

# **EPP Enlarged Group Bureau Meeting**

## ***EIN SUMMER UNIVERSITY***

### ***The European Way of Life***

**24.05 - 25.05.2018**

***Radisson Blu Hotel, Elizabetes 55, Riga 1010  
Latvia***

## **A4 MINUTES**

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EIN-A4 (24-05-2018)

**Round Table 1 - RESPONSIBILITY UNION - External policies of the Union and development**

**Chair:** **Françoise GROSSETÊTE MEP**, Vice-Chairwoman of the EPP Group in the EP responsible for the Working Group on Economy and Environment

**Panellists:**

**Ian Bond**, Director of Foreign Policy, Centre for European Reform

**Isabel Meirelles**, Expert in European Studies and Auditor in National Defence at Instituto de Defesa Nacional (Portugal)

**Jennifer Jackson-Preece**, Deputy Head of the European Institute, London School of Economics

- Brexit - don't "through the baby with the bathwater". The divorce should undergo in a peaceful fashion. Will influence EU foreign policy (aims, tools). Reflection needed.
- EU as a leading trading block can establish sanction regimes that can severely "bite". In case of Russian sanctions a Magnitzky type list (individualised sanctions) could be even more effective.
- Future EU-UK cooperation in foreign policy should not face special obstacles. Values, principles and interests (in general) will unite us. The UK in the P5.
- How will the future foreign and security policy look? US and UK are leaving, the east is in self-isolation, the south is weaker because of austerity.
- On US the EU should not give into trade protectionism.
- The EU is side-lined from the most important diplomatic negotiations. In the case of the war in Syria the EU issued over 100 statements! What have been their impact?
- Development aid - UK is a strong contributor (0.7% GDP annually). The focus of EU development policy needs to be on combating the root causes of poverty.
- Migration - when it is regularised, set up programmes for young and talented people to come and study in the EU & work a bit later. Positive economic effect: increasing remittance flows. An additional soft power effect - transferring European values once they go back home and follow them in their everyday life.
- Security and development nexus - no sustainable development without security & vice versa. Consensus on development is based on 4 Ps: people, planet, prosperity, peace.
- Future of European defence - current geopolitical environment is conducive for progress (important tools: PESCO, EDF, the industrial defence programme). PESCO should be a motor of integration in defence. Need for explicit political will of Member States, not at expense of national sovereignty. Internet is a new theatre of operations.
- Need to fulfil the commitment of spending 2% GDP on defence. Convincing citizens to this is a daunting task. Our security however has no price tag.
- Russia - naive attitude of Europe. Russians are very skilful in identifying our internal divisions and exploring them to our detriment.
- Terrorism is a major security challenge. It has many faces (ideological, religious, issue oriented). Fighting it starts at home. Member States are too small to fight it alone.
- Fighting terrorism should not be seen in isolation from challenges of radicalism, extremism or fake news. Defending our values and principles is becoming the crucial task of the XXI century. It requires a concerted effort of all concerned.

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**Round Table 2 - UNION OF OPPORTUNITIES - Economic growth, industrial competitiveness, research and innovation**

**Chair:** **Krišjānis KARIŅŠ** MEP, EPP Group Coordinator and Member of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy in the EP

**Panellists:**

**Tine Baelmans**, Vice Rector for Educational Policy responsible for Innovation and Entrepreneurship, KU Leuven

**Gatis Krūmiņš**, Latvian Economic Historian, Rector of Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences

**Alexander Mankowsky**, Science Futurist at Daimler

**Michael Maibach**, Former President and CEO at European-American Business Council, and Managing Director at James Wilson Institute

- Latvian economic history is very rich and diverse, many regimes / powers have crossed these lands; during USSR occupation, for example, Latvia was net contributor country to the central budget, and therefore Latvia has hard times to find itself for now on the receiving end of EU budget;
- To bring together and promote EU diversity we can use technology (also big data); artificial intelligence is picking-up quickly;
- Technological and scientific progress brings new challenges in a form of quantity of years lived vs quality of live;
- Health related expenditures are rapidly becoming unsustainable burden even for the budgets of the countries, therefore life-long wellness (physical, mental and from nutrition point of view) in an increasingly aging society is a key to bring down health expenses for Member States coffers and contribute to ensure quality of live;
- Normally economic growth of developed countries on average has 2-3% growth per year, while health expenses on average are rising of 6-8% yearly, this disparity must be dealt with to ensure universal access to the healthcare;
- It is important to maintain certain level of productivity of the people after traditional retirement age; the information age makes it as easy as never before to share/spread the knowledge / skills all around the world. As an example, one can assess x-ray pictures from any place in the world while heaving his/her mooring coffee at home, thus also increasing availability of the medical care in the regions of the world where access to the qualified specialists is difficult.
- Creativity of the people is not diminishing over time, it only takes new forms, and digital platforms are most common example;
- Socially responsible behaviour lays with education and knowing your own identity leads to respect of the diversity.

