



Delegation for relations with the United States

D-US_PV(2016)10_06

MINUTES

of the meeting of 6 October 2016, 10.15-11.45
Strasbourg

The meeting opened at 10.19 on Thursday, 6 October 2016, with David McAllister (Chair) presiding.

1. Adoption of draft agenda (PE 567.219)

The draft agenda was adopted in the form shown in these minutes.

2. Adoption of minutes of meeting of 12 July 2016 (PE 567.218)

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

3. **The Trans-Pacific Partnership: geopolitical implications for EU-US relations.**

Presentation by Mr Peter Chase, Senior Fellow, The German Marshall Fund of the United States, of the above DG EXPO Policy Department study commissioned by AFET and D-US, followed by a question and answer session.

Introduction:

‘From Washington’s perspective, TPP is as much a geopolitical project to reinforce US leadership in Asia, as it is driven by an economic logic of spurring new sources of trade and investment’ was the conclusion of a study commissioned jointly by D-US and AFET and whose results were presented by Mr Peter Chase, on behalf of the collective of authors from the German Marshall Fund.

The issues of the US pivot to Asia, the implications for Europe of the concluded Transpacific Partnership (TPP) and the need for an EU repositioning globally and towards important countries in the region, such as China, were the main subjects of this meeting.

The meeting came at an important juncture in the process of TPP ratification and for EU-US bilateral relations in general. With Congressional and Presidential elections in sight, the topic of trade has become sensitive in the election. Nevertheless, the current administration would

like to see TPP passed in Congress and become part of President Obama's legacy. Many analysts, including our guest, estimate that Congress may pass TPP during the 'lame duck' session, the period between elections and the inauguration of a newly elected Congress and of a newly elected President. The probable adoption of TPP may increase pressure on Europe to conclude TTIP and participate in the global setting of rules.

Both INTA and AFET committee Members were also invited to participate in the discussions that were pertinent to their work. The points discussed will be followed-up during the 79th TLD IPM in Washington between the 27 and 29 November. The TLD will be the first occasion for a European delegation to travel to the United States after the elections of early November.

Main points and conclusions:

Mr Peter Chase, a senior fellow with the GMF and a former diplomat with over 30 years of experience in Transatlantic affairs, presented to the Delegation the main results of the study that was commissioned jointly by D-US and AFET, and managed by the EXPO Policy Department. The study labelled 'Trans-Pacific Partnership: geopolitical implications for EU-US relations' is timely, gaging geopolitical and other effects for the European Union of a possible ratification and entry into force of the Transpacific Partnership Agreement.

The speaker delivered three main messages:

1. As regards the US Strategy towards Asia – the TPP was not a way to contain China, but to incentivize and reform it. While people talked of TPP as part of the 'pivot', the US had always been engaged in Asia economically and politically. Given China's defence budget, as the second largest in the world and its open policy to defeat US supremacy, TPP was also to be seen in the context of a rivalry between models of geopolitics in Asia. TPP was the path offered by the US, an economic, trade-based model.
2. As regards a comparison between TPP and TTIP – Mr Chase said that while there were similarities, the two agreements were fundamentally different. TPP was more economic, whereas TTIP had the potential to be more of a 'new type of agreement'. Furthermore, TPP had already been concluded, while the US and the EU were still in the process of negotiating TTIP. TPP was also a US-Japan free trade agreement, Japan thus also getting an FTA with Canada. TPP also incentivises reforms and keeps the United States engaged in Asia. Through environmental and labour regulations, the US would exert considerable influence on policy making in Asia.

On the issue of ISDS/ICS, Mr Chase said that CETA was definitely a reference for TTIP but not a blueprint. He noted that Canada had agreed to ICS in CETA but was also happy with ISDS in TPP, hinting that ICS may not be the automatic choice for TTIP. On the question of Geographic Indications, he mentioned that TPP did allow the existence of GIs (*n.b. thanks to Japan's system of GIs*) but that there were good provisions for objections to their admissibility and even for their cancellation.

