



Delegation for relations with the United States

D-US_PV(2024)0125_1

MINUTES

of the meeting of 25 January 2024, 9.00 - 10.00

Brussels

The meeting opened at 9.06 on Thursday, 25 January 2024, with Miapetra Kumpula-Natri (Vice-Chair) presiding.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of:

- 22 November 2023

PV – PE471.990v01-00

The minutes were approved.

3. Communications by the Chair

The Chair briefed the Members on the results of the 87th Inter-Parliamentary Meeting of the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue (TLD), held in Washington DC on 30 November to 2 December 2023. The EP delegation was composed of 15 Members. This was a positive meeting with Congressional counterparts, with constructive discussions on Ukraine, decreasing energy dependence from Russia, food security, Artificial Intelligence, China, and the situation in the Middle East. During the meetings, US Co-Chair Rep. Nathan Moran (Republican-Texas) and US Ranking member Rep. Jim Costa (Democrat-California) expressed interest to hold another inter-parliamentary meeting in Brussels before EP elections in June. The Delegation shall explore possible dates and request authorisation from the President.

4. Election of the Chair of the Delegation for relations with the United States

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PE741.190v01-00

Danuta Maria Hübner (EPP, Poland) was elected by acclamation as Chair of the Delegation for relations with the United States. Frances Fitzgerald (EPP, Ireland) nominated Ms Hübner on behalf of the EPP group. Members proceeded with the election following the departure on 13 December 2023 of former D-US Chair Radosław Sikorski (EPP, Poland), who became foreign minister in the new Polish government.

The meeting continued with Danuta Hübner, Chair, presiding.

5. Exchange of views with Dr Leslie Vinjamuri, Director of the US and Americas Programme and Chair of the faculty of the Queen Elizabeth II Academy at Chatham House, on the 2024 US elections

Speakers: Vinjamuri, Kumpula-Natri, Köster, Gálvez-Muñoz, Fitzgerald, Hübner, Scholz.

Dr Vinjamuri highlighted the high stakes of the 2024 US presidential elections against the backdrop of an extremely polarised and divided US political landscape. Former President Donald Trump has consolidated his lead as the Republican presidential frontrunner following comfortable victories in Iowa and New Hampshire Republican primaries and is cruising towards his third nomination. However, the results also underscored some of Trump's vulnerabilities, notably with independents, college-educated voters and with those Republicans unwilling to dismiss his legal troubles. Those groups voted in large numbers for his rival, Nikki Haley, who had a surprisingly good showing.

Although she thought any outcome was possible and there are still 9 months to go, Dr Vinjamuri considered a Biden win more likely in the general election in November. Besides Trump's weaknesses with certain voter groups demonstrated by the results from New Hampshire, it should not be forgotten that Trump lost in 2020 as the incumbent and in the 2022 midterms as well as 2023 partial elections many candidates endorsed by Trump did not win.

Trump's potential policies as president are illustrated in the Project 2025 agenda, put forward by the ultra-conservative think-tank Heritage Foundation. Trump 2.0 is likely to be much better prepared than the previous presidency. In general, ruling by Executive Orders can be expected to be the order of the day under a potential Trump presidency.

Congress is under pressure from Republican members to link the Southern border security policy, military assistance to Ukraine and Israel together in a single package. The border issue - one of Trump's key issues - has become politicised at all levels domestically in the US. Even moderate Americans, who do not necessarily identify with a specific political party, considered immigration at the Southern border a crucial issue that needs to be addressed.

In her replies to Members' questions, Dr Vinjamuri added the following elements:

European leaders should communicate clearly through public diplomacy mechanisms to US citizens the EU's and its Member States' commitment to NATO, to Ukraine, and to strengthening their security and defence systems and increasing these budgets. Many Americans lack awareness of the strength and level of these commitments. American politics is currently very divisive and the Europeans could contribute to an efficient counter-narrative. EU Institutions, including the Parliament, should cultivate contacts with both liberal and conservative foreign policy elites and think-tanks. In their travels, Members should reach out to state/local level: to chambers of commerce, politicians in swing states, and organise public events with presentations at universities.

Biden's age was viewed negatively by many voters even though Trump is only 3 years younger. Young voters, including Arab Americans - who are prevalent in swing states - were dissatisfied with the Biden Administration's approach towards the Hamas/Israel conflict and war in Gaza. Many voters acknowledged that Israel has the right to defend itself but were very concerned about the high number of civilian casualties in Gaza, the spillover of the conflict to the Red Sea, and America's inability to influence Israel's policy on Palestinians/Gaza.