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**Round Table 3 - SECURITY UNION - EU Security and defence and strategies on counter terrorism and extremism**

**Chair:** **Esteban GONZÁLEZ PONS MEP**, Vice-Chairman of the EPP Group in the EP responsible for the Working Group on Legal and Home Affairs

**Co-Chair:** **Artis PABRIKS MEP**, Chairman of EIN Task force on Security and Member of the Committee on International Trade

**Guest Speaker:** **Urmas Reinsalu**, Minister of Justice of the Republic of Estonia

**Panellists:**

**Sylvia Hartleif**, Leader of the Foreign Policy Team, EPSC

**Jānis Kažociņš**, National Security Adviser to the President and Secretary to the National Security Council at the Office of the President of Latvia

- We experience a more volatile and unpredictable security environment - Brexit, Trump (transactional approach, Atlanticism under pressure), “adventurous” Russia, assertive Balkans, proxy wars in the Middle East, terrorism, extremism, radicalisation, populism.
- There is risk of military aggression against EU sovereignty. Global balance of power is shifting need to address it urgently
- The west’s commitment to defend freedom and democracy is regularly tested
- UU withdrawal from JCPOA should not be a surprise. Need to lower EU-US tensions.
- Russia have big capabilities in EU area. Europe suffers a kind of “Stockholm syndrome” towards Russia
- EU - NATO relations have been upgraded to an unprecedented level, following the signing of the Joint Declaration in 2016 in Warsaw.
- Gerasimov doctrine - Russian actions in the future will be different from what we are experiencing now
- We need more of Magnitsky type laws targeting specific persons. Sanctions are the only effective tool democratic states can apply.
- Work with allies has costs, though interoperability with US is crucial.
- In foreign policy the EU is facing an assertive Russia, the rise of China and crisis in the transatlantic relationship.
- Modernization of the People’s Liberation Army and territorial claims towards areas without prior Chinese presence can be a sparkle destabilising the Asia-Pacific region. The Belt & Road Initiative is not as much a commercial project, as it is geopolitical
- China will become the biggest military power in the world instead of US. Question is when.
- We need clear rules of fiscal compact and basis for obligations as well as military compact.
- In the western world people believe they live worse than their parents and that their children will live worse than they themselves, as opposed to developing countries.
- We need to target money laundering more - Europol believes we only catch 2% of criminal assets.
- Foreign criminals should be deported from Europe.
- We should include obligation of integration according to European values in formal act with consequences to leave EU. Parallel cultures should not take firm root in Europe.
- Geography is not a choice, it is a destiny.
- Defence spending among EU MS is significant as well as the amount of soldiers under arms, but the effectiveness of our spending is very poor (15% in comparison to the US).
- We need to explain to citizens why we need to take care of our security and binding commitments mean political will. We have been insanely frugal in our defence, we need political will to commit to it fully.
- Many EU citizens do not expect war, they believe wars happen only on TV, so it is difficult to convince that we need to defend the EU.
- Historically it shows that a major war happens every 100 years
- If EU cannot defend itself from hard threats, then neither from cyber threats.
- Stronger EU defence will contribute to stronger NATO but there is a danger of mixing alliances with technical differences.
- In-coming rounds of PESCO projects should become more strategic.

