



2.5.2018

DRAFT REPORT

on the state of EU-US relations
(2017/2271(INI))

Committee on Foreign Affairs

Rapporteur: Elmar Brok

Rapporteur for the opinion (*):
Bernd Lange, Committee on International Trade

(*) Associated committee – Rule 54 of the Rules of Procedure

CONTENTS

Page

MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION 3

MOTION FOR A EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT RESOLUTION

on the state of EU-US relations (2017/2271(INI))

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the document entitled ‘Shared Vision, Common Action: A Stronger Europe – A Global Strategy for the European Union’s Foreign and Security Policy’, presented by the Vice-President of the Commission / High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (VP/HR) on 28 June 2016 and the Commission and European External Action Service (EEAS) joint communication of 7 June 2017 on a Strategic Approach to Resilience in the EU’s external action (JOIN(2017)0021),
- having regard to the outcomes of the EU-US Summits held on 28 November 2011 in Washington, D.C., and on 26 March 2014 in Brussels,
- having regard to the joint statements of the 79th Inter-Parliamentary Meeting of the Transatlantic Legislators’ Dialogue (TLD) held on 28 and 29 November 2016 in Washington, D.C., the 80th TLD held on 2 and 3 June in Valletta and the 81st TLD held on 5 December 2017 in Washington, D.C.,
- having regard to the Commission communication of 28 April 2015 entitled ‘The European Agenda on Security’ (COM(2015)0185),
- having regard to the Joint Communication of the Commission and EEAS and the Council of 6 April 2016 on the Joint Framework on countering hybrid threats, a European Union response (JOIN(2016)0018),
- having regard to the Joint Declaration of the Presidents of the European Council and the Commission and of the Secretary General of NATO of 8 July 2016 on the common set of proposals endorsed by the EU and NATO Councils on 5 and 6 December 2016, and the progress reports on the implementation thereof of 14 June and 5 December 2017,
- having regard to the US National Security Strategy of 18 December 2017 and the US National Defence Strategy of 19 January 2018,
- having regard to the 2015 EU Climate Diplomacy Action Plan adopted by the Foreign Affairs Council,
- having regard to the Paris Agreement, Decision 1/CP.21, the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the UNFCCC and the 11th Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP11) held in Paris from 30 November to 11 December 2015,
- having regard to its previous resolutions on transatlantic relations, in particular its resolution of 1 June 2006 on improving EU-US relations in the framework of a Transatlantic Partnership Agreement¹, its resolution of 26 March 2009 on the state of

¹ OJ C 298 E, 8.12.2006, p. 226.

transatlantic relations in the aftermath of the US elections¹, its resolution of 17 November 2011 on the EU-US Summit of 28 November 2011² and its resolution of 13 June 2013 on the role of the EU in promoting a broader Transatlantic Partnership³,

- having regard to its resolution of 22 November 2016 on the European Defence Union⁴,
 - having regard to its resolution of 13 December 2017 on the implementation of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP)⁵,
 - having regard to its resolution of 13 December 2017 on the implementation of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP)⁶,
 - having regard to Rule 52 of its Rules of Procedure,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the opinion of the Committee on International Trade (A8-0000/2018),
- A. whereas the EU-US partnership is based on strong political, cultural, economic and historic links, on shared values such as freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law, and on common goals, such as prosperity, security, open and integrated economies, social progress and inclusiveness, sustainable development and the peaceful resolution of conflicts, and whereas both the US and the EU are democracies under the rule of law with functioning systems of checks and balances;
- B. whereas in a global, complex and increasingly multipolar world, the EU and the US should continue to play key constructive roles by strengthening international law and jointly addressing regional conflicts and global challenges;
- C. whereas the EU remains fully committed to multilateralism and the promotion of shared values;

An overarching framework based on values

1. Recalls and insists that the longstanding EU-US partnership is based on sharing and promoting together common values including freedom, rule of law, peace, democracy, equality, market economy, social justice and respect for human rights, including minority rights, as well as collective security;
2. Highlights that the EU-US relationship is the fundamental guarantor for global stability and has been the cornerstone of our efforts to ensure peace and stability for our societies since the end of the Second World War, and stronger multilateral economic cooperation and trade; believes that the ‘America first’ policy will harm the interests of both the EU and the US;

¹ OJ C 117 E, 6.5.2010, p. 198.

