of Action. We see it as a remarkable achievement of diplomacy and a positive contribution to regional peace and stability after years of deadlock. The interim agreement also demonstrates the value and impact of a well-coordinated approach between the European Union and the USA. We believe that all parties involved in these negotiations should do their utmost not to jeopardise this achievement. In particular, the imposition of new sanctions or the tightening of existing ones during this 6-month trial period would, in my view, seriously endanger the chances for a comprehensive diplomatic solution of the Iranian nuclear issue, and could lead to a renewed push by Iran to expand its nuclear programme, while potentially strengthening the radicals within the Iranian establishment. I am aware of the fact that Iran still has to demonstrate its bona fide adherence to the terms of the agreement. However, we should not forget that the International Community has at any point in time the means to revert to sanctions should Iran fail to comply with the obligations it has entered into. I would welcome close and regular communication between our two Committees on this issue, given its importance for both the US and EU foreign policy.

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With regard to the Ukraine, last week I travelled with a delegation of eleven members to Kiev and had an intensive exchange of views with the opposition, the authorities and representatives from civil society. The issue of targeted sanctions was raised several times. As you know, the EU Council of Ministers has not yet taken a decision on a visa ban or a freezing of assets. Nevertheless, I believe we should prepare ourselves to adopt such measures quickly, in case the situation on the ground deteriorates even further. I would very much welcome your views on this matter so that we can try and better coordinate our action in the region.

I would be happy to discuss this further with you and look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elmar Brok', written in a cursive style.

Elmar Brok