Many Republicans had a long-standing commitment to NATO but wished for the EU to increase its financial commitment to the organisation. As regards China, the US was in a position to move alone on many issues, but it would prefer to have Europe on its side.

6. Any other business

None

7. Date and time of the next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled to take place during the February I Plenary session in Strasbourg.

The meeting closed at 10.15.

**ПРИСЪСТВЕН ЛИСТ/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/
ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/KATASTAŞH PAPONTΩN/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/
LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/POPIS NAZOČNIH/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU REGISTRS/DALVIU SĀRAŠAS/
JELENLÉTI ÍV/REĢISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŚCI/LISTA DE PRESEÑCAS/
LISTĀ DE PREZENTĀ/PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/NÄRVAROLISTA**

Бюро/Mesa/Predsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Predsjedništvo/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/Biuras/Elnökség/Prezydium/Birou/Predsednictvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
Danuta Maria Hübner, Miapetra Kumpula-Natri
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Bouλευτές/Members/Députés/Zastupnici/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselők/Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputati/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Pablo Arias Echeverría, Marek Belka, Maria da Graça Carvalho, Ciarán Cuffe, Lina Gálvez Muñoz, Dietmar Köster, Dimitrios Papadimoulis, Daniela Rondinelli, Helmut Scholz, Dragoș Tudorache, Alexandr Vondra, Maria Walsh
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Zamjenici/Supplenti/Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantysnariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/Namestniki/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
Mazaly Aguilar, Laura Ballarín Cereza, Frances Fitzgerald, Jens Geier, Martin Hlaváček, Othmar Karas, Sergey Lagodinsky, David McAllister, Riho Terras

209 (7)	
216 (3)	
56 (8) (Точка от дневния ред/Punto del orden del día/Bod pořadu jednání (OJ)/Punkt på dagsordenen/Tagesordnungspunkt/Päevakorra punkt/Σημείο της ημερήσιας διάταξης/Agenda item/Point OJ/Točka dnevnog reda/Punto all'ordine del giorno/Darba kārtības punkts/Darbotvarķēs punktas/Napirendi pont/Punt Agenda/Agendapunt/Punkt porządku dziennego/Ponto OD/Punct de pe ordinea de zi/Bod programu schôdze/Točka UL/Eesityslistan kohta/Punkt på föredragningslistan)	

Наблюдатели/Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaatiejad/Παρατηρητές/Observers/Observateurs/Promatrači/Osservatori/Novērotāji/Stebētojai/Megfigyelők/Osservaturi/Waarnemers/Obserwatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelia/Opozovalci/Tarkkailijat/Observatörer

По покана на председателя/Por invitación del presidente/Na pozvání předsedy/Efter indbydelse fra formanden/Auf Einladung des Vorsitzenden/Esimehe kutsel/Mε πρόσκληση του Προέδρου/At the invitation of the Chair/Sur l'invitation du président/ Na poziv predsjednika/Su invito del presidente/Pēc priekšsēdētāja uzaicinājuma/Pirmininkui pakvietus/Az elnök meghívására/ Fuq stedina tač-'Chairman'/Op uitnodiging van de voorzitter/Na zaproszenie Przewodniczącego/A convite do Presidente/La invitación președintelui/Na pozvanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan

Leslie Vinjamuri

Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nōukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/Conseil/Vijeće/Consiglio/Padome/Taryba/Tanács/Kunsill/Raad/Conselho/Consiliu/Svet/Neuvosto/Rådet (*)

Комисия/Comisión/Komise/Komissionen/Kommission/Komisjon/Επιτροπή/Commission/Komisija/Commissione/Bizottság/Kummissjoni/Comissie/Komisja/Comissão/Comisie/Komisia/Komissio/Kommissionen (*)

Европейска служба за външна дейност/Servicio Europeo de Acción Exterior/Evropská služba pro vnitřní činnost/EU-Udenrigstjenesten/Europäischer Auswärtiger Dienst/Euroopa väliseenistus/Ευρωπαϊκή Υπηρεσία Εξωτερικής Δράσης/European External Action service/Service européen pour l'action extérieure/Europska služba za vanjsko djelovanje/Servizio europeo per l'azione esterna/Eiropas Ārējās darbības dienests/Europos išorės veiksmų tarnyba/Európai Külügyi Szolgálat/Servizz Ewropew ghall-Azzjoni Esterna/Europese dienst voor extern optreden/Européjska Służba Działalń Zewnętrznych/Serviço Europeu para a Ação Externa/Serviciul european pentru acțiune externă/Európska služba pre vonkajšiu činnosť/Evropska služba za zunanje delovanje/Euroopan ulkosuhdehallinto/Europeiska avdelningen för yttrre åtgärd (*)