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**Round Table 4 - UNION OF VALUES**

*Chair: Paulo RANGEL MEP, Vice-Chairman of the EPP Group in the EP, EIN Chairman*

*Panellists:*

**Michael Bruter**, *Professor of Political Science and European Politics, Department of Government, London School of Economics*

**Jaime Mayor Oreja**, *President of Fundación Valores y Sociedad and Former Member of the European Parliament*

**Angelos Chrystosgelos**, *Teaching Fellow in International Relations & Politics, Department of European & International Studies, King's College London*

- The fact that the European identity with its 2 components (civic and cultural) is in a time of crisis is also a consequence of misunderstanding the fact that it doesn't go against national identities on one hand, nor it does imply accepting all EU policies on the other; not everybody feels equally European, but the European identity is something already accepted and lived on a daily basis;
- The crisis the EU is facing is also a crisis of values. Having a debate about roots and Christian values, creating a community of values through reconciling them should be a priority for the EPP;
- The EU represents the idea of political and socio-economic liberalism and it should continue to reflect the values of liberal democracies;
- There can be different readings of what Christian values are and it should be accepted in the context of liberal democracies that there are parts of the EU where there is no conscious reference to Christian values;
- While defending (Christian) values, it is crucial not to leave the novelty rhetoric to the populist and extremist parties.

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EIN-A4 (25-05-2018)

**Panel 1 - In which way does the European way of life affect the relation between EU and Russia?**

**Chair:** **Sandra KALNIETE MEP**, Vice-Chairwoman of the EPP Group in the EP responsible for the Working Group on Foreign Affairs and Eastern Neighbourhood

**Panellists:**

**Ales Michalevic**, Lawyer, Former Belarusian Presidential Candidate and Coordinator of the Program Council of the Belarusian Movement for Freedom

**Carla Thorson**, Senior Vice President, Programs, World Affairs Council

**Florian Hartleb**, Political Scientist, Hanse Advice

**Tomi Huhtanen**, Executive Director, Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies

- Since 1990s Russian views on Europe have gradually turned from positive to negative and many Russians returned to Russia because of huge anti-Western propaganda and Russian state incentives; there is frustration over the loss of the cold war and loss of prestige.
- We need to work with Russian regions, because each of them have different systems and they may break up for which the EU might be blamed.
- Our hope is set on the younger Russian generation, because for the Russian elite “Europe” means quality; they have EU residence permits and they send their children to European schools.
- Both EU radical right and left have agreements with President Putin's United Russia.
- There is a fundamental disagreement between EU and Russia on the norms of the international order, the rule of law and values; we must defend our way of life.
- We need worthy channels of communication with Russia to discuss certain issues like Iran, but we need to be aware with whom we are dealing.
- It was clear in 1989 that Russia wanted to be a part of Europe, but there was a shift in this position when President Putin came to power; the Russian leadership has moved away from Europe; President Putin disconnects himself from daily politics; our problems with Russia will not change if President Putin is replaced.
- For Russians in the Baltic States President Putin signifies Russia.
- In order to push Russia back it is important to turn the EU neighbourhood policy into a success; the neighbourhood policy should become a priority for the EU; we are not ready for war.
- We need to support the Russian opposition; there is the need of a new approach towards Russia.
- It is fine to have a dialogue with Russia, but we need to be clear on our values; the economic development of Russia is important and this should be acknowledged.
- Russian cyberattacks are a serious threat to the security in Europe.

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EIN-A4 (25-05-2018)

**Panel 2 - In which way does the European way of life protect Human dignity?**

**Chair:** **Miroslav MIKOLÁŠIK MEP**, *Member of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety in the EP*

**Panellists:**

**Prof. Nathalie Nevejans**, *Robotics Law and Ethics Expert, Faculty of Douai, France*

**Roger Kiska**, *Legal Counsel, Christian Legal Centre, London*

**Dr. Alexandra Henrion Caude**, *Director of Research, National Institute of Health and Medical Research in France (INSERM), Paris*

- It is important to protect Human dignity by developing human life and human spirituality.
- The European Resolution from February 2017 about the legal personality of robots was criticized, since robots do not have human perception, nor human conscience or emotions. Thus, we cannot recognize them similar rights.
- There is no proper definition of a robot.
- Legal situation of Human dignity: Health care systems' position is often inadequate to human expectation. In which way the medicine is going?
- Sometimes a doctor has an antilife position like euthanasia. However, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of the United Nations underline the importance of respecting the dignity of all human beings.
- Genetic information and scientific manipulations: new technologies are linked to medical genetic research.
- There are a lot of fantasies regarding these topics, which are often not founded in any Human Legal ethical solution.
- Human rights must be defended by the European Institutions, especially by the EP.

