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*Delegation for relations with the United States*

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**D-US\_PV(2016)\_11\_10**

## **MINUTES**

of the meeting of 10 November 2016, 08.30-10.00  
Brussels

The meeting opened at 08.30 on Thursday 10 November 2016 with David McAllister (Chair) presiding.

**1. Adoption of draft agenda (PE 567.222)**

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

**2. Adoption of minutes of meeting of 6 October 2016 (PE 567.223)**

The minutes were approved.

**3. Communications by the Chair**

The Chair announced that this was the first US Delegation meeting to be webstreamed.

He noted that the 79th Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue scheduled for 27-29 November 2016 in Washington DC would be the first occasion for a European delegation to travel to the United States after the elections and deliver a strong message on the importance of the transatlantic relationship.

The Chair also welcomed Mr Adam Isaacs as the newly-appointed Head of the Delegation's Secretariat.

**4. “US ELECTION RESULTS DEBRIEF: How we got here and what the new President and the new Congress will mean for the transatlantic relationship”**

**- Exchange of views with:**

**Mr Michael Birnbaum, Brussels bureau chief, The Washington Post  
Dr Giovanni Grevi, Senior Fellow, European Policy Centre**

The two invited experts offered some initial explanation for the surprise victory by Donald Trump in the US election and shed some light from both a European and an American perspective on what a Trump Administration may look like to the outside world and in particular for Europe, NATO and the transatlantic relationship.

Mr Birnbaum made the following points:

African-American, Latino and young voters in the US did not come out in big numbers to vote for Ms Clinton, despite being a growing demographic segment. On the other hand, white, rural, working class voters feeling neglected by globalisation did come out in big numbers to vote for Mr Trump. Essentially, he mobilised his voters much better than Ms Clinton mobilised Democrats, of whom many fewer came out to vote than for President Obama in 2008 and 2012.

The speaker said that we have little track record of what Mr Trump may do, as he has never previously been elected to public office. It remains to be seen if his appointments come from his close personal circle outside the traditional Republican establishment, from the business world or from the Republican establishment. The choices for Secretaries of State and Defence would be more important than usual, given Mr Trump's private sector background and his focus on domestic politics.

It was clearer what the priorities were likely to be in domestic politics, including stronger immigration controls, lower corporation tax, lower income tax, a repeal of Obamacare and a rolling back of many of the environmental executive orders.

According to Mr Birnbaum, mid-term elections in 2018 could counter-intuitively be even more challenging for the Democrats as more of their members would be up for re-election in the Senate. Despite distancing himself from Donald Trump, House Speaker Paul Ryan's position was likely to be strong and he may be now able to take through the policies he has been working on in Congress.

Dr Grevi made the following points:

These elections were another win for so-called populist candidates and offered further proof of increased polarisation and decay in democratic institutions. Because of its diverse strands, the Republican Party could have been on the brink of division in case of a Trump loss. But through victory in the presidential race, the House and the Senate elections, and with 31 governors elected, it had emerged strengthened.

Foreign policy would increasingly become dependent on the domestic agenda, as the distinction between the two becomes more blurred. According to the speaker, the following trends may be features of a Trump Foreign Policy:

1. America First – national interest comes first, and while there is belief in American exceptionalism there is no mission to redeem other countries or export the democratic model;
2. Downscaling military engagements abroad;
3. Strong suspicion of multilateral entanglement, more emphasis on sovereignty and negotiations on a bilateral basis;
4. Very sceptical of nation-building abroad, of development aid and international responsibilities;
5. Belief in great power relations and seeking a balance in these, in particularly with Russia;
6. While not wanting intervene to uphold values, human rights or broad interests, still very comfortable with the use of military force and still willing to use it but with a narrower scope.

According to Dr Grevi, this would lead to a realist, conservative nationalism model of foreign policy. We were therefore looking at a probable disruption in the strategic posture of the US, but the degree to which this happened remained to be seen. The approach would be more transactional and unsentimental and less concerned about values and other less tangible benefits, focussing instead on what was profitable or useful for the US.

The speaker argued that Europe would definitely need to take greater responsibility for security and defence in its own neighbourhood, as the dissatisfaction with European efforts on security was mainstream in Washington DC. It remained to be seen if Europe could deliver on the NATO benchmark of spending 2% of GDP on defence or the 20% benchmark within that on military procurement, research and development. The continuation of NATO reassurance funds and troops agreed at the NATO Warsaw summit would be a strong indicator of things to come.

