

Round Table- Transatlantic relations

Chairwoman:

Mairead McGUINNESS MEP, *Vice-Chairwoman of the EP*

Guest Speakers:

Jose Manuel GONZALEZ-PARAMO, *Chairman of Transatlantic Business Dialogue and Executive Board Member of BBVA*

John BRUTON, *Former Prime- minister of Ireland*

Panellists:

David McALLISTER MEP, *Chairman of the Delegation for relations with United States in the EP*

Jon B. PERDUE, *Director of Latin America Programs at the Fund for American Studies*

- It is very important to tell our US partners that we are serious about TTIP. But the time has now also come to tell our public about the importance for Europe of this trade deal.
- We cannot allow the public to have a negative opinion about TTIP nor trade in general! This is a responsibility for us, which we must take seriously and work continuously on.
- It will reduce cost of regulation which is mainly born by small businesses and consumers. Big businesses can cope with these costs and even find ways around them.
- For EU companies it is important to have access to U.S. state and local procurements, and not only to federal procurements. This would be a clear advantage of TTIP.
- We should hold out for a big deal, rather than accepting several small deals.
- If we succeed, our approach to consumer protection, such as the Precautionary principle- can become the norm. Otherwise these regulations will be done elsewhere, with little European influence.
- Energy should be part of TTIP.
- Common norms are likely to give a 25% increase in competitiveness.
- Risk of back lash against Free trade in the ongoing primary campaigns; even some Republicans are voicing critical remarks.
- It should not be forgotten that TTIP is not just about business; it is also about values and geopolitics.
- TTIP can have a great potential for climate innovation.
- There are cross checks on US products, but there is no check