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*Delegation for relations with the United States*

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**D-US\_PV(2018)10\_16**

## **MINUTES**

of the meeting of 16 October 2018, 11.30-13.00  
Brussels

*The meeting opened at 11.30 on Tuesday, 16 October 2018, with Jeppe Kofod (Vice-Chair) presiding.*

### **1. Adoption of the draft agenda**

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

### **2. Adoption of the draft minutes of the meetings of 25 April 2018, 27 June 2018 and 10 July 2018**

The minutes were approved.

### **3. Communications by the Chair**

None.

### **4. Exchange of views with Bruce Stokes, Director of Global Economic Attitudes at the Pew Research Centre in Washington, DC**

Before presenting the recent Pew study on the mood of the US electorate, Mr Stokes discussed the political atmosphere in Washington, DC, just three weeks prior to the US mid-term elections.

The consensus view that was emerging from many polls by specialised institutes was that, despite a recent drop in their chances, the Democrats were likely to gain the majority in the House, albeit by a small margin. They were leading the overall national vote (generic ballot) by around 9 points (50% to 41%).

US politics has become highly and increasingly partisan, even tribal, with people voting based on their identity and political allegiance, sometimes even against their own self-interests. Large parts of supporters of both parties considered that the other side was a threat to the nation and

did not believe that their party should enter into political compromises. This was a hugely problematic trend for a pluralistic democracy.

The forthcoming elections would essentially serve as a referendum on Donald Trump, whose base of white male Protestants was still very solid. He has defied historical trends in previous elections and may well do so again. The President's views on trade as an economic nationalist had been consistent since the 1980s and were unlikely to change.

There had been several recent US court cases on the issue of voter suppression, as a means intended to fight election fraud. One such high profile case was pending in the State of Georgia, which concerned around 53,000 mostly black voters.

The Pew study included the following findings:

- A majority of Americans felt victimised and that they were on the losing side in politics, and this strangely was felt to be the case on both sides of the political spectrum.
- A majority of people did not believe that their elected representatives would help them solve their problems and that Washington, DC was run by a few big private interests.
- There was a partisan divide in Americans' views on cooperation with U.S. Allies (Democrats were favourable, Republicans less so) and on other nations taking unfair advantage of the U.S. (Democrats disagreed, Republicans agreed).
- Democrats believed the U.S. was much less respected abroad while the Republicans' concern on this was down from previous levels.
- There was a profound disrespect for the other party, with large majorities of Democrats and Republicans viewing each other unfavourably or even a threat to the national interest.
- In terms of issues, voters on both sides were focused on the Supreme Court, guns, taxes and immigration. Their priorities differed on healthcare, minorities and the environment.
- In Pew surveys, there had been consistent disapproval of President Trump's job performance, currently 55% disapproved and 38% approved.
- President Trump got low marks for temperament and trust, but most people polled said he stood up for his beliefs.
- Republicans gave President Trump very positive ratings on various traits, including being able to get things done, except on his temperament.
- The American public was divided over whether President Trump had respect for America's democratic institutions and traditions.
- Impressions of Trump as "Well-Informed" and "Trustworthy" lagged well behind other presidents in midterm years.

Questions by MEPs focussed on the youth vote, the fractured US media landscape and the consequences of a Democratic House for President Trump.

Mr Stokes replied that the number of young people voting was much lower even by the low standards of previous generations of young Americans. He also said that the plurality of media outlets and profit-driven newsrooms had led to a situation where around 40% of voters from both sides got their news from only one source. Lastly, he said that impeachment was unlikely to succeed, as there would almost certainly not be the needed majority in the Senate.

**5. Any other business**

None.

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

The next ordinary meeting of the delegation is scheduled for Thursday, 25 October 2018 in Strasbourg.

*The meeting closed at 13.00.*

ПРИСЪТВЕН ЛИСТ/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/  
 ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/KATAΣTAΣH ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/  
 LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/POPIS NAZOČNIH/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU REĢISTRŠ/DALYVIŲ SĄRAŠAS/  
 JELENĹTI İV/REĢISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŠCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/  
 LISTĀ DE PREZENŅĀ/PREZENČNĀ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LĀSNĀOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA

Бюро/Mesa/Předsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Predsjetništvo/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/ Biuras/Elnökség/Prezydium/Birou/Predsedníctvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
Jeppe Kofod (vice-chair)
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Zastupnici/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/ Képviselek/Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Neena Gill, Tunne Kelam, Rory Palmer
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Zamjenici/ Supplenti/Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantysnariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/ Namestniki/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
Seán Kelly, Csaba Molnár, 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/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/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 pozvanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan
Mr Bruce Stokes, Director of Global Economic Attitudes at the Pew Research Centre in 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 väliseenistus/Ευρωπαϊκή Υπηρεσία Εξωτερικής Δράσης/European External Action service/Service européen pour l'action extérieure/Europiska 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 (*)
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 osallistajat/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 sihteeriöt/Gruppernas sekretariat

PPE	Jonas Kraft
S&D	Barbara Melis, Dorota Myszkowska
ECR	Richard Hazlewood
ALDE	Anders Rasmussen
Verts/ALE	Martin Koehler
GUE/NGL	
EFDD	
ENF	Agnes Kada
NI	

Кабинет на председателя/Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelář předsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinett des Präsidenten/Presidenti kantsleli/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/Fóigazgatóság/ 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 LINC DG FINS DG ITEC DG SAFE	Peter Ide-Kostic (LIBE)  Jan Baeverstroem
Правна служба/Servicio Jurídico/Právní služba/Juridisk Tjeneste/Juristischer Dienst/Óigústeenisútu/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/Ausschusssekretariat/Komisjoni sekretariaat/Γραμματεία επιτροπής/Committee secretariat/Secrétariat de la commission/Tajništvo odbora/Segreteria della commissione/ Komitejas sekretariāts/Komitetu sekretoriatas/A bizottság titkársága/Sekretarjat tal-kumitat/Commissiesecretariaat/Sekretariat komisji/ Secretariado da comissão/Sekretariat comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottssekretariatet	
Adam Isaacs, Alexandros Karides	
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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- (VP) = Заместник-председател/Vicepresidente/Místopředseda/Næstformand/Stellvertretender Vorsitzender/Aseesimees/Αντιπρόεδρος/  
 Vice-Chair(wo)man/Potpredsjednik/Vice-Président/Potpredsjednik/Priekšsēdētāja vietnieks/Pirmininko pavaduotojas/Alelnök/  
 Viči 'Chairman'/Ondervoorzitter/Wiceprzewodniczący/Vice-Presidente/Vicepreşedinte/Podpredseda/Podpredsednik/  
 Varapuheenjohtaja/Vice ordförande
- (M) = Член/Miembro/Člen/Medlem./Mitglied/Parlamendiliige/Μέλος/Member/Membre/Član/Membro/Deputāts/Narys/Képviselő/  
 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/Uradnik/Virkamies/  
 Tjänsteman