² OJ C 153 E, 31.5.2013, p. 124.

³ OJ C 65, 19.2.2016, p. 120.

⁴ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2016)0435.

⁵ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2017)0493.

⁶ Texts adopted, P8_TA(2017)0492.

3. Underlines that the partnership goes far beyond *stricto sensu* foreign policy and trade issues and also includes other topics such as security, economic and financial issues, climate change, energy, culture as well as science and technology; stresses that these issues are closely interlinked and should be considered under the same overarching framework;
4. Is concerned about the diverging views on addressing global issues and regional conflicts that have appeared since the election of President Trump; seeks clarity as to whether the transatlantic relationship, which was defined over decades, still has the same relevance today; stresses that the values-based overarching framework of our partnership is essential to securing the architecture of the global economy and security;

Strengthening the partnership

5. Recalls the high potential and the strategic interest of this partnership for both the US and the EU in aiming to achieve mutual prosperity and security and to strengthen a rules-based global order; calls for the fostering of our dialogue and engagement on all aspects of this partnership; highlights that our decisions and actions have an impact on the global economy and security architecture, and the interests of both partners;
6. Underlines that the EU and the US are each other's most important partners and that unilateral moves serve only to weaken the transatlantic partnership, which has to be a partnership of equals;
7. Calls on the VP/HR, the Council, the Commission and the EU Member States to enhance their coordination of EU policy vis-à-vis the US administration, so as to send out a convincing message that the EU is a coherent and effective international player;
8. Calls for an EU-US Summit to be held as soon as possible to decide on a common agenda on bilateral matters and global and regional issues;
9. Insists that a structured dialogue on foreign policy at transatlantic level, involving also the EP and the US Congress, is key to the transatlantic architecture and calls for an expansion of the foreign policy scope of the EU-US dialogue;
10. Recalls its suggestion to create a Transatlantic Political Council (TPC) for systematic consultation and coordination on foreign and security policy, led by the VP/HR and the US Secretary of State and underpinned by regular contacts of political directors;
11. Welcomes the ongoing and uninterrupted work of the TLD in fostering EU-US relations through parliamentary dialogue and coordination on issues of common interest;
12. Recalls that both in the EU and the US, our societies are strong because they are built on a plurality of actors, including among others our governments, parliaments, various political institutions, civil society organisations, media and religious groups; highlights that we should foster links across the Atlantic to promote the merits of our transatlantic partnership, including by allocating appropriate funding, at different levels and not only focusing on the East and West Coasts;

Facing global challenges together

13. Insists that the EU and the US should continue playing key constructive roles by jointly addressing regional conflicts and global challenges; recalls the importance of multilateralism in tackling global issues and insists that these should be addressed in the relevant international forums; is therefore concerned that recent decisions of the US – disengagement from key international agreements, disenrollment from international forums and the fomenting of trade tensions – may diverge from these common values and put strain on the relationship;
14. Takes note that other major world powers, such as Russia and China, have robust political and economic strategies, many of which may go against our values, and it is therefore essential to foster the EU-US partnership, to continue to promote our common values, including compliance with international law, and to set up a joint sanctions policy;
15. Underlines that security is multi-faceted and intertwined and that its definition not only covers military but also environmental, energy, trade, cyber and communications, health, development, humanitarian, etc. aspects; therefore underlines that a transatlantic trade agreement, balanced and mutually beneficial, would have an impact that would go far beyond trade and economic aspects; insists that security issues should be tackled jointly through a broad approach; in this context, is concerned about budget cut decisions, for example the cuts on state building in Afghanistan and the 50 % US budget cut to development aid in Africa;
16. Stresses the importance of cooperation, coordination and synergy effects in the field of security and defence and insists that burden sharing should not be solely focused on the target of spending 2 % of GDP on defence; states that NATO is still crucial for the collective defence of Europe;
17. Calls on the EU to strengthen and speed up the European Defence Union with a view to creating more synergies in defence spending; insists that more defence cooperation at EU level strengthens the European contribution within the NATO alliance and reinforces our transatlantic bond; supports, therefore, the recent efforts to step up the European defence architecture, including the European Defence Fund and the newly established Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO);
18. Reiterates the need for the EU and the US to enhance their cooperation in the field of cybersecurity and defence;
19. Underlines the need for a common approach to regulating digital platforms and to increasing their accountability;
20. Emphasises that an important part of strengthening EU-US counter-terrorism efforts includes the protection of critical infrastructure as well as a comprehensive approach to fighting terrorism, also via coordination in global forums;
21. Recalls that enhanced cooperation regarding the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing is crucial;
22. Stresses that the EU is committed to strengthening the prosperity, stability, resilience and security of its neighbours first hand through non-military means, notably through

