



Delegation for relations with the United States

D-US_PV(2016)12_15

MINUTES

of the meeting of 15 December 2016, 09.30-11.00
Strasbourg

The meeting opened at 09.43 on Thursday, 15 December 2016, with David McAllister (Chair) presiding.

1. Adoption of draft agenda (PE 567.227)

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

2. Adoption of minutes of meeting of 10 November 2016 (PE 567.228)

The minutes were approved.

3. Feedback from the 79th TLD in Washington DC and adoption of the report of the visit

A report from the 79th TLD in Washington was presented by the Chair, with the main conclusions from the visit and the good results for the TLD highlighted (excellent US attendance, Senate becoming a permanent feature of the meetings). The report of the visit was adopted together, with its annexes, without modification.

4. Exchange of views with H.E. Anthony Luzzatto Gardner, Ambassador of the United States to the European Union

The meeting presented an opportunity for a wide-ranging exchange of views with the outgoing Ambassador of the United States, H.E. Anthony Gardner. The Ambassador used the occasion to reaffirm his belief in transatlanticism and to urge the Parliament to engage with the Congress and the administration bearing in mind the importance of the relationship.

He considered the current moment to be critical, with the bipartisan consensus on Europe that had existed for more than 50 years being under threat. This was because statements of the

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incoming administration seemed to go against maintaining the liberal international order which had been US policy since the end of the Second World War.

The long list of items discussed showed both the immense progress achieved in this half term, as well as the challenges ahead. In his opening speech, the Ambassador started off by listing the **successes registered in the past two years**: the Umbrella Agreement, the Privacy Shield, the Acquisition and Cross-servicing Agreement, the Agreement on Science and technology, extended Europol cooperation and a reinforced Fulbright-Schuman project. Progress needed to continue to be made on TTIP, with files being on the right track on trade facilitation, SME chapter, regulatory cooperation, automobiles, chemicals and others.

However, he listed **challenges for the future of the relationship**:

1. *A 'hard Brexit'*: unmatched expectations and legal possibilities would lead to a negative dynamic and a disorderly, unmanaged Brexit would be bad for the EU, UK and for the world. He expressed particular concern about a seeming lack of understanding of the functioning of the EU and unrealistic expectations from leaders in the UK. A hard Brexit would impact the US supply chains and other interests.
2. *Sanctions on Russia*: the Ambassador said this was a matter of common values that needed to be backed. He hoped sanctions would be continued, as well as combatting disinformation and hacking.
3. *Tax issues*: this too was an important area where the US and the EU needed to work together within the OECD. Members highlighted that this cooperation was not just about fair taxation, but also about fighting money laundering and addressing inequality.
4. *Climate change*: the Ambassador expressed deep concern and said losing four years would be a tragedy. Executive order decisions by President Obama could be rolled back. There were also good developments, such as the decrease in cost for renewables.
5. *Iran, Cuba and human rights*: here too the Ambassador expressed concern about the future of these agreements and the continuation of a credible policy in defence of human rights.
6. *NATO*: this was a very important point and the impression that 'Tallinn was a suburb of Saint Petersburg' should never become reality.
7. *Dealing with extremist populism*: the Ambassador saw the answer going through the issue of fairness. 'Poorer than their parents', a study by McKinsey showed that 83% of the middle class had seen pay stagnate or decline. This was an important, cross-political challenge for the years to come.

Questions by Members brought further items into the discussion. On Visa Waiver and the visa reciprocity issues, the Ambassador expected a tightening of the requirements due to a perception of a need for more security at the borders. This would go against the progress registered so far on the rejection rates from the 5 Member States not yet included in the Visa Waiver scheme.

The situation in Syria was cited, as a 'stain on all of us'. The Ambassador said that while

reasons of concern exist, the new President would not have a free ride on major foreign policy issues, but would feel compelled to act with a transatlantic perspective on important international theatres.

As regards nominations by the Transition team, Members raised questions about expectations to be had from the nomination of Mr Rex Tillerson as Secretary of State. While declining to comment, the Ambassador questioned the transactional manner of work to be expected from a former CEO of a major multinational company.

The future of the transatlantic relationship in general was further touched upon. US business was an important ally in stressing the importance of the relationship. On the other hand, members mentioned their concern that with the election of Donald Trump, anti-Americanism could become more socially acceptable, moving into the mainstream. The reflection of the EU in the US press was problematic and the EU needed to explain better how it was delivering on its promises.

The role of the press was also noted in the new context of social media influence and 'fake news'. The Ambassador deemed the role of the media as being 'complicit' and he decried the fact that media was not fulfilling its role as an objective filter.

The meeting ended on a cordial note, with Members wishing the outgoing Ambassador well in his future professional endeavours.

5. Any other business

No other business was addressed.

6. Date and place of next meeting.

Thursday, 16 February 2017 at 1015 in Strasbourg.

The meeting closed at 11.01.

