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<Commission>{INTA}Committee on International Trade</Commission>

<Date>{04/11/2021}24.11.2021</Date>

<TitreType>MISSION REPORT</TitreType>

<Titre>following the INTA mission to Washington D.C., United States, from 01 to 05 November 2021</Titre>

<Commission>{INTA}Committee on International Trade</Commission>

Members of the mission:

Bernd Lange (S&D) (Leader of the mission)

Danuta Maria Hübner (PPE)

Liesje Schreinemacher (Renew)

Herve Juvin (ID)

Dominik Tarczyński (ECR)

Helmut Scholz (The Left)

Introduction

This was the second ad hoc delegation of the INTA Committee during this 9th legislative term to Washington D.C., United States of America (US). In terms of the overall political and economic setting, this visit was very different from the previous one that had taken place in February 2020 (just before the COVID-19 outbreak): the pandemic has disrupted our lives as well as global trade and investments and Joe Biden has replaced Donald Trump as the US President.

There is a renewed sense of transatlantic engagement, which was very evident not only from the high level of interlocutors that the delegation met, but also - and more importantly - from the concrete discussions. In addition, the visit took place at a key moment in terms both of the EU-US trade relations (de-escalation of tariffs in the Airbus/Boeing dispute and on steel and aluminium and after the inauguration of a new EU-US forum on trade and technology) and US national politics.

During three working days, the INTA delegation had 19 meetings and met (mainly in person and some virtually) with over 100 people, ranging from the US Congress, Executive, EU and US businesses, trade unions and think tank. This delegation thus further developed a network both at political and technical level to build a stronger positive EU-US dialogue on trade issues, in particular to facilitate INTA’s democratic scrutiny of the TTC and its working groups.

Scene setting

There is a renewed sense of transatlantic engagement in trade matters following the inauguration of President Biden in January 2021. On his first day of office, the US re-joined the Paris Agreement. In February, the historical nomination of Dr Okonjo-Iweala as WTO Director‑General was deblocked. In May, some of the sanctions against Nord Stream 2 pipeline were lifted. In June, at the first EU-US Summit in Brussels, EU and US reached a five-years agreement on the long lasting dispute Airbus/Boeing and created the Trade and Technology Council (TTC), a new forum to coordinate approaches to key global trade, economic, and technology issues. In October, following a landmark deal on a minimum tax rate for multinational enterprises at the OECD, EU digital taxes and US relative retaliatory tariffs were withdrawn. Just before the INTA visit, the EU and US announced their decision to start discussions on a Global Arrangement on Sustainable Steel and Aluminium and suspend steel and aluminium trade disputes and tariffs.

However, to deal with the COVID‑19 pandemic, President Biden issued an executive order to bolster domestic manufacturing thereby tightening “Buy American” rules. In addition, during the week of the INTA visit, an historic bipartisan infrastructure bill (USD 1.2 trillion) passed in Congress, opening the way to a social infrastructure package to build back better after the pandemic, both of which are likely to bear important consequences for both US and European trade, businesses, and workers. In particular, tax incentives are foreseen for ordinary citizens to purchase American-made electric cars which unfairly hinders foreign-owned automakers that employ millions of US workers. Finally, the impact for the EU of Biden’s “worker centric trade policy”, that will ensure trade more equitably distributes benefits to and among US workers, it is yet unclear. The fact that the nomination of key US Ambassadors, among others to the EU and the WTO, is still pending (blocked by the Republicans in the Senate) is not reassuring. At issue is whether President Biden's administration can sign on to a positive EU-US agenda with Democrats controlling only a razor-thin majority in Congress.

Summary account of meetings

High-level meetings were secured, in particular, with Katherine Tai, US Trade Representative and her Office (Jayme White, Deputy US Trade Representative, and among others the Assistant USTRs for Europe and for Monitoring and Enforcement), in the Congress (especially with INTA’s powerful US counterpart, the Ways and Means Committee), and with several representatives of the White House’s National Economic Council (NEC), providing economic advice to the President on trade as geopolitical tool and on economic relations with China.

