



EIN Meetings of the Transatlantic Group

17th – 20th July 2017, Washington D.C.

USA

The Trans-Atlantic Group (TAG) on counter-terrorism was established in 2008 under the leadership of Congresswoman Ms. Sue Myrick and the European People's Party Group (EPP) in the European Parliament, Vice-Chair Mr. Jaime Mayor Oreja. The aim of it was the creation of a forum in which Members of the European Parliament (MEPs), members of the United States Congress and the United States Senate could exchange views on current problems in policy-making against the post-9/11 Jihadist terrorist attacks. Since then, the TAG group has been enlarging its membership and opening-up areas of interest to discussions. The EPP Group Vice-Chair Mr. Paulo Rangel has co-chaired and further developed the TAG, since 2014. This forum gives the opportunity to MEPs with a particular interest on transatlantic relations to liaise with their American counterparts.

This year's meeting in Washington DC held within the context of the EIN meetings and organised in the capital of the USA, has been the first experience for eleven EPP MEPs to participate in an exchange with members of the US Congress and members of the main US political party representatives; as well as with relevant members of Mr. Trump's Cabinet and representatives of the private sector and the media, in this new administration.

The current format is divided in two parts. The first part is dedicated to an exchange with US legislators, on the condition of the political situation on both sides of the Atlantic. A particular attention has been placed on the impact of the current US and the European Union (EU) transatlantic relations as a result of the new US administration approach towards a wide range of issues such as: Europe; Russia; NATO; Brexit; economics and demographics; the international security; the transatlantic challenges and the transatlantic initiatives for 2017-2018.

The second part is dedicated to talks with representatives of think-tanks and the private sector on topics such as, the Post-American Era and the US cooperation with the European Union; the legislative issues of areas of particular interest as trade, investment cooperation, the good governance and the consequences of populism on both sides of the Atlantic.

The EIN Delegation has had the opportunity of exchanging thoughts with Mrs. Andrea Thomson, Deputy Assistant to the US President and National Security advisor to the Vice-President of the USA, as well as with Mr. Sebastian Lukács Gorka, Deputy Assistant to President Donald Trump, at his Executive Office and with former General Jack Keane.

TAG's co-chairs Congressman Trent Franks, the representative for Arizona's 8th Congressional district and Mr. Paulo Rangel, MEP and Vice Chairman of the EPP Group and EIN Chairman, after this eight 2017 TAG Summit have both agreed on continuing further dialogue and Transatlantic cooperation, as it is now as necessary as ever.

Finally, transatlantic initiatives for 2017-2018 were proposed, such as the possibility of holding EU Tag Summits in Brussels and in other places such as Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco. Further actions will be taken on identifying lawmakers from Argentina and Colombia willing to join in TAG meetings. Some USA Congressmen could be also invited to attend EIN seminars in 2018.