



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 14 June 2012**

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**NOTE**

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from: General Secretariat of the Council  
to: Delegations  
Subject: Meeting of the **Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET)**  
Strasbourg, 11 June 2012

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**1. Adoption of agenda**

**2. Chair's announcements**

*In association with the Delegation for relations with the United States*

**3. Exchange of views with a delegation of Members of the US congress on transatlantic cooperation and dialogue on foreign policy issues of common concern**

The Chair indicated that the delegation of Members of the US Congress, following a meeting in Copenhagen in the context of the Transatlantic Legislative Dialogue, was present in the Committee for an exchange of views on two selected items for discussion: Middle East cooperation and the issue of nationalizations in Latin America.

Mr. Stirn, head of the US Congress delegation, made an introductory speech in which he highlighted the importance of the transatlantic dialogue given that the EU and US taken together represented some 820 Million citizens in total, that they were important economies worldwide and had many issues of interest in common. He referred to the issues discussed in Copenhagen: job and growth creation, financial markets regulation and cyber- and transport security.

In introducing the debate, the Chair outlined the situation with regard to the increasing violence in Syria, regretted that EU sanctions were not having the expected impact, and referred to the difficulties in reaching a common approach within the UNSC as a consequence of the Russian stance. He also referred to the "double track" diplomacy being applied to Iran and to the state of play on the Middle East Peace Process (MEPP).

MEPs referred to the issue of security of investments in Latin America (Mr. Salafranca, EPP, ES, Lunacek, Greens/EFA, AT), to the situation in Syria (Gomes, S&D, PT, Bütiköfer, Greens/EFA, DE), the MEPP (Neyts, ALDE, BE, Atkins, ECR, UK, De Keyser, S&D, BE) and the worrying social and political situation in Egypt (Tzavela, EFD, EL).

The exchange of views which followed highlighted in particular a number of differences in the approach on both sides of the Atlantic to the MEPP with regard to the respective responsibilities of Israel and the Palestinians in failing to find a peaceful and durable two-state solution.

Mr. Stirn concluded by welcoming the opportunity to meet the Committee, and said he looked forward to a future exchange of views with MEPs.

The Chair Mr. Brok suggested that there was a need to reflect on burden sharing between the EU and US on the issues discussed during the meeting and on ways to make better use of the Quartet.

#### **4. Any other business**

#### **5. Next meeting(s)**

- 18 June 2012, 15.00 – 18.30 (Brussels)
- 19 June 2012, 9.00 – 12.30 and 15.00 – 18.30 (Brussels)