- the implementation of association agreements;
23. Commends the strategic focus and invites the US to be involved in further joint efforts in the Western Balkans;
 24. Calls on the EU and the US to play a more active and effective role in the resolution of the conflict on Ukraine's territory and to support all efforts for a lasting peaceful solution which respects the unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine;
 25. Reiterates its commitment to international laws and universal values, and in particular nuclear non-proliferation and the peaceful resolution of disputes; underlines that the consistency of our nuclear non-proliferation strategy is key for our credibility as a key global player and negotiator;
 26. Recalls that the EU is determined to preserve the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with Iran as a key pillar of the international non-proliferation architecture, with relevance also for the North Korean question, and as a crucial element for the security and stability of the region; reiterates the need to address more critically Iranian activities related to ballistic missiles and regional stability that are separate from the JCPOA, in the relevant formats and forums; stresses that transatlantic cooperation in addressing this issue is key; criticises strongly President Trump's decision to leave the JCPOA unilaterally and to put extraterritorial measures on EU companies which are active in Iran;
 27. Is concerned about US security and trade policy in East and Southeast Asia, including the political vacuum resulting from its TPP withdrawal, and welcomes the active trade policy of the EU in this part of the world, also for sake of political balance;
 28. Welcomes the opening of new high-level dialogues with North Korea (DPRK) and recalls that these talks should aim at a peaceful resolution of the tensions and thus at promoting regional and global peace, security and stability; underlines that, at the same time, we must maintain pressure on DPRK until it gives up its nuclear ambitions;
 29. Calls for enhanced cooperation between the EU and the US on the peaceful resolution of regional conflicts and the proxy war in Syria as the lack of a common strategy could undermine the peaceful resolution of conflicts and invites all parties involved to refrain from actions that might aggravate the situation; reaffirms the primacy of the UN-led Geneva process in the resolution of the Syrian conflict, in line with UN Security Council Resolution 2254, negotiated by the parties to the conflict and with the support of key international and regional actors; calls for the full implementation and respect of the UN Security Council Resolutions which are being violated by the countries of the Astana negotiations;
 30. Recalls that the EU supports the resumption of a meaningful Middle East Peace Process towards a two-state solution and insists that any action that would undermine these efforts must be avoided; underlines that the question of Jerusalem must be part of a final peace agreement between Israelis and Palestinians; stresses that the joint road map should be strengthened;
 31. Reiterates that we have shared interests in Africa where we must intensify our support

for good governance, democracy, human rights and security issues;

32. Points to our common political, economic and security interests with regard to China and Russia and recalls that joint efforts, including at the WTO, could be helpful to address imbalances in global trade deals with foreign ambitions, as on Ukraine and on the silk road;
33. Insists that migration issues should be addressed through cooperation, partnership and protection of human rights, but also by managing migration routes and pursuing a global approach at UN level;
34. Advocates enhanced EU-US cooperation on energy issues, building on the framework of the EU-US Energy Council;
35. Regrets the US' withdrawal from the Paris Agreement but praises the continued efforts of individuals, companies, cities and states within the US;
36. Encourages further cooperation in innovation, science and technology;

o

o o

37. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Council, the EEAS, the Commission, the governments and parliaments of the Member States and the accession and candidate countries, the US President, the US Senate and House of Representatives.