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*Delegation for relations with the United States*

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**D-US\_PV(2017)02\_16**

## **MINUTES**

of the meeting of 16 February 2017, 09.00-10.00  
Strasbourg

The meeting opened at 09.05 on Thursday 16 February 2017 with David McAllister (Chair) presiding.

**1. Adoption of draft agenda** (PE 567.232)

The agenda was adopted without modification.

**2. Adoption of minutes of meeting of 15 December 2016** (PE 567.231)

The minutes were adopted without modification.

**3. Communications by the Chair**

The meeting began with a farewell address by Chairman David McAllister. Having been elected Chair of the foreign affairs committee, Mr McAllister announced he was stepping down as D-US Chairman. He thanked Members for their support and cooperation during an intense two and a half years of activity, and highlighted the main achievements of this period, such as the inclusion of the Senate as a permanent feature of the TLD and the intensification of exchanges with the Congress in both number and quality. The Chair was thanked and applauded for his leadership. He announced he would remain a member of the Delegation and would continue his work on transatlantic relations from his new position as Chair of AFET.

**4. Election of the new D-US Chair**

Vice-Chair Kofod presided over the process of electing a new Chair. With more than 50% of the Members present, the quorum was met. Mr Ehler, the sole candidate, duly fulfilled the conditions of full membership, acceptance of nomination and submission of a declaration of financial interests, and was elected by acclamation.

Chairman Ehler took the Chair and delivered a presentation of the challenges ahead. He defined the relations the EP conducts with Congress as potentially more important than ever. He would

focus on the issues where 'Congress had a say', in cooperation with other committees in the EP, especially AFET.

In response to a question from the floor, the Chair stressed his intention to work with all political stakeholders, recalling that the mandate of the Delegation was primarily to engage with the Congress along the lines of the positions adopted by the plenary.

## **5. Exchange of views with Ms Edita Hrda, Managing Director for the Americas, EEAS**

Managing Director Hrda took the floor and gave a presentation of the new foreign policy lines of her Institution, drawing primarily on information from HRVP Mogherini's visit to the US the previous week.

HRVP Mogherini had led an effort to remind US interlocutors of the importance of the EU and its roles and functions. This was an effort which could equally be undertaken by Members of Parliament. The EP should pass its messages to both Republicans and Democrats. A further effort to communicate information on the EU's competences and the resources it dedicated to the UN, with multilateralism as a key attribute, was also necessary.

On Russia and its involvement in Ukraine, the EEAS repeated the need for sanctions and the imperative of Crimea being returned to Ukraine.

On the Iran deal, the Members of Congress were interested in the subject, but were less aware of the exact legal status of the Iran agreement, EU policy and the fact that the EU still had sanctions on Iran. The discussion on the fight against terrorism was welcomed and arguments were brought from the US about burden sharing. There was much US interest about the Balkans and the Baltics, and, to a lesser extent, about the migration crisis.

As regards incoming visits and planning, Ms Hrda announced that Vice President Pence would travel to Brussels the following week (week of 20 Feb) and Secretary of State Tillerson would visit Bonn, where a short meeting with HRVP Mogherini was also planned. Secretary Tillerson had also been invited to Brussels to meet all 28 Member States Ambassadors. There was hope for a summit in Brussels scheduled to take place when President Trump would travel to Europe. From the Senate side, HRVP Mogherini had met Sen. Corker, Sen. McCain and Sen. Johnson, key actors in foreign and security policy in Congress.

Members raised the issue of the recent visit of Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu to Washington and the statement made on that occasion that 'The two states solution may not be the only one'. Amb. Hrda replied that it was not a surprise, but that she did not expect that anything would change about the EU position either. Completely new was that the US administration now was open to that line of rhetoric. The question of the US embassy moving to Jerusalem was also raised. Could some EU countries follow suit? Ms Hrda replied that it was premature to judge. Amb. Hrda noted that should any Member State follow suit, that position would be contentious and likely to destabilise the region.