3. The study further encourages a more strategic approach to China of the EU and its Member States – neutrality being defined as 'not a sustainable policy'. In Europe, many were tempted 'not to take sides', but the authors argue that this issue was too big

to ignore. Defining European interest in Asia and gaging our interest in the region better were key conclusions of the study.

During the discussion that followed, Mr Chase mentioned that for sectors of American society like NGOs and trade unions, TPP did not go far enough in its ambition, while car manufacturers like Ford also had problems with the agreement vis-a-vis the Japanese car industry.

Mr Chase's personal opinion was that TPP would go through Congress in the lame duck session. He added that while Hilary Clinton had stated she wanted to reopen negotiations, it was far from certain that the other signatories would agree. He also indicated that TPP could be ratified even without the US ratifying it, as long as the other nations including Japan went ahead.

Regarding China's attitude to TPP, he said that the Chinese would eventually judge their openness to TPP based on developments in their domestic politics. One of the bigger problems with China was the question of the Market Economy Status at the WTO, the benefits given to state-owned enterprises and the issue of transparency surrounding this, on which both Europe and the US needed to push further. Lastly, while China's exertion of influence was based on continental power, Mr Chase highlighted the consistency of TPP with the maritime approach of the United States in Asia.

4. 79th EU-US Inter-Parliamentary/TLD meeting in Washington DC on 27-29 November 2016

The second part of the meeting was used for communications from the Chair as regards the upcoming Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue inter-parliamentary meeting in Washington DC, on 27-29 Nov 2016. Political groups were asked to make nominations for participation in the TLD which will be focused more than in the past on the political and strategic questions of the relationship and that will include more interlocutors like the US Senate and administration.

5. Any other business

No other business.

6. Date and place of next meeting.

The next D-US meeting was scheduled for 10 November 2016 in Brussels.

The meeting closed at 11.17.

**ПРИСЪСТВЕН ЛИСТ/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/
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Laima Liucija Andrikiienė, Elmar Brok, Eva Kaili, Seán Kelly, Dubravka Šuica, Helga Trüpel

200 (2)
206 (3)
53 (6) (Точка от дневния ред/Punto del orden del día/Bod pořadu jednání (OJ)/Punkt på dagsordenen/Tagesordnungspunkt/ Päevakorra punkt/Ημερήσια Διάταξη Σημείο/Agenda item/Point OJ/Τοčka dnevnog reda/Punto all'ordine del giorno/Darba kārtības punkts/Darbotvarkės punktas/Napirendi pont/Punt Agenda/Agendapunt/Punkt porządku dziennego/Ponto OD/Punct de pe ordinea de zi/Bod programu schôdze/Τοčka UL/Esityslistan kohta/Föredragningslista punkt)

Наблюдатели/Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaatlejad/Παρατηρητές/Observers/Observateurs/Promatrači/Osservatori/Novērotāji/Stebėtojai/Megfigyelők/Osservatori/Waarnemers/Observatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelia/Opazovalci/Tarkkailijat/Observatörer

Jude Kirton-Darling, Andrzej Grzyb, Victor Boștinaru

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Mr Peter Chase, Senior Fellow, German Marshall Fund of The United States of America

Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nōukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/Conseil/Vijeće/Consiglio/Padome/Taryba/Tanács/Kunsill/Raad/Conselho/Consiliu/Svet/Neuvosto/Rådet (*)

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Michal Pavuk

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Други учасници/Otros participantes/Ostatní účastníci/Endvidere deltog/Andere Teilnehmer/Muud osalejad/Επίσης Παρόντες/Other participants/Autres participants/Drugi sudionici/Altri partecipanti/Citi klātesošie/Kiti dalyviai/Más résztvevők/Partecipanti ohra/Andere aanwezigen/Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Alți participanți/Ini účastnici/Drugi udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare

Charlotte Mathysen, German Marshall Fund of the United States of America

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S&D	Barbara Melis
ECR	
ALDE	Ursa Pondelek
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EFDD	Antonio Anselmi
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Catherine Draycott	

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