



19.6.2023

MISSION REPORT

following the AFET ad hoc delegation to Washington D.C and Wisconsin,
United States of America

Committee on Foreign Affairs

Members of the mission:

David McAllister	(PPE) (AFET Chair, Leader of the mission)
Michael Gahler	(PPE)
Tonino Picula	(S&D)
Reinhard Bütikofer	(Verts/ALE)
Anna Fotyga	(ECR)
Sven Mikser	(S&D)
Dragoş Tudorache	(Renew)

Introduction

A delegation of seven AFET Members travelled to Washington D.C. and Wisconsin, United States from 15 to 19 May. The main goal of the mission was to establish and deepen the political dialogue with the US administration and meet counterparts in Congress, following the US mid-term elections. Members held meetings with Government and Congress representatives in Washington D.C., as well as think tanks. The visit to Wisconsin, a swing and bellwether State, provided AFET members with an in-depth look into the political climate of grass-roots America from a transatlantic perspective. In addition to meeting the political authorities and institutions of the State of Wisconsin, Members also met management and students from the Jean Monnet Programme on European and Global studies at the University of Madison - Wisconsin, representatives of the Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce and the Trade Unions.

The mission was the first AFET mission to the US under the Biden administration and also the first AFET mission to Wisconsin.

The part of the mission in Washington D.C. confirmed that there is a strong level of convergence of transatlantic positions on a number of foreign policy issues such as Ukraine, China, countering disinformation, energy security, EU-NATO cooperation and Iran.

The visit in Wisconsin allowed members to feel the political temperature outside Washington D.C. and particularly in a state like Wisconsin, which is in a very special political situation due to the gerrymandering and the resulting blockages of the legislative process.

Summary account of meetings

In Washington D.C.

Meetings at the **State Department** reconfirmed the impression that the transatlantic cooperation is strong and resilient. The excellent cooperation and communication between the EU and the US on countering information manipulation and energy security are providing tangible results. There is a strong commitment on both sides of the Atlantic to continue supporting Ukraine, including when it comes to its post-war reconstruction. Concerning engagement with the PRC, it is both the EU's and the US's intention to keep engaging and maintaining open communication with China, especially in areas where we can cooperate in solving global problems. Transatlantic positions on China are coming closer and closer together and there is scope to discuss jointly how to structure relations with China responsibly. Partnerships with like-minded countries around the globe remains an important fact for tackling jointly foreign policy challenges.

Concerning security and defence cooperation, the meeting with the **Department of Defence** reconfirmed the excellent transatlantic cooperation and coordination of support for Ukraine. Ways to further improve EU, US and NATO cooperation and interoperability were discussed.

Meeting in both the **Senate and the House of Representatives** revealed that there is broad bipartisan support for continuing support for Ukraine. However, regarding the funding, there are some growing concerns among the public, which underscore the need to communicate better the necessity of this support and to show that both transatlantic partners are living up to their commitments. Funding is also somehow linked to the ongoing, and very polarised debt ceiling

debate.

Cooperation on China and supporting democracy worldwide are also some of the topics where transatlantic cooperation can be strengthened.

Further meetings with think tanks, the International Republican Institute and the National Democratic Institute showed that the transatlantic relationship is solid and can be further strengthened in the field of foreign policy, in order to prepare a strong base for any contingency that might result from the US presidential elections in 2024.

In Wisconsin:

In Wisconsin, the delegation met the **Lieutenant Governor, Members of the State Assembly, the Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce, Trade Unions and the management and some students from the Jean Monnet Programme in European and Global Studies.**

Several interlocutors referred to Wisconsin as the microcosm of US politics. Political polarisation has been growing over the past ten years and the main issues fuelling into this division are democracy (gerrymandering) and abortion rights.

The Delegation took place amid the discussions on the budget and politicians from both sides of the political spectrum raised concerns regarding the impasse in the legislative process in the state of Wisconsin caused by divisive political situation with a republican-led Assembly, Democratic governor and Republican super-majority in the Senate.

There are prospects that the recent Supreme Court election of a democrat-supported judge from Wisconsin would tackle the issue of gerrymandering, which fuels to the strong political division and legislative deadlocks in the state.

