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*EIN Lunch debate on: "What future for the EU-US relationship in a new era?" Brussels*

*Chair:*

- **Mairead MCGUINNESS MEP**, *Chair of the Working Group on Transatlantic Relations and Vice-President of the European Parliament*

*Speakers:*

- **Alan Dukes**, *Former leader of Fine Gael*
- **Daniel Faraci**, *Director, Grassroots PC LLC*
- **Sylvia Hartleif**, *Leader of the Foreign Policy team, EPSC*

- > The four real problems that need to be tackled are: defence, trade, climate and energy. Education has flaws too. This is an opportunity for Europe to take the lead.
- > How can Europe react and take the lead with the US? With clear, concise and cohere political campaigns. Then, move on to negotiate with the Congress. Europe should not be afraid to show what they can give. This is a good way to understand Trump's presidency: "Where there is show, there is Trump".
- > The outcome of the Munich Conference was: to have security and strategic policies as a united project between EU and NATO. Otherwise, "Russia will carry on laughing at us".
- > Human rights are not an option for the EU future. We need to have a single voice regarding China, Russia and Venezuela.
- > Clear view on issues concerning bi- and multilateral trade agreements failed. The contestation from the European public resulted mainly in an outcome of closed-doors policy during the negotiation process.
- > Different opinions in the Congress about TTIP, NAFTA and Colombia Trade Agreement (both right and left wing). Congress rejected TTIP. How do we, Europe, appeal Trump on trade negotiations?
- > Will China take advantage of this withdraw? What will be the future between trade partnerships between the US-EU-UK? Australia, New Zealand and Vietnam will want to strengthen their relationships with Europe.
- > US has a strong tendency towards a highly transactional trade policy-renegotiation of NAFTA regarding Mexico. EU has the same approach regarding Mercosur.
- > Strengthening the dialogue between EU institutions and Congress was also suggested in order to overpower the recent populist rhetoric.
- > Europe and the USA could build bridges together through education by creating programmes similar to Erasmus+ for USA students.
- > The US withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement left an uncertainty on what to do next. This can serve as an example to other countries to take the same steps but it can also unify countries in protecting and preserve the Agreement.
- > Nevertheless, the decision to leave the Agreement will only take place in 2020, so there is still space to re-engage and maybe renegotiate the terms.
- > We need to get to grips when it comes to trade issues in the relationship between the US-EU. The process of globalization brought positive and negative aspects to the new world. Economy and poverty are two points that should be highlighted.
- > We all have hopes for the future of Europe but it will take time to take an approach that is consistent between all countries.
- > Major threats to the cooperation within security have been presented. Certain misunderstandings are due to the lack of a coherent voice and unification approach from the Member States as well as miscommunication from sides of the Atlantic.