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**Panel 3 - In which way does the European way of life shape our Common Security and Stability in the Mediterranean region?**

**Chair:** **Santiago FISAS AYXELÀ MEP**, *Member of the Delegation for relations with the Maghreb countries and the Arab Maghreb Union and Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean in the EP*

**Panellists:**

**Daniel Schwammenthal**, *Director of AJC's Transatlantic Institute in Brussels*

**Walid Phares**, *Co-Secretary General, Trans-Atlantic Legislative Group on Counter Terrorism*

**Giuseppe Acconcia**, *Journalist and researcher on Iran and Middle East*

- The panellists highlighted that there is an intrinsic linkage between security, stability and economic development in the Mediterranean and our own European security. It is evident that the challenge of migration is linked to these challenges. Growth and development are needed to ensure that its population has a perspective in their homes.
- The hopes and aspirations of the Arab Spring have not led to a true democratisation of the region, but, as the Tunisian president once said, led more to an “Arab Winter”.
- In Europe, we are victims of our own success, but we forget that our success is a result of many wars, loss of life, as well as the support by the Americans after WW2. We too often believe the world should just be like us, but in reality, it is more violent and Hobbesian. Regarding Syria, diplomacy alone is simply not enough to solve the situation, a back-up of strength is needed and here the European approach of soft power was really exposed, since it shows that Europeans have forgotten how to defend themselves. It is simply a fact that the Muslim world is in a deep identity crisis and that the EU has yet to find its answer to this. We should not forget that Israel, which stands out like a villa in a jungle, is our closest partner in the region, with whom we have a partnership based on values and cooperate closely on counter terrorism, intelligence sharing as well as technological cooperation. We should not forget the crimes committed by Iran and Hamas, and focus on our long-term goals.
- For the USA the Mediterranean is a synonym for waves of migrants. The instable situation in Libya and the need to stabilise the country and secure its long coastal border, which is the origin of many boats coming to Europe. In the same light, the southern border of Libya must also be monitored and enforced. In Syria, the situation has somewhat stabilised, with Assad in the West (supported by Iran and Hezbollah), Turkey in the North and the Kurdish in the East (supported by the US).
- The Arab Spring often has not led to democracy, but more to militarism as in Egypt. Referring to the situation in Turkey what the true intentions of the government in pursuing military actions against the Kurds?
- Libya is key in order to reach true regional stability. It is necessary to find a government of national unity here. Iran also plays a key role for the stability of Afghanistan and Iraq. If the US were to pull out of Syria, just as they did in Iraq, this could further strengthen radical forces there. It is clear that the EU would have to find a strategy here, since overall it is perceived as weak in the region and as simply reacting rather than having a real goal.
- It is important to support Christian populations, who are among the most vulnerable groups in the region and who have suffered a lot in the past and often are still at high risk.
- It is necessary to find our own EU strategy and to not just follow the US.

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**Panel 4 - In which way does the European way of life affect the future of EU Transatlantic relations?**

**Chair:** Prof. Dr. Inese VAIDERE MEP, Member of the Committee on Budgets in the EP

**Panellists:**

**Craig Kennedy**, Senior Fellow, Hudson Institute Washington D.C.

**Dan O'Brien**, Chief Economist, Irish Institute for European Affairs

**Žaneta Ozoliņa**, Professor, University of Latvia, Member of European Council of Foreign Affairs

- The US expects the EU Member States to spend 2% of GDP on defence, because the US needs partners on security; it is a fact that the EU Member States will still be dependent on the US for their security.
- The US is an important and reliable partner, because we share the same values and the US has a strong democratic system; it is good for the US to see the EU as a partner.
- The EU is taken seriously by the US when it acts as one.
- The EU and the US should work together on a set of issues related to China, for example concerning the automotive sector.
- The EU and the US should work together on the next generation of security technologies.
- The trade and investment relationship is very strong and a war on trade would push both sides into a recession.
- The relations between the EU and the US have been challenged; the question is how to respond on issues like for example the nuclear deal with Iran.
- Diplomacy should be the dominant factor in international relations and not military force.
- Many US citizens wonder if positions of Europeans on certain matters are realistic, for example on the issue of climate change; many US citizens believe that you can do without the Paris Agreement.
- There is a clash of values between the EU and the US, which is not something new.
- There is no European way of life without democratic values; the EU expects that other countries, including the US, adhere to that principle.
- In the EU it is felt that the US President is not treating it in a serious and mature way, for example on budgetary matters, Free Trade Agreements and the JCPOA; some feel that the EU has lost its traditional partner.
- The US President uses a language that is direct and open, instead of diplomatic and cautious.
- When American companies have issues with EU legislation, they know more and more how to address them.