



Delegation for relations with the United States

D-US_PV(2018)11_14

MINUTES

of the meeting of 14 November 2018, 18.00-19.00
Strasbourg

The meeting opened at 18.00 on Wednesday, 14 November 2018, with Christian Ehler (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 meeting of 25 October 2018

The minutes were approved.

3. Communications by the Chair

None.

4. The 2018 US Midterm Elections - exchange of views with Peter Chase, Senior Fellow, The German Marshall Fund of the United States

Mr Chase described the outcome of the elections and then elaborated some personal conclusions, before addressing what the US political landscape may look like after the midterms.

He noted that 115 million Americans voted (49%), which was a staggering 30 million more than for the last midterms, four years ago. Mr Chase argued that President Trump had managed to mobilise voters, whether in a negative or positive way, but that youth participation, while up by 10%, was still overall quite low (30%).

He said that there were still nine undecided House races, but if they were to be split more or less evenly, the final majority could be around 232 Democrats to 203 Republicans. The likely outcome of the Senate election would be 53 Republicans and 47 Democrats (including Independents). The Governorships situation was 25 Republicans to 23 Democrats with Florida and Georgia pending.

Mr. Chase maintained that the long-term prospects for Democrats had improved, based on the fact that the next two Senate elections would favour them in terms of the incumbents that will be up for re-election (21 Republicans for 12 Democrats). He also highlighted their improved performances in US heartlands (e.g. Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Iowa, Montana, North Dakota, North Carolina and Texas) and not only in the coastal states and large urban centres. The Democrats flipped 38 seats, which was their biggest victory margin since 1974. They also flipped 7 governorships (Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Kansas, New Mexico, Nevada and Maine). As these were States that Trump had won back in 2016, this might help their chances in 2020. It might also make the relationship between GOP Members and the President more ambivalent, if they considered that he was becoming a bigger electoral liability in their districts.

The speaker said that Democrats had two options: one was to fight the Administration, saying no to everything and pass nothing, similar to the Republican attitude during the Obama years. The other was to seek to work together with the White House on a few items of common priorities, where results could be delivered on (e.g. infrastructure plan and further middle class tax cuts), while at the same time conducting aggressive yet legitimate oversight of the Administration (e.g. on administration appointments, the EPA etc.). The risk for the Democrats in the former scenario was that they could be blamed for the gridlock, while the risk in the latter was that they would allow the President to score wins in the run up to 2020. The President also needed the Democrats on some issues, like the USMCA trade agreement.

In terms of the profile of the new Members of the House, Mr Chase said it might lead to some more interest in international engagement, as there were many businesspeople and military or intelligence veterans elected in both parties. This could be positive for Europe. Among the new Democrats there were several younger and more liberal members, but also economic moderates and members who had been elected with an agenda to get things done, and not only to be negative. On trade, he said that the Democrats might be more resistant to trade deals, including one with Europe, not because of anti-EU sentiments, but because they viewed trade deals as only favouring big corporations.

Members' questions focussed on possible institutional gridlock, on the reasons for US withdrawal from INF treaty and on the Mueller investigation. Mr Chase noted that the tendency, even among Republicans, was not to meddle with the investigation, but it really depended on what the results would be and whether they touched the President directly and in a significant way.

5. Any other business

None.

6. Date and place of next meeting.

The next D-US meeting was scheduled for Wednesday 21 November 2018 in Brussels, jointly with the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for an exchange of views with the US Ambassador to the EU, Gordon Sondland.

The meeting closed at 19.00.

**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/REGISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŠCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/
LISTĂ DE PREZENȚĂ/PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LĂSNĂOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA**

<p>Бюро/Меса/Председничество/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Predsjetništvo/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/ Biuras/Elnökség/Prezydium/Birou/Predsedníctvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)</p>
<p>Christian Ehler (Chair), Jeppe Kofod (Vice-Chair)</p>
<p>Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Zastupnici/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/ Képviselők/Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter</p>
<p>Gerolf Annemans, Daniel Dalton, Paolo De Castro, Eugen Freund, Neena Gill, Ana Gomes, Danuta Maria Hübner, Barbara Kappel, Rory Palmer, Ramon Tremosa i Balcells</p>
<p>Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Zamjenici/ Supplenti/Aizstājēji/Pavadojantysnariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleantī/Náhradníci/ Namestniki/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter</p>
<p>Laima Liucija Andrikienė, Csaba Molnár, Ioan Mircea Pașcu, Dubravka Šuica</p>

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 Aĝenda/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/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 pozwanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan
Peter Chase, Senior Fellow, German Marshall Fund of the United States

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 (*)
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/Ini účastníci/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/Politiisten ryhmien sihteeristö/Sekretariats sekretariat

PPE	Astrid Dentler, Jonas Kraft
S&D	Barbara Melis
ECR	Richard Hazlewood
ALDE	
Verts/ALE	Paolo Bergamaschi
GUE/NGL	
EFDD	Antonio Anselmi
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/Peadirrektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/ Directorate-General/Direction générale/Glavna uprava/Direzione generale/Ģenerāldirektorāts/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 LINC DG FINS DG ITEC DG SAFE	Pekka Hakala Jan Båverström
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Mihkel Allik	
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/Komiteto sekretoriatas/A bizottság titkársága/Sekretarjat tal-kumitat/Commissiesecretariaat/Sekretariat komisji/ Secretariado da comissão/Sekretariat comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottssekretariatet	
Adam Isaacs, Alexandros Karides, Elena Franchina	
Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asyistent/Pomočnik/ Avustaja/Assistenten	

- * (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Président/Predsjednik/Priekšsēdētājs/
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 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
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 Funzionario/Ierēdnis/Pareigūnas/Tisztviselő/Ufficial/Ambtenaar/UrządNIK/Funcionário/Funçionar/Úradník/Uradnik/Virkamies/
 Tjänsteman