**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/REGISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŠCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/
LISTÁ DE PREZENŤA/PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA**

Бюро/Mesa/Předsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Predsjedništvo/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/ Biuras/Elnökség/Prezydium/Birou/Předsednictvo/Předsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
David McAllister (P), Jeppe Kofod (VC), Marietje Schaake (VC)
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Zastupnici/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/ Kérviselek/Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Gerolf Annemans, Janice Atkinson, Reinhard Bütikofer, Richard Corbett, Arnaud Danjean, Christian Ehler, Eugen Freund, Jens Geier, Neena Gill, Ana Gomes, Danuta Maria Hübner, Barbara Kappel, Tunne Kelam, Dietmar Köster, Zdzisław Krasnodębski, Francisco José Millán Mon, Sorin Moisă, Luděk Niedermayer, Helmut Scholz, Hannu Takkula, Ramon Tremosa i Balcells, Anneleen Van Bossuyt, Milan Zver
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, Seán Kelly, Csaba Molnár, Inmaculada Rodríguez-Piñero Fernández, 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/Papozovalci/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
Anthony Luzzatto Gardner, US Ambassador to the EU

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 (*)
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 veiksmy 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 činnosť/Evropska služba za zunanje delovanje/Euroopan ulkosuhdehallinto/Europeiska avdelningen för yttre åtgärd (*)
Michal Pavuk
Други институции/Otras instituciones/Ostatní orgány a instituce/Andre institutioner/Andere Organe/Muud institutsioonid/Άλλα θεσμικά όργανα/Other institutions/Autres institutions/Druge institucije/Altre istituzioni/Citas iestādes/Kitos institucijos/Más intézmények/Istituzzjonijiet oħra/Andere instellingen/Inne instytucje/Outras Instituições/Alte instituții/Iné inštitúcie/Muut toimielimet/Andra institutioner/organ

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/Inī účastníci/Drugi udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare

US Mission to the EU: Mrs Gardner, John Robinson, Muriel Van averbeke

Секретариат на политическите групи/Secretaría de los Grupos políticos/Sekretariát politických skupin/Gruppernes sekretariat/Sekretariat der Fraktionen/Fraktsioonide sekretariaat/Γραμματεία των Πολιτικών Ομάδων/Secretariats of political groups/Secrétariat des groupes politiques/Tajništva klubova zastupnika/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko grupu sekretariāts/Frakcijų sekretoriai/Képviseletcsoportok titkársága/Sekretarjat gruppi politici/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secr. dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupin/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristö/Sekretariat

PPE	Dominika Kaczkowska
S&D	Barbara Melis, Dorota Myszkorowska
ECR	Alexander Boyd
ALDE	Anders Rasmussen
Verts/ALE	Martin Koehler
GUE/NGL	
EFDD	
ENF	
NI	

Кабинет на председателя/Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelář předsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinett des Präsidenten/Presidendi kantselei/Γραφείο Προέδρου/President's Office/Cabinet du Président/Ured predsednika/Gabinetto del Presidente/Priekšsēdētāja kabinets/Pirmininko kabinetas/Elnöki hivatal/Kabinett tal-President/Kabinet van de Voorzitter/Gabinet Przewodniczącego/Gabinete do Presidente/Cabinet Președinte/Kancelária predsedu/Urad predsednika/Puhemiehen kabinetti/Talmannens kansli

Кабинет на генералния секретар/Gabinete del Secretario General/Kancelář generálního tajemníka/Generalsekretærens Kabinet/Kabinett des Generalsekretärs/Peasekretäri büroo/Γραφείο Γενικού Γραμματέα/Secretary-General's Office/Cabinet du Secrétaire général/Ured glavnog tajnika/Gabinetto del Segretario generale/Generalsekretära kabinets/Generalinio sekretoriaus kabinetas/Főtitkári hivatal/Kabinett tas-Segretarju Generali/Kabinet van de secretaris-generaal/Gabinet Sekretarza Generalnego/Gabinete do Secretário-Geral/Cabinet Secretar General/Kancelária generálneho tajomníka/Urad generalnega sekretarja/Pääsihteerin kabinetti/Generalsekreterarens kansli

Генерална дирекция/Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/ Directorate-General/Direction générale/Glavna uprava/Direzione generale/Ģenerāldirektorāts/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/ Direktorat Generali/Direktoraten-generaal/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direcții Generale/Generálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni direktorat/Pääosasto/Generaldirektorat	
DG PRES DG IPOL DG EXPO DG EPRS DG COMM DG PERS DG INLO DG TRAD DG INTE DG FINS DG ITEC DG SAFE	Elina Viilup Krisztina Binder
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Judicael Etienne	
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Adam Isaacs, Nicolae Stefanuta	
Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asystent/Pomočnik/ Avustaja/Assisterent	
Catherine Draycott	

- * (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Président/Predsjednik/Priekšsēdētājs/
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 Varapuheenjohtaja/Vice ordförande
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 Tjänsteman