



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)

Secretariat:

2 Staff

Political advisors:

3 Staff

European Parliament Liaison Office in Washington DC (EPLO)

4 Staff

Monday 15 May	
17.30	Briefing to to the three EP delegations in town (AFET, BUDG & LIBE) with Stavros Lambrinidis, EU Ambassador to the United States
Tuesday 16 May	
08.45 - 11.30	Meetings at the Department of State
11.50 - 12.50	Meeting with Department of Defence
15.30 - 17.00	Meetings at the House of Representatives
17.30-18.00	Meeting with Senator Pete Ricketts (R-Nebraska)
18.00- 18.30	Meeting with Senator Ron Johnson (R-Wisconsin)
19.00 - 21.30	Working dinner with representatives from think tanks
Wednesday 17 May	
08.30 - 10.00	Breakfast meeeting at the International Republican Institute (IRI)
10.20 - 11.10	Meeting with the Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control
11.30 - 13.00	Lunch meeeting at the National Democratic Institute (NDI)
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)
19.00 - 21.00	Working dinner with the management and students form the Jean Monnet Programme on European and Global studies at the University of Madison - Wisconsin
Thursday 18 May	
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
15.45 - 17.00	Meeting with the Wisconsin State AFL-CIO (Trade Unions)
END OF THE OFFICIAL PROGRAMME	
<i>Individual departures to Europe</i>	
Friday 19 May	
<i>Individual departures to Europe</i>	