Други институции и органи/Otras instituciones y organismos/Ostatní orgány a instituce/Andre institutioner og organer/Andere Organe und Einrichtungen/Muud institutsioonid ja organid/Λοιπά θεσμικά όργανα και οργανισμοί/Other institutions and bodies/Autres institutions et organes/Druge institucije i tijela/Altre istituzioni e altri organi/Citas iestādes un struktūras/Kitos institucijos ir įstaigos/Más intézmények és szervek/Istituzzjonijiet u korpi oħra/Andere instellingen en organen/Inne instytucje i organy/Outras instituições e outros órgãos/Alte instituīji și organe/Iné inštitúcie a orgány/Muut toimielimet ja elimet/Andra institutioner och organ

Други участници/Otros participantes/Ostatní účastníci/Endvidere deltog/Andere Teilnehmer/Muud osalejad/Επίσης παρόντες/Other participants/Autres participants/Drugi sudionici/Altri partecipanti/Citi klátesošie/Kiti dalyviai/Más résztvevők/Parteicipanti ohra/Andere aanwezigen/Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Altı participantı/Iní 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/Secrétaire des groupes politiques/Tajništvu klubova zastupnika/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politiske gruppe sekretariáts/Frakcijų sekretoriai/Képviselőcsoportok titkársága/Segretariat gruppi političi/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secretariado dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupín/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristöt/De politiska gruppernas sekretariat

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Кабинет на генералния секретар/Gabinete del Secretario General/Kancelář generálního tajemníka/Generalsekretærens Kabinet/Kabinett des Generalsekretärs/Peasekretári bùroo/Γραφείο του Γενικού Γραμματέα/Secretary-General's Office/Cabinet du secrétaire général/Ured glavnog tajnika/Gabinetto del Segretario generale/Generalsekretára kabinets/Generalinio sekretoriaus kabinetas/Főtitkári hivatal/Kabinet tas-Segretarju Ĝeneral/Kabinet van de secretaris-generaal/Gabinet Sekretarza Generalnego/Gabinete do Secretário-Geral/Cabinet Secretar General/Kancelária generálneho tajomníka/Urad generalnega sekretarja/Pääsihteerin kabinetti/Generalsekretæraren kansli

Генерална дирекция/Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/ Directorate-General/Direction générale/Glavna uprava/Direzione generale/Generaldirektorāts/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/ Direttorato Generali/Directoraten-generaal/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direcții Generale/Generálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni direktorat/Pääosasto/Generaldirektorat	
DG PRES	
DG IPOL	
DG EXPO	
DG EPRS	
DG COMM	
DG PART	
DG PERS	
DG INLO	
DG TRAD	
DG LINC	
DG FINS	
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DG SAFE	
Правна служба/Servicio Jurídico/Právní služba/Juridisk Tjeneste/Juristischer Dienst/Õigusteenistus/Νομική Υπηρεσία/Legal Service/ Service juridique/Pravna služba/Servizio giuridico/Juridiskais dienests/Teisés tarryba/Jogi szolgálat/Servizz legali/Juridische Dienst/ Wydział prawnego/Serviço Jurídico/Serviciu Juridic/Právny servis/Oikeudellinen yksikkö/Rättsjänsten	
Секретариат на комисията/Secretaría de la comisión/Sekretariát výboru/Udvalgssekretariatet/Ausschusssekretariat/Komisjoni sekretariaat/Γραμματεία της επιτροπής/Committee secretariat/Secrétaireat de la commission/Tajništvo odbora/Segreteria della commissione/ Komitejas sekretariāts/Komiteto sekretoriatas/A bizottság titkársága/Segretarjat tal-kumitat/Commissie secretariaat/ Sekretariat komisji/Secretariado da comissão/Secretariat comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottsssekretariatet	
Fernando Garces de Los Fayos Tournan, Alexandros Karides, Tuula Turunen	
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- * (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chairman/Président/Predsjednik/Priekšsēdētājs/
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Tjänsteman