In the US House of Representatives, the INTA delegation met with a high number of Representatives (16) mostly of the Subcommittee on Trade, including Rep. Earl Blumenauer, Chairman, and Rep. Vern Buchanan, Ranking Member. It met also separately with Rep. Jim Costa, Co-Chair the Transatlantic Legislators’ Dialogue and the Rep. Bill Keating, Chair of the Subcommittee on Europe, Energy, the Environment and Cyber. In the US Senate, the INTA delegation met with the Finance Committee’s Chief Counsellors on international trade (in person with the Republican staffers and on line with the Democrat staffers).

In addition, INTA met with the services in charge of the TTC’s working groups, where DG Trade has the lead on the EU side, in the USTR, the Department of Commerce, the Committee on Foreign Investment in the US (CFIUS), and the Department of State. Meaningful technical discussions were held on trade defence with the International Trade Administration in charge (ITA) and on the ban of forced labour products with the US Customs and Border Protection.

The programme also included meetings with Liz Schuler, the newly appointed President of the American Federation of Labour and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), a numbers of stakeholders, namely European US-based companies and US companies (US Chamber of Commerce and Meridian), and a think tank.

Despite the very heavy procedures to enter premises (both for COVID-19 screening and for general security reasons) took significant amount of time, in general, all meetings allowed for enriching and substantive discussion. However, not all requests for meetings could be accommodated due to these constraints.

The success of this visit showed the value of INTA’s continuous and serious engagement over the years and the change in the spirit on the US side (as compared to the previous INTA visit of February 2020). Meetings with Congressmen lasted longer than initially scheduled, despite the heavy domestic political agenda during the visit (final stages of Infrastructure Bill).

Main issues

In all meetings, INTA delegation raised the following issues - with one voice - to which the EP attaches particular attention.

Long-term vs. short-term solutions for steel and aluminium

The EU always requested the lifting of the US so-called Section 232 tariffs on steel and aluminium, which are WTO illegal. Members welcomed the pause agreed on this dispute just before their visit and discussed it from different angles: with the Department of Commerce (in charge of the concrete implementation of quotas and exceptions), with USTR (in charge of negotiating a solution), and with the unions representing US steel workers. US interlocutors recognised that global overcapacity is caused by Chinese subsidies and EU steel is not the problem.

The EU-US arrangement on steel and aluminium is designed to help achieve decarbonisation in these very carbon-intensive sectors. The idea of addressing at the same time overcapacity and climate concerns is very ambitious and merits to be carefully considered especially to ensure any restriction to imports are in line with WTO rules.

Democratic scrutiny of the concrete TTC's deliverables

Members met the services in charge of the TTC's working groups to discuss global challenges, investment screening, export control, and secure supply chains. Interlocutors were all very open, explained their respective roles and shared insights on - to the extent they are already defined - working methods and expectations. The message was quite clear: we need to focus on what we can agree on and not on what we cannot agree. For instance, we need solutions for sustainable and resilient supply chains not only for this pandemic, but also for the next ones because decoupling is no a viable option for either the EU or the US.

US policies and trade barriers

European US-based companies and the Trade Counsellors of the missions of the EU Member States in Washington expressed their assessment and concerns about the US trade policy. They provided concrete examples of cases where the request of local content can have an impact on their economic activity on the US market. The issue of the US tax incentive for electric vehicles unfairly hindering foreign-owned automakers was raised several times. The key message is that current uncertainty is having a negative effect on EU business. Members took note, passed on this message to the US interlocutors and are determined to follow up. Members also raised with the International Trade Administration strong concerns with certain US trade defence practices targeting the EU major policies providing support to the agriculture sector (olives) and to the fight against CO2 emissions.

Trade in broader geopolitical context

Members did not receive clear answers to their questions about the definition of President Biden’s “worker centric trade policy” and on the US alternative to the EU’s Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM), but they could discuss the US new paradigm for the enforcement of labour and environmental commitments with the unions introduced in the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement. US interlocutors stressed the importance of using our respective markets as a leverage; the discussion focused also on China, especially concerning decoupling and managed trade (the Phase 1 agreement). The US Customs provided useful concrete insights about the functioning of the US ban of products issued by forced labour.

A big test for the new President is indeed how to resolve the challenges posed by non-market economies (China, in particular) by aligning countries through coalition-driven diplomacy rather than unilateral tariffs. It is clear that President Biden hopes Europe can be a key partner in tackling these challenges. To address those challenges, the EU has underlined the need for “open strategic autonomy”, which includes improving its own trade defence toolbox. US interlocutors expressed a mix of interest and concern with regard to the upcoming anti-coercion mechanism, the international procurement instrument - IPI, and the new rules on distortive foreign subsidies. Members stressed the importance of having the right tools for ensuring level playing field for EU companies, but that common challenges need to have a joint or coordinated solution.