The discussions surrounding Russian policy had amounted to little more of a description of the situation, rather than a strategy. The US administration currently was carrying out a review of policies from the Obama administration, but there was nothing at this stage to indicate that the US would change policy on Russia.

The issue of the Muslim Brotherhood using religion for conducting terrorist practices was also raised. Ms Hrda noted that the EU and NATO together were implementing 42 projects in the security area. New access by the US to the encrypted signals of Galileo was also important for the cooperation, and would allow for clearer information exchange.

On the issue of a future Ambassador to the EU, the EU wanted to start the relationship with the Trump administration positively and there were a few names that could impede that possibility. HRVP Mogherini had explained to the US interlocutors the procedure for approving an incoming Ambassador, with all 28 Member States needing to give their approval.

The issue of disarmament was raised by one Member, but the guest qualified the topic as not having been part of the interactions with the US so far. Moreover, the votes the previous day on CETA and SPA were a good thing. The EU needed to be clear about what kind of trade it would pursue as a Union, as a number of agreements remained under negotiation.

Repeatedly, the need to make contacts, to furnish arguments to Congressional interlocutors in a bipartisan dialogue was stressed. The EEAS was reviewing its general policy vis-a-vis the US, each managing director doing a policy review of their respective regions, looking for new possibilities, new allies, while maintaining the central role of the US. The same review process was happening at the level of the UN.

## **6. Any other business**

The meeting was concluded by the Chair setting out the priorities for the year, asking Members to pencil in the TLD Malta set to take place on 2 to 3 June 2017 and inviting them to the next regular meeting of the Delegation on 22 March 2017 at 13.30 in Brussels. The Bureau would be travelling the following week to Washington and Florida for meetings with the TLD leadership there, new administration and think-tanks that have a capacity for agenda setting.

The new Chair announced he was intent on defining a broad strategy for parliamentary relations with the United States. With that purpose in mind, he would like to convene a meeting of the Enlarged Bureau, a process that will be assisted by the Secretariat.

Moreover, the TLD Steering Committee was likely to receive new impetus. This body, bringing together the Chairs of the EP's legislative committees and chaired jointly by the D-US-AFET-INTA Chairs' needed to resume its primary role of coordinating policy vis-a-vis the US, especially now that other bodies that had prominence due to TTIP were likely to be pushed to the background. A first initiative of the TLD Steering Committee could be a discussion with HRVP Mogherini, an idea that received favourable feedback from EEAS MD Hrda.

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

The next meeting of the Delegation will take place on Wednesday 22 March 2017, 13.30-15.00 in Brussels.

The meeting closed at 10.13.

**ΠΡИСΥΨΤΒΕΗ ΛΙΣΤ/ΛΙΣΤΑ DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/  
ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/KΑΤΑΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/  
LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/POPIS NAZOČNIH/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU REĢISTRŠ/DALYVIŲ SĄRAŠAS/  
JELENĒTI ÍV/REGÍSTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŠCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/  
LISTĂ DE PREZENŢĂ/PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LĂSNĂOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA**

<p>Бюро/Мesa/Předsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Predsjetništvo/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/  Biuras/Elnökség/Prezydium/Birou/Predsedníctvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)</p>
<p>David McAllister, Christian Ehler, Jeppe Kofod, Marietje Schaake</p>
<p>Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Zastupnici/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/  Képviselek/Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter</p>
<p>Gerolf Annemans, Janice Atkinson, Reinhard Bütikofer, Nicola Caputo, Arnaud Danjean, Eugen Freund, Jens Geier, Neena Gill CBE,  Ana Gomes, Danuta Maria Hübner, Barbara Kappel, Andrey Kovatchev, Zdzisław Krasnodębski, Alex Mayer, Francisco José Millán  Mon, Giulia Moi, Sorin Moisă, Dan Nica, Luděk Niedermayer, Sofia Ribeiro, Helmut Scholz, Kay Swinburne, Hannu Takkula, Adina-  Ioana Vălean, Anneleen Van Bossuyt</p>
<p>Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Zamjenici/  Supplenti/Aizstājēji/Pavadojantysnariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/  Namestniki/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter</p>
<p>Mario Borghezio, Jacqueline Foster, Elisabetta Gardini, Ioan Mircea Pașcu, Dubravka Šuica, Helga Trüpel</p>

