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*Delegation for relations with the United States*

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**D-US\_PV(2017)06\_21**

## **MINUTES**

of the meeting of 21 June 2017, 13.00-14.30  
Brussels

The meeting opened at 13.10 on Wednesday, 21 June 2017, with Christian Ehler (Chair) presiding.

1. Adoption of draft agenda (PE 567.240)

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

2. Adoption of minutes of meeting of 22 March 2017 (PE 567.235)

The minutes were approved.

3. Communications by the Chair
4. Reporting back from the 80<sup>th</sup> EU-US Congress inter-parliamentary/TLD meeting in Valletta on 2 and 3 June 2017

The meeting began with feedback provided by the Chair on the most recent IPM with US Congress, the 80<sup>th</sup> meeting of the TLD, which took place in Malta on 2 and 3 June 2017. The parity in participation by the US side, the frankness of the discussions, the excellent programme, field visit and quality of invited guests (former EP President Cox, Operation Sophia Force Commander Admiral Romani) were all highlighted by the Chairman. The Joint Statement agreed at the end of the discussions was also presented to the Delegation, in particular the main points reaffirming the collective security architecture under NATO's Article 5 and the importance of a multilateral, rule based trade system.

Members from different political groups confirmed their assessment that the IPM had been a great success.

5. Exchange of views with Mr Bruce Stokes, Director of global economic attitudes at Pew Research Centre, Washington DC

A director of global economic attitudes at the Pew Research Center in Washington, Mr Stokes is a regular contributor to the Delegation, bringing data insights on public perceptions of political trends relevant to transatlantic relations. The Pew data permits comparisons over time.

The main points presented were:

- There was a climate of extreme partisanship in the US. People increasingly get their news from outlets that confirm their worldview. In addition, Americans ideologically segregate themselves (50% of conservatives only want to live in a neighbourhood where people share their views). As regards 'the other party', 41% of Democrats think the Republicans are a threat to the national wellbeing, while 45% of Republicans think the same of Democrats. The conclusion from this could be that bipartisanship can be seen as a betrayal. Both these numbers are higher by about 33% than 2 years ago.
- This polarisation extends to politically charged issues. In an anecdotal but symbolic survey question, 23% of Conservatives would be against their daughter marrying a Black citizen, and 31% of Democrats would be against their daughter marrying a gun owner. This partisanship is at its highest recorded level.
- Although having accurately predicted the popular vote, state electoral polls were largely wrong because of inappropriate funding, but most importantly because of an underestimation of voters who switched from Obama to Trump, as well as new voters who came out for Trump, by a factor of 5.
- Trump disapproval ratings were at this point higher than those of any other US President since Truman. This could be explained by the partisan difference, as 82% of Republicans and only 7% of Democrats approve of the new President.
- Partisanship extends to the perception of key issues. The percentage of Republicans who think that the economy is doing well has doubled since last year, even though in absolute numbers, the economic situation has not changed much. This extends to issues like perception of employment and NASDAQ (Republicans think both employment was higher under Obama and the stock market lower).
- The American public thinks that the President is mishandling the US relationship with Europe. On the question about NATO collective defence, 88% thought it important that US President reaffirms Article 5; 60% said it was *very* important.
- 68% of the interviewed participants showed concern with respect to Russia.

In the ensuing discussion, it seemed that bipartisanship was no longer possible. Worry was expressed about the ease with which Europeans wish to switch to other global powers, due to concerns the about US commitment to transatlanticism.

On the possibility of new taxes being imposed on EU goods, the speaker said he was not aware of public opinion on new import taxes, but there was data that showed people saw imports as a threat to jobs. Whereas Americans 'do not like China', the percentage of Republicans favourable

to China has gone up significantly. Concerns about China were mostly trade-related. Transatlantic perceptions were further influenced by the fact that companies, revenue and jobs created by European companies were taken for granted ('the old kid in the block'). Also, cultural differences (on trade unions) created frictions.

Development aid continues to be a very low priority for the American public. Whereas spending was much less than a decimal of a percent, people thought the US spending on development aid was at about 25%(!), a big gap in perception.

Finally, young people had a shifting opinion about the transatlantic relation, in Europe people did not want to be 'Americanised', culturally or politically. Overall support for American soft power was on the decline.

6. Any other business

No other business.

7. Date and place of next meeting.

The next ordinary meeting of the Delegation was scheduled for 12 July 2017.

The meeting closed at 14.30.

**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**

Бюро/Мesa/Předsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Predsjetništvo/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/ Biuras/Elnökség/Prezydium/Birou/Predsedníctvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
Christian Ehler (P), Marietje Schaake (VP)
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Zastupnici/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/ Képviselők/Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Reinhard Bütikofer, Nicola Caputo, Jens Geier, Neena Gill, Ana Gomes, Danuta Maria Hübner, Andrey Kovatchev, Patricia Lalonde, David McAllister, Luděk Niedermayer, Sofia Ribeiro, Alfred Sant, Milan Zver
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Zamjenici/ Supplenti/Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantysnariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleantī/Náhradníci/ Namestniki/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
Laima Liucija Andrikienė, Dubravka Šuica

200 (2)
206 (3)
53 (8) (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/Točka 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/Εσιμεηε κησε/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 pozwanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan
Mr Bruce Stokes (Pew Research Centre, Washington DC)

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/Komisia/Komissio/Kommissionen (*)
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 činnost/Evropska služba za zunanje delovanje/Euroopan ulkosuhdehallinto/Europeiska avdelningen för yttre åtgärd (*)
Michal Pavuk, Tania Latici
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

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/Politiske grupu sekretariāts/Frakciju sekretariai/Képviseletcsoportok titkársága/Sekretariat 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	Astrid Dentler
S&D	Barbara Melis
ECR	Richard Hazlewood, Luc Roctus
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/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

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/Peadirektoraat/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	Felix Lutz, Michael Flickenschild (INTA)
Правна служба/Servicio Jurídico/Právní služba/Juridisk Tjeneste/Juristischer Dienst/Óigústeenistus/Νομική Υπηρεσία/Legal Service/ Service juridique/Pravna služba/Servizio giuridico/Juridiskais dienests/Teisės tarnyba/Jogi szolgálat/Servizz legali/Juridische Dienst/ Wydział prawny/Serviço Jurídico/Serviciu Juridic/Právny servis/Oikeudellinen yksikkö/Rättstjänsten	
Секретариат на комисията/Secretaría de la comisión/Sekretariát výboru/Udvalgssekretariatet/Ausschusseksretariat/Komisjoni sekretariaat/Γραμματεία επιτροπής/Committee secretariat/Secrétariat de la commission/Тajništvo 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, Alexandros Karides, Andreas Aktoudianakis	
Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asyistent/Pomočnik/ Avustaja/Assistenten	
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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 Membru/Lid/Członek/Membro/Membru/Člen/Poslanec/Jäsen/Ledamot
- (F) = Длъжностно лице/Funcionario/Úředník/Tjenestemand/Beamter/Ametnik/Υπάλληλος/Official/Fonctionnaire/Dužnosnik/  
 Funzionario/Ierēdnis/Pareigūnas/Tisztviselő/Ufficial/Ambtenaar/Urządник/Funcionário/Funçionar/Úradník/Urادnik/Virkamies/  
 Tjänsteman