The reform of the WTO and the upcoming Ministerial Conference (MC12)

Members stressed in every possible occasion the importance of addressing global common challenges at multilateral level, in particular in view of the MC12. However, while there was some openness for quick deliverables or on trade and health, US interlocutors seemed to be still in the process of identifying the US position on some important issues (like the reform of the Appellate Body). Members expressed their hope that the little time that is left before the MC12 would be used to make progress on these issues.

Conclusions and follow-up

This ad hoc delegation will be an indispensable tool for the work of the INTA Committee in view of scrutinising future developments of transatlantic economic and trade relations. It allowed engaging directly and gathering direct and first-hand information and positions of a number of interlocutors, including the US Government and Congress, and stakeholders.

The delegation also allowed to highlight the role of the European Parliament in any legislative procedure resulting from the TTC’s working groups. The delegation was able to emphasise that EU constituencies, which are only partly reassured by the de-escalation in trade barriers, need to see the TTC and the MC12 delivering concrete results and need to be fully involved in the process. It also allowed the INTA delegation to stress the need for joint efforts by both parties for an effective rules-based level-playing field in international trade.

The INTA delegation received considerable US press coverage. There was wide interest during the press conference at the end of the delegation programme and quite detailed questions were addressed to INTA Chairman/Standing Rapporteur.

As regards follow up:

- Continue monitoring the developments in the EU-US trade and economic relations and use insights gained during the delegation in view of building Parliament’s position on transatlantic trade relations;

- Continue exchanges on transatlantic trade in INTA Committee, Monitoring Groups and technical briefings starting with reporting on this delegation to INTA on 29-30 November 2021;

- Ensure democratic scrutiny over the TTC and its working groups where trade has the lead and invite again before and after the next political meeting (Spring 2022?) the EU’s Co-Chairs, EVP Dombrovskis and EVP Vestager, to exchange views in association with the other Parliament’s Committees whose work of scrutiny relates to the TTC;

- Closely follow developments on the multilateral side in view of the MC12 and beyond;

- Maintain the useful contacts established with stakeholders in Washington by:

o organising a technical briefing with US experts on the ban of forced labour products;

o exploring options to enhance the parliamentary dialogue with the House of Representatives on trade matters, including by following closely the next inter-parliamentary meeting of the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue (TLD) (December - Bled, Slovenia);

o arranging meetings (physical or on-line) with interlocutors with whom it was not possible to meet during this visit, including Senators, stakeholders, and European companies based in different States.

Annex: Final programme

EP press releases relating to the delegation visit

**Visit of the**

**Committee on International Trade (INTA)**

**to Washington D.C., 1-5 November 2021**

*-* ***FINAL Programme*** *-*

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| **Monday, 1 November** |

*P.m. arrival in Washington (IAD)*

*Meetings taking place on 1/11 are* ***not part of the official programme****, which starts on 2/11*

***[14:00-18:00 Technical preparatory meeting*** *with EPLO and the EU Delegation - Secretariat only]*

*17:30 Departure by bus from the lobby of the hotel*

*JOINT EVENT WITH ITRE, AIDA AND SEDE -* ***reserved to Members***

***18:00-19:30 Welcome briefing by Amb. Stavros LAMBRINIDIS****, Head of the EU Delegation*

*Around 19:45 Departure by bus back to the hotel*

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| **Tuesday, 2 November** |

*8:30 Departure by bus from the lobby of the hotel*

*USTR*

**9:00-11:00** Meeting at the **Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR),** with:

**Katherine TAI**, US Trade Representative,

**Jayme WHITE,** Deputy US Trade Representative,

**Daniel MULLANEY**, Assistant US Trade Representative for Europe and the Middle East;

**Juan MILLAN,** Assistant US Trade Representative for Monitoring and Enforcement

and others

*THINK TANK*

**11:15-12:15Dr Daniel S. HAMILTON***, Johns Hopkins University and President of the Transatlantic Leadership Network*

*EUROPEAN US-BASED COMPANIES*

**12:45-14:45** working light lunch and meeting hosted by Representation of German Industry and Trade (RGIT) with

**Chistoph SCHEMIONEK,** Representative of German Industry and Trade, and

**Caitlin HICKEY,** Director**,** Government Relations and Legal Affairs

and representatives of **European US-based companies**

*INVESTMENTS*

**15:15-16:30** Meeting at the **Committee on Foreign Investment in the US (CFIUS), Department of the Treasury** including services in charge of relevant working group of the TTC[[1]](#footnote-1) with:

**Brian REISSAUS**, Director of Investment Review and Investigation and others

*EU MEMBER STATES*

**16:45-18:00**Meeting with **Trade Counsellors of Missions of EU Member States and Deputy Head of EU Delegation, Michael CURTIS**

*18:10 Departure by bus back to the hotel*

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| **Wednesday, 3 November** |

*7:30 Departure by bus from the lobby of the hotel*

*STATE DEPARTMENT*

**08:15-9:15** Meetings at the **U.S. Department of State** focusing on services in charge ofrelevant working groups of the TTC[[2]](#footnote-2) with:

**Matt MURRAY,** Senior Bureau Official, Division for Trade Policy and Negotiations and relevant officials

*HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

**9:45-11:00**Meeting with the **House Committee on Ways and Means** and the **Subcommittee on Trade including:**

**Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D-OR),** Chairman, Subcommittee on Trade

**Rep. Vern Buchanan (R-FL),** Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Trade

**A total of 14** **Members of the Committee on Ways and Means and the Subcommittee on Trade accompanied by staffers from the Democrat and Republican Representatives participated**

*US CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION, Department of Homeland Security*

***11:15-12:15*** meeting with **AnnMarie R. HIGHSMITH,** Executive Assistant Commissioner, US Customs and Border Protection (services in charge of customs restrictions for products of forced labour) and others

*US CHAMBER OF COMMERCE*

**12:30-14:00** Working lunch and meeting at the **US Chamber of Commerce with representatives of US companies.**

*SENATE*

**14:20-14:50** Meeting with Republican staffers (in person) from the **Senate** **Committee on Finance** and **Subcommittee on International Trade, Customs and Global Competitiveness**

*HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

**15:00- 16:00** Joint meeting with

**Rep. Bill KEATING (D-MA**), Chair of the Subcommittee on Europe, Energy, the Environment and Cyber, Member of Committee on Foreign Affairs and on Armed Services

**Rep. Jim COSTA (D-CA 16th),** US Co-Chair of Transatlantic Legislators’ Dialogue (TLD), Member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and Chair of the Subcommittee in Livestock and Foreign Agriculture and their staffers

*UNIONS*

**16:30-17:30** Meeting at **American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organisations** (AFL-CIO) with **Liz SCHULER**, President and **Cathy** **FEINGOLD**, Director of the International Department

*MERIDIAN*

**18:00-20:00** Cocktail with US trade organisations

*20:10 Departure by bus back to the hotel*

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| **Thursday, 4 November** |

*8:00 Departure by bus from the lobby of the hotel*

*DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE*

**8:30-09:30** Meeting at the **Department of Commerce** including services in charge of relevant working groups of the TTC[[3]](#footnote-3) with:

**Sahar HAFEEZ,** Senior Advisor, Office of Under Secretary, Bureau of Industry and Security

**Matthew BORMAN**, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Export Administration

and others

*DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (ITA)*

**9:30-10:30** Meeting at the **International Trade Administration (ITA) with, among others,**

**Ryan MAJERUS,** Acting Assistant Secretary for Enforcement and Compliance,

**David S. DE FALCO,** Deputy Assistant Secretary for Europe and Eurasia Global Markets

*WHITE HOUSE*

**11:00-12:00**meeting with theNational Economic Council / National Security Council at and with the participation of the EU Delegation:

**Peter E. HARRELL** Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for International Economics and Competitiveness, and others

*LUNCH - free time*

*SENATE DEMOCRAT STAFFERS*

**12:25-13:00** online meeting with staffers of the Committee on Finance

*WHITE HOUSE*

**13:00-14:00** meeting with theNational Economic Council / National Security Council at and with the participation of the EU Delegation:

**Laura ROSENBERGER**, Senior Director for China, NSC

*PRESS*

**14:00-14:30** Press conference/**press point** by the INTA Chairman/Rapporteur

*End of the official programme: 14:30*

*Departure by bus*

*P.m. departure (from Washington (IAD) (arrival in Brussels on 5/11)*

EP press releases relating to the delegation visit

[Trade MEPs end successful visit in the United States](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20211104IPR16625/trade-meps-end-successful-visit-in-the-united-states)

Trade MEPs end successful visit in the United States

**Press Releases**

04-11-2021 - 20:42

**MEPs discussed global trade issues with counterparts in Congress, the executive, business and trade unions during a three-day US visit ending on Thursday.**

[Bernd Lange](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/1909/BERND_LANGE/home) (S&D, DE), the head of the delegation and chair of the Committee on International Trade (INTA) made the following statement on the last day of the visit:

“The delegation of the INTA committee took place in a context of a new era of more constructive transatlantic engagement. All our discussions were very productive and forward-looking. The delegation had the opportunity to meet many of the most relevant transatlantic interlocutors.

Congress showed substantial interest. The delegation held discussions with the House Ways and Means Committee and with other Congressmen (16 in total) on a broad range of issues. This shows the importance that legislators on both sides of the ocean attach to the transatlantic partnership. A salient issue was our joint interest to guarantee the democratic scrutiny of the [Trade and Technology Council](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_2990) (TTC).

We met with key representatives of the US executive branch, including US Trade Representative Ambassador Katherine Tai, her deputy Ambassador Jayme White, representatives of the White House, the Department of Commerce and several other key services. Noting the collaborative nature of our trading relationship, we discussed, among others, the TTC, the recent EU-US arrangement on steel and aluminium, our expectations for the [12th Ministerial Conference](https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/minist_e/mc12_e/mc12_e.htm) of the World Trade Organisation at the end of this month and the role of trade in tackling climate change, tackling forced labour products.

Finally, the delegation exchanged views with key stakeholders, such as the new AFL-CIO leadership, the US Chamber of Commerce and other business representatives. We discussed common challenges and the ways we can design and implement a trade policy that puts workers at its centre.”

*For the members of the delegation and further information, please check this*[*press release*](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20211025IPR15726/trade-meps-discuss-effective-joint-actions-in-the-united-states)*.*

**Background**

This was the second time in this legislature that members of the trade committee discussed transatlantic trade issues in the US. The visit came upon a thawing of tense trade relations during the previous American administration.

[Pausing steel and aluminium tariffs: statement of the trade committee chair](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20211027IPR16001/pausing-steel-and-aluminium-tariffs-statement-of-the-trade-committee-chair)

Pausing steel and aluminium tariffs: statement of the trade committee chair

**Press Releases**

[INTA](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room?contentType=committee&keywordValue=INTA)

31-10-2021 - 13:35

**The pausing of the unlawful tariffs enables us to look forward, trade committee chair Bernd Lange said after the announcement of the pausing of the steel and aluminium tariffs on Sunday.**

The Chair of the Committee on International Trade made the following statement:

“I am very pleased that the United States will remove most of their 232 tariffs on steel and aluminium up to historic trade volumes for us. Not only are these duties unlawful and in clear contradiction with WTO rules, they have also caused a lot of damage for many sectors on both sides of the Atlantic. Furthermore, these illegal tariffs were always lingering in the background of our efforts to engage more constructively with the US.

While the Section 232 tariffs will not be fully eliminated, the partial removal of the tariffs is an important step in de-escalation and shows that this administration is committed to working with us. It should be seen together with the ceasefire in the Airbus Boeing dispute and the establishment of the Trade Technology Council. Of course, the work is not done yet. First, we need to work on the full resolution of this unfortunate dispute created by the previous US government. Second, we need to find solutions to tackle global overcapacity. This enables us to look forward, and by turning the page on the Trump era, focus on what we can do together to tackle current challenges.

As to the intention to work together on the production of green steel and to negotiate a Global Arrangement on Sustainable Steel and Aluminium, I believe this shows both sides want to intensify cooperation on carbon leakage. As the EU has already put forward the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CBAM) proposal to decarbonise steel, this is definitely an avenue both parties could explore further.

Regarding the actions that have been announced under the current arrangements, I am of course in favour of tackling overcapacity and of other measures that make steel production and steel trade fairer. Yet, we have to see whether the newly announced actions will lead to greener steel overall. I will also be very attentive to the WTO compatibility of the announced actions."