Mr Trump was also expected to want to start the relationship with Russia on a different basis, with the fight against terror being his number one objective on which he might seek cooperation including in the Syrian context.

Questions by Members focussed on nature of the electoral campaign, the future relations between President Trump and Congress, NATO, TTIP and climate policies.

## **5. Any other business**

None.

## **6. Date and place of next meeting**

The next ordinary meeting of the delegation was scheduled for Thursday 15 December in Strasbourg.

The meeting closed at 10.00.

**ПРИСЪСТВЕН ЛИСТ/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/  
ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/KATAΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/  
LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/POPIS NAZOČNIH/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU REĢISTRŠ/DALYVIŲ SAŖAŠAS/  
JELENLÉTI ÍV/REGĪSTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŠCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/  
LISTĂ DE PREZENȚĂ/PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LĀSNĀOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA**

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David McAllister (P), Jeppe Kofod (VP), Marietje Schaake (VP)
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Zastupnici/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/ Kérviseleők/Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Nicola Caputo, Richard Corbett, Christian Ehler, Eugen Freund, Jens Geier, Neena Gill, Ana Gomes, Danuta Maria Hübner, Josu Juaristi Abaunz, Barbara Kappel, Tunne Kelam, Francisco José Millán Mon, Sorin Moisă, Luděk Niedermayer, Sofia Ribeiro, Pirkko Ruohonen-Lerner, Hannu Takkula, Anneleen Van Bossuyt
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Zamjenici/ Supplenti/Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantysnariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/ Namestniki/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
Laima Liucija Andrikienė, Elmar Brok, Elisabetta Gardini, Kaja Kallas, Seán Kelly, Morten Løkkegaard, Dubravka Šuica

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

По покана на председателя/Por invitación del presidente/Na pozvání předsedy/Efter indbydelse fra formanden/Auf Einladung des Vorsitzenden/Εσίμεθε kutsel/Με πρόσκληση του Προέδρου/At the invitation of the Chair(wo)man/Sur l'invitation du président/Na poziv predsjednika/Su invito del presidente/Pēc priekšsēdētāja uzaicinājuma/Pirmininkui pakvietus/Az elnök meghívására/Fuq stedina tač-'Chairman'/Op uitnodiging van de voorzitter/Na zaproszenie Przewodniczącego/A convite do Presidente/La invitația președintelui/Na pozwanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan
Bernd Lange, MEP, Michael Birnbaum (The Washington Post), Dr Giovanni Grevi (European Policy Centre)

Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nōukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/Conseil/Vijeće/Consiglio/Padome/Taryba/Tanács/Kunsill/Raad/Conselho/Consiliu/Svet/Neuvosto/Rådet (*)
Комисия/Comisión/Komise/Kommissionen/Kommission/Euroopa Komisjon/Επιτροπή/Commission/Komisija/Commissione/Bizottság/Kummissjoni/Commissie/Komisja/Comissão/Comisie/Komisia/Komissio/Kommissionen (*)
Jan Vandenbergh (DG TRADE)
Европейска служба за външна дейност/Servicio Europeo de Acción Exterior/Evropská služba pro vnější činnost/EU-Udenrigstjenesten/Europäischer Auswärtiger Dienst/Euroopa väliteenistus/Ευρωπαϊκή Υπηρεσία Εξωτερικής Δράσης/European External Action service/Service européen pour l'action extérieure/Europaska služba za vanjsko djelovanje/Servizio europeo per l'azione esterna/Eiropas Ārējās darbības dienests/Euopos išorės veiksmų tarnyba/Európai Külügyi Szolgálat/Servizz Ewropew għall-Azzjoni Esterna/Europese dienst voor extern optreden/Europejska Służba Działañ Zewnętrznych/Serviço Europeu para a Acção Externa/Serviciul european pentru acțiune externă/Európska služba pre vonkajšiu činnost/Evropska služba za zunanje delovanje/Euroopan ulkosuhdehallinto/Europeiska avdelningen för yttre åtgärd (*)
Michal Pavuk (US/Canada Division)
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John Robinson, Michael De Tar (US Mission to EU)

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S&D	Barbara Melis
ECR	Alex Boyd
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Verts/ALE	Martin Koehler
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ENF	Agnes Kada
NI	

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Myrofora Kostidou

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Adam Isaacs, Alexandros Karides, Nicolae Stefanuta, Ieva Valutyte, Dominika Majchrzak (Schuman intern)	
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Catherine Draycott	

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