<p>200 (2)</p>
<p>206 (3)</p>
<p>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 dnevnoĝ reda/Punto all'ordine del giorno/Darba kārtības  punkts/Darbotvarkēs punktas/Napirendi pont/Punt Agenda/Agendapunt/Punkt porzãdku dziennego/Ponto OD/Punct de pe ordinea  de zi/Bod programu schõdze/Τοčka UL/Esityslistan kohta/Fõredragningslista punkt)</p>

Наблюдатели/Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaatlejad/Παρατηρητές/Observers/Observateurs/Promatrači/Osservatori/Novērotāji/Stebėtojai/Megfigyelők/Osservatori/Waarnemers/Obserwatorzy/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/Εσιμεhe 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 taç-'Chairman'/Op uitnodiging van de voorzitter/Na zaproszenie Przewodniczącego/A convite do Presidente/La invitația președintelui/Na pozvanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan
Edita Hrdá, Managing Director for the Americas, EEAS

Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nöukogu/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/Komisja/Komissio/Kommissionen (*)
Shayerah Akhtar (EUVP)
Европейска служба за външна дейност/Servicio Europeo de Acción Exterior/Evropská služba pro vnější činnost/EU-Udenrigstjenesten/Europäischer Auswärtiger Dienst/Euroopa välisteenistus/Ευρωπαϊκή Υπηρεσία Εξωτερικής Δράσης/European External Action service/Service européen pour l'action extérieure/Evropska služba za vanjsko djelovanje/Servizio europeo per l'azione esterna/Eiropas Ārējās darbības dienests/Europos 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 činnosť/Evropska služba za zunanje delovanje/Euroopan ulkosuhdehallinto/Europeiska avdelningen för yttre åtgärd (*)
Maroula Sfondyla
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/Istituzjonijiet 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/Ini účastnici/Drugi udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare

Muriel Van Averbek (US Mission to the EU)

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/Frakciju sekretariai/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/Gruppernas sekretariat

PPE	Jonas Kraft
S&D	
ECR	
ALDE	
Verts/ALE	Martin Koehler
GUE/NGL	
EFDD	
ENF	
NI	

Кабинет на председателя/Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelář předsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinett des Präsidenten/Presidenti kantslei/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

Jesper Haglund

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 Ġenerali/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/Peadirrektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/ Directorate-General/Direction générale/Glavna uprava/Direzione generale/Generāldirektorāts/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/ Direttorat 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	Emma Soto (ENVI) Ciril Stokelj
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Anders Neergaard	
Секретариат на комисията/Secretaría de la comisión/Sekretariát výboru/Udvalgssekretariatet/Ausschusseksretariat/Komisjoni sekretariaat/Γραμματεία επιτροπής/Committee secretariat/Secrétariat de la commission/Tajništvo odbora/Segreteria della commissione/ Komitejas sekretariāts/Komiteto sekretoriatas/A bizottság titkársága/Sekretarjat tal-kumitat/Commissiesecretariaat/Sekretariat komisji/ Secretariado da comissão/Sekretariat comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottssekretariatet	
Adam Isaacs, Nicolae Stefanuta	
Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asyent/Pomočnik/ Avustaja/Assistenten	
Catherine Draycott	

- \* (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Président/Predsjednik/Priekšsēdētājs/  
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Funcionario/Ierēdnis/Pareigūnas/Tisztviselő/Ufficial/Ambtenaar/Urządник/Funcionário/Funcionar/Úradník/Uradnik/Virkamies/  
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