**Background**

In 2018, the United States imposed additional tariffs on imports of steel (25%) and aluminium (10%) products worth €6.4 billion in trade. The so-called US Section 232 measures stated that these products were a national security threat to the US. While mainly trying to address Chinese overcapacity, US tariffs unduly affected also EU imports. The EU responded by levying tariffs on US imports to the EU worth €2.8 billion and opened a case at the WTO arguing that the US tariffs are illegal.

To ensure constructive environment for talks to remove the tariffs, the EU suspended in May the application of the second tranche of tariffs until 30 November 2021.

The European Parliament has repeatedly urged the US to remove the 232 tariffs immediately, most recently in [a resolution](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/TA-9-2021-0410_EN.html) in October.

*Further information:*

*Office of Mr*[*Bernd Lange*](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/1909/BERND_LANGE/home) (S&D, DE),*email:*[*bernd.lange@europarl.europa.eu*](mailto:bernd.lange@europarl.europa.eu)*tel: +32 228 45 555*

[Trade MEPs discuss effective joint actions in the United States](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20211025IPR15726/trade-meps-discuss-effective-joint-actions-in-the-united-states)

Trade MEPs discuss effective joint actions in the United States

**Press Releases**

[INTA](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room?contentType=committee&keywordValue=INTA)

29-10-2021 - 10:17

**A delegation of trade MEPs will hold talks next week on global trade challenges including Trade and Technology Council deliverables in Washington, DC.**

Between 1 - 4 November, the six-member delegation of the Committee on International Trade (INTA) will meet White House officials, members of Congress, the United States Trade Representative, business representatives from US-based European companies and US enterprises, trade unions and think tanks.

Looking beyond trade tensions, MEPs want to assess possible concrete coordinated or joint actions, including next steps in the trade-related work of the [EU-US Trade and Technology Council](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_21_2990) (TTC), which held its inaugural meeting in Pittsburgh on 29 September. They are interested in particular in the area covered by the Global Trade Challenges working group, which deals, among other issues, with joint support to promote workers’ rights and combat child and forced labour, but also foreign investment screening, secure supply chains (especially regarding semiconductors), export controls, and dual use products.

MEPs are set to explore US engagement in the reform of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in view of the upcoming [12th Ministerial Conference](https://www.wto.org/english/thewto_e/minist_e/mc12_e/mc12_e.htm), and will discuss the enforcement of trade and investment agreements and shared global challenges posed by non-market economies.

**The members of the delegation are**:

[Bernd Lange](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/1909/BERND_LANGE/home) (S&D, DE), head of the delegation, chair of the committee

[Danuta Hübner](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/96779/DANUTA+MARIA_HUBNER/home) (EPP, PL)

[Liesje Schreinemacher](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/197869/LIESJE_SCHREINEMACHER/home) (Renew Europe, NL)

[Herve Juvin](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/197626/HERVE_JUVIN/home) (ID, FR)

[Dominik Tarczyński](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/204346/DOMINIK_TARCZYNSKI/home) (ECR, PL)

[Helmut Scholz](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/meps/en/96646/HELMUT_SCHOLZ/home) (The Left, DE)

“I am extremely pleased to lead this delegation to the US. The last INTA delegation before the Covid-19 pandemic was to the US and it is one of the first after the vaccination campaign. It shows the importance of our transatlantic trade and investment relations.

Under the Biden administration we see strong willingness on both sides for re-engagement. The ceasefire in the Airbus-Boeing dispute and the establishment of the TTC attest to this. Yet, some diverging views and bilateral irritants persist. I hope this delegation can help to overcome these differences, especially on steel and aluminium where we need to find a solution very soon to avoid a second tranche of countermeasures kicking in. Furthermore, I am confident we can make progress on a trade policy that is focused on workers and wages. During our talks about the TTC, we will insist that it delivers concrete benefits. Finally, I hope our work in Washington, DC will help pave the way for a successful Ministerial Conference at the WTO at the end of this month,” said Bernd Lange, the head of the delegation and chair of the trade committee prior to the visit.

**Background**

This is the second time in this legislature that members of the Committee on International discuss transatlantic trade issues in the US. The visit comes upon a thawing of tense trade relations during the previous American administration.

1. Trade leads on Investment screening [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Trade leads on Secure supply chains; Export controls [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Trade leads on Secure supply chains; Export controls [↑](#footnote-ref-3)