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*Delegation for relations with the United States*

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**D-US\_PV(2017)03\_22**

**MINUTES**

of the meeting of 22 March 2017, 13.30 - 15.00

Brussels

The meeting opened at 13.34 on Wednesday 22 March 2017 with Christian Ehler (Chair) presiding.

**1. Adoption of draft agenda** (PE 567.234)

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

**2. Adoption of minutes of meeting of 16 February 2017** (PE 567.233)

The minutes were approved.

**3. Communications by the Chair**

The Chairman reminded Members that the meeting was webstreamed.

**4. Reporting back from the Bureau visit to Washington DC and Florida**

Vice-Chair Marietje Schaake reported on the Bureau visit to Washington DC and Florida, observing that US interlocutors had received the MEPs with a lot of attention and had reassured them of the importance of transatlantic relations. They urged the Parliament to intensify further its engagement with the US, in particular with Congress, which would have a pivotal role in this new context. Ms Schaake noted that there remained many unknowns, including at the policy implementation level, where a large number of appointments were pending. She also reported on an emotionally powerful meeting in Miami with Cuban human rights activists.

## 5. 80<sup>th</sup> IPM/TLD meeting in Valletta, Malta - state of play

Chairman Ehler added that in Miami the agenda items for the next inter-parliamentary meeting in Malta, taking place on 2 to 3 June 2017, had been discussed, and would include, in addition to the standard political and economic debates, discussions on security in a Mediterranean context (migration, EU and NATO naval operations, counter-terrorism) and democracy promotion and the humanitarian aspects of foreign policy.

## 6. Exchange of views with Mr Adam Shub, Chargé d’Affaires, a.i. of the US Mission to the European Union

This was a constructive discussion with Members, intended to take stock of the messages and actions of the new US administration since it took office in January and consider how these would evolve. Many elements were reassuring and hinted at **continuity**, but Members also expressed **concerns** in some areas. Mr Shub promised that the US Mission would continue doing all it could to be a bridge between the EU and the new administration, and was assisting in the evolution of policy. He noted that the Trade and Agriculture cabinet posts had not yet been filled, and that, once the No. 2 and 3 positions in Departments were filled, there would be greater consistency.

The speaker stressed the reassuring messages conveyed in the meetings in Brussels with Vice-President Pence and emphasised that there was broad **bipartisan support** for strong transatlantic relations. He placed the actions of the new administration in a context of citizens demanding greater control of borders, and of harnessing globalisation, the benefits of which many of them did not see, and that this phenomenon was not confined to the US, but could also be seen in Europe. He added that a positive transatlantic agenda would be based on defence and security cooperation and on economic prosperity for both partners.

Mr Shub stated that **NATO** remained the pillar of our collective security. The recent EU-NATO cooperation initiatives were historic and had the full support of the US government. With regard to the 2% benchmark on defence spending, he offered the assessment that this was not just about increasing spending on conventional weapons, but should also focus on cyber and hybrid threats and defence research, as 20% of the expenditure should be on investments.

He explained that **Russia** had been trying to exert economic and political influence on Eastern Europe, EU Member States and election outcomes beyond the continent, even in the US, leading to NATO taking a deterrence posture. The US continued to enforce the sanctions, support Ukraine and did not recognise the annexation of Crimea, and demanded that Russia uphold its international commitments, and fully implement the Minsk agreements.

On **counter-terrorism**, Mr Shub mentioned the good cooperation between the EU and the US at Europol, also thanks to the PNR agreement, approved by the Parliament. He also referred to positive cooperation through the EU-US **cyber** dialogue which launched the

Transatlantic Cyber Policy Research Initiative last December.

Discussing **Iran**, he said that the US would abide by the JCPOA (nuclear agreement) but maintain its bilateral sanctions, as the US was against Iran obtaining any nuclear capabilities and was worried by recent tests of ballistic missiles.

Referring to the question of **border** controls, Mr Shub said that the recent Executive Orders were trying to address vulnerabilities of the system, but reiterated human rights were still the cornerstone of US policy. He regretted the Parliament's resolution asking the Commission to impose visas on US travellers. The US was committed to expanding the Visa Waiver Programme to the five Members States outside it, but this was subject to bilateral arrangements and not an EU-US agreement.

On **trade**, the guest speaker said the US favoured stricter enforcement of rules at the WTO level and this was not new. NAFTA was likely to be renegotiated as Mexico and Canada had given a positive signal to updating some provisions (financial services, data), possibly taking on board work done for TPP and TTIP. He highlighted that legislators would have to be involved in this process and reminded Members that Congress, where there was still strong support for trade, was a major stakeholder in any negotiations.

Mr Shub maintained that while **TTIP** may be frozen, it was not dead, recalling that President Obama had not come into office on a pro-trade platform and had taken 3 years before initiating any trade agreements. On TPP, he said that the recent developments were inevitable given the election campaign where candidates Clinton, Sanders and Trump were all against it. With the USTR team not yet in place, it was difficult to say more at this point.

On the issue of **energy**, the Charge d'Affaires a.i. stressed that Nord Stream 2 went against the EU's own Energy Union goals and undermined Ukraine. Lastly, on **Brexit**, Mr Shub was clear that the US would like the EU and UK to maintain their strong relationship with each other and with the US, not least in order to minimise disruption for businesses, supply chains and any harm to all three economies.

## 7. Any other business

There was no other business.

## 8. Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled for the May Strasbourg plenary week.

The meeting closed at 15.00.

**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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Christian Ehler (Chair), Marietje Schaake (Vice Chair)
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Zastupnici/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/ Képviselők/Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Gerolf Annemans, Reinhard Bütikofer, Lefteris Christoforou, Paolo De Castro, Danuta Maria Hübner, Tunne Kelam, Emma McClarkin, Roberta Metsola, Helmut Scholz, Kay Swinburne, Anneleen Van Bossuyt, Milan Zver
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Laima Liucija Andrikienė, Jacqueline Foster, Seán Kelly, Marita Ulvskog

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 dnevnoĝ reda/Punto all'ordine del giorno/Darba kārtības punkts/Darbotvarkēs 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/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/Εσιμεθε 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
Adam Schub, Chargé d' Affaires a.i. of the US Mission to the EU

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 (*)
Jan Vandenberghe
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/Euroopska 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 činnost/Evropska služba za zunanje delovanje/Euroopan ulkosuhdehallinto/Europeiska avdelningen för yttre åtgärd (*)
Christopher Dashwood
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 účastníci/Drugi udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare

US Mission to EU: Muriel Van Averbek, Maryse Van Wonterghem, Sophie Coremans

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PPE	Astrid Dentler, Jonas Kraft
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ECR	Luc Rohtus
ALDE	Anders Rasmussen
Verts/ALE	Martin Koehler
GUE/NGL	Karin Schüttpelz
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Adam Isaacs, Alexandros Karides, Nicolae Stefanuta, Andreas Aktoudianakis, Claudia Siegismund	
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Catherine Draycott	

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