Conclusions

The mission confirmed that transatlantic cooperation in foreign policy has never been stronger and more consequential. The EU and the US have shown remarkable unity and coordination in their support for Ukraine. There is strong bipartisan support for continued support for Ukraine, with minor exceptions in the Republican camp. In order to continue this strong support, communication efforts should be improved on both the EU and the US side. Furthermore, while many Republican members expressed criticism towards Trump and his attempt to run again for president, they refrained from openly endorsing or supporting another candidate.

There is excellent cooperation on countering information manipulation and strong convergence on the transatlantic positions towards China.

Annex: Final Programme



Европейски парламент Parlamento Europeo Evropský parlament Europa-Parlamentet Europäisches Parlament
Euroopa Parlament Ευρωπαϊκό Κοινοβούλιο European Parliament Parlement européen Parlaimint na hEorpa
Europski parlament Parlamento europeo Eiropas Parlaments Europos Parlamentas Európai Parlament
Parlament Ewropew Europees Parlement Parlament Europejski Parlamento Europeu Parlamentul European
Európsky parlament Evropski parlament Euroopan parlamentti Europaparlamentet

European Parliament - Committee on Foreign Affairs Delegation to Washington DC and Wisconsin, USA

15 - 19 May 2023

FINAL PROGRAMME

Version: 15 May 2023

Members of the Delegation in protocol order:

1. David McAllister, Chair (EPP)
2. Michael GAHLER (EPP)
3. Tonino PICULA (S&D)
4. Reinhard BÜTİKOFER (Greens)
5. Anna FOTYGA (ECR)
6. Sven MIKSER (S&D)
7. Dragos TUDORACHE (Renew)

AFET Secretariat:

Velyana TOPALOVA (Administrator)
Lenka DUBARRE (Assistant)

Political Group staff:

Benjamin OPPERMAN (EPP)
Rune GLASBERG (Renew)
Jason WISEMAN (ECR)

European Parliament Liaison Office in Washington DC (EPLO)

Joseph DUNNE (EPLO Director)
Fernando GARCES DE LOS FAYOS (Senior Adviser on Foreign Policy)
Joanna KAROLCZYCK (Foreign Policy)
Michelle HANSSEN (Trainee)

Monday 15 May

	Individual arrivals at the hotel
17:10	Meeting in hotel lobby and walk to the EU Delegation and EPLO office
17.30	Briefing to to the three EP delegations in town (AFET, BUDG & LIBE) with Stavros Lambrinidis, EU Ambassador to the United States,
	Followed by EPLO reception, hosted by Director Joe Dunne
START OF THE OFFICIAL PROGRAMME	
Tuesday 16 May	
08:00	Meet in hotel lobby for bus departure
08.45 - 11.30	<p>Meetings at the Department of State) 08:45 AFET delegation arrives at C Street entrance and processes through check in. (EUR/ERA escorts) (15 mins)</p> <p><i>09:00 U.S.-EU Coordination on Countering Disinformation (30 mins)</i> <i>Including discussions on GEC organization and mission, countering disinformation from Russia and China, and coordinating messaging with the EU and tis 27 member states to target global partners.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>State/ Global Engagement Center (GEC) – David Whiting (Director GEC/China)</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Welcome and introduction of GEC participants (2 mins)</i> 2. <i>AFET Delegation</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Introductions (3 mins)</i> 2. <i>GEC David Whiting (Director GEC/China) and April Curtis (Acting Deputy Director GEC/Russia)</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Remarks (5 mins)</i> 3. <i>AFET</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Remarks (5 mins)</i> 5. <i>Open Discussion (15 mins)</i> 6. <i><u>Backbench attendees:</u> Derrick McAllister, Bergen Bassett, Esperanza Tilghman</i> <p>09:30 Break (15 minutes)</p> <p><i>09:45 Energy Security (30 mins)</i> <i>Including U.S. and EU energy policy; energy security priorities, challenges, and initiatives; and ways to deepen energy security cooperation.</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>State Bureau of Energy Resources DAS Laura Lochman</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Welcome (2 mins)</i> 2. <i>AFET Delegation</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. <i>Introductions (3 mins)</i>

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. DAS Lochman <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Remarks (5 mins) 3. AFET <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Remarks (5 mins) 5. Open Discussion (15 mins) 6. <u>Backbench attendees</u>: Derrick McAllister, Bergen Bassett, Christine Prince, Lynn Massengil, Victoria Hill <p>10:15 Break (15 minutes)</p> <p>10:30 Russia/Ukraine, PRC, Iran (45mins) Including sustaining focus on support to Ukraine, increasing pressure on Russia, standing against unilateral PRC moves to disrupt rules-based international order, and addressing Iran's disruptive and repressive actions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. State Counselor Derek Chollet <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Welcome (2 mins) 2. AFET Delegation <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Introductions (3 mins) 3. Counselor Chollet <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Remarks (~10 mins) 4. AFET <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Remarks (~10 mins) 2. Open Discussion: Adding EUR DAS Ramos, and DASes for Iran and China (~20 mins) <p><u>Backbench attendees</u>: Derrick McAllister, Bergen Bassett, Paul Prokop, Theresa Lou, Sarah Bannister, Kyle Rohrich, Florence Akinyemi</p> <p>11:15-11:30 AFET delegation departs (EUR escorts)</p>
11.30-11.50	Transfer by bus to the EU delegation/ EPLO
11.50 - 12.50	<p>Meeting with Department of Defence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Principal Director Winternitz (DASD Boyer's deputy in Europe and NATO); and - Principal Director Nathaniel Adler Principal Director for Russia, Ukraine, and Eurasia Policy. - NATO and EU Policy Advisor, Torrey Taussig, Office of the Secretary of Defence. - Alyssa Wilson, the Russia/Ukraine office - Colin Wall, European and NATO Policy <p>(EU Military Attaché, Admiral Henning Faltin, will participate)</p>
13.00 - 14.00	Lunch (at own expenses) EPLO/EUDEL area
14.15	Transfer by bus to Capitol Hill (+entry procedures)
15.00 - 15.30	Walk to the House of Representatives buildings (+entry procedures)
15.30 - 17.00	<p>Meetings at the House of Representatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rep Tom Kean (R-New Jersey), Chair Subcommittee on Europe

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rep Keating (D-Massachussets), Ranking Member Chair Subcommittee on Europe - Rep Young Kim (R-California), Subcommittee on Europe, Chair of the Subcommittee on Indo-Pacific - Rep Jim Costa (D-California), Subcommittee on Europe - Rep Darrell Issa (R-California), Subcommittee on Europe - - Rep Keith Self (R-Texas), Subcommittee on Europe - Rep Bill Huizenga (R-Michigan) Subcommittee on Europe - Rep. Alice Constadina "Dina" Titus (D-NV), Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Europe - Rep. Joe Wilson (R- South Carolina) Co-Chair EU Caucus, Member Committee on Ways and Means. - Rep Brendan F. Boyle, (D- Pennsylvania), Co-Chair EU Caucus, - Rep Ronny Lynn Jackson, USN (R-TX) - Rep. Dr. Amerish "Ami" Bera, M.D. (D-CA)
17.30-18.00	<p>Senator Pete Ricketts (R-Nebraska)</p> <p>Ranking Member of the Senate Subcommittee on Europe and and Regional Security Cooperation (Foreign Relations) and Ranking member of the Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate, and Nuclear Safety.</p>
18.00- 18.30	<p>Senator Ron Johnson (R-Wisconsin)</p> <p>Member of the Senate Subcommittee on International Trade and Ranking member of the Permanent Committee on Investigations (Homeland Security).</p>
18.30	Transfer by bus to the restaurant
19.00 - 21.30	<p>Dinner offered by AFET</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Trita Parsi (Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft) - Ambassador Karen Kornbluh (German Marshall Fund of the United States) - Mr. David Salvo (GMF - Director managing malign interference) - Mr. Jörn Fleck (Atlantic Council) - Ms. Colleen Cottle (Atlantic Council - Deputy Director China Hub) - Mr. Jude Blanchette - Freeman Chair on China at CSIS

Wednesday 17 May	
07.30 - 08.00	Hotel check-out
08.00	<p>Bus departs to the International Republican Institute (IRI)</p> <p><i>Bring your luggage with you</i></p>
08.30 - 10.00	<p>Breakfast meeeting at the International Republican Institute (IRI)</p> <p>8:30 a.m. – Welcome Remarks: Scott Mastic, IRI Vice President for Programs</p> <p>8:45 a.m. – Russia's War in Ukraine / Energy Security Cooperation: Stephen Nix, Senior Director, Eurasia Division</p> <p>9:10 a.m. – China / Indo-Pacific region: Johanna Kao, Senior Director, Asia-Pacific Division</p> <p>9:40 a.m. – Iran: Curt Harris, Program Director, Middle East and North Africa Division</p> <p><i>Additionally, Transatlantic Strategy Division Staff are excited to join the discussion.</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Jan Surotchak, Senior Director, Transatlantic Strategy Division - Alex Tarascio, Deputy Director, Transatlantic Strategy Division - Reka Szemerkenyi, Senior Advisor, Transatlantic Strategy Division - Paul-Francois Polidori, Senior Program Manager, Transatlantic Strategy Division - Daniel Scaduto, Program Officer, Transatlantic Strategy Division - Ludovica Efrati, Program Officer, Transatlantic Strategy Division - Matthew Drygulski, Program Officer, Transatlantic Strategy Division - Breanna Kerr, Senior Program Associate, Transatlantic Strategy Division - Lizzie Patterson, Senior Program Associate, Transatlantic Strategy Division - Nicholas Meyers, Program Associate, Transatlantic Strategy Division - Kat Early, Program Associate, Transatlantic Strategy Division
10.00-10.20	Transfer by bus to the EU delegation/ EPLO
10.20 - 11.10	Meeting with the Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control Experts participating: Meghan Crimmins, John Caves, Treston Chandler, and Paul Esau.
11.10-11.30	Transfer by bus
11.30 - 13.00	Lunch meeting at the National Democratic Institute (NDI) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Stephanie Rust, VP of Programs; - Eva Busza, Director, Eurasia; - Katie Fox, Deputy Director, Eurasia; - Jeff England, Deputy Director, Middle East North Africa; - Manpreet Singh Anand, Director, Asia-Pacific; and - Slobodan Milic, Deputy Director, Political Parties <i>Ukraine, Russia, China, Indo-Pacific, Iran, energy security cooperation, cybersecurity cooperation, fighting false narratives</i>
13.00	Departure by bus to Reagan National airport
Please note that there is a time difference between Washington and Wisconsin (Washington is 1 hour ahead of Wisconsin)	
15.49	Flight DL 5695 from Washington National Reagan airport (DCA) to Madison (Wisconsin)
18.00-18.45	Meeting with the Speaker of the Wisconsin State Assembly, Robin Vos (R) Along with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rep Tyler August- Majority Leader - Rep Rob Summerfield- Republican Caucus Chair - Rep Treig Pronschinske- Republican Caucus Sergeant
18.45	Transport by bus
19.00 - 21.00	Working dinner with the management and students from the Jean Monnet Programme on European and Global studies at the University of Madison - Wisconsin <i>(offered by them)</i>

	<p>Nils Ringe (Director of the Jean Monnet Center)</p> <p>Mark Copelovitch (Jean Monnet Chair Jean Monnet Chair in the EU and the Global Economy)</p> <p>Elizabeth Covington (Executive Director of European Studies)</p> <p>Eleanor Conrad (Assistant Director of European Studies).</p>
21.00	Transport by bus to the hotel

Thursday 18 May	
08.00	<p>Hotel check-out</p> <p><i>Bring your luggage with you and leave in luggage storage room in the hotel</i></p>
08.30	Departure (walking) to the State Legislature
8.45- 09.15	Meeting with - Sen Melissa Agard (D) , State Senate Minority Leader -
9.30-10 00	- Meeting with Sen Dan Feyen (R) , State Senate Assistant Majority Leader of the Wisconsin State Senate
10.00 - 11.00	Meeting with - Rep Greta Neubauer(D) State Assembly Minority Leader
11.15 - 11.45	Meeting with Lieutenant Governor Sarah Rodriguez, WEDC CEO/Secretary Missy Hughes, and WEDC's Vice President of Global Trade & Investment
12.15 - 14.30	Lunch meeting hosted by the Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce President Brandon and Board Chair Mr Olver.
14.30 - 15.45	Go back to hotel to pick up luggage and transfer by bus to Milwaukee
15.45 - 17.00	<p>Meeting with the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO (Trade Unions)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - President Stephanie Bloomingdale - Marcos Alfaro, Secretary, - Teresa Mambu-Rasch, Legislative & Research Director and their team
	END OF THE OFFICIAL PROGRAMME
17.00	<i>Bus departure to Chicago O'Hare airport</i>
<i>Individual departures to Europe</i>	
Friday 19 May	
<i>Individual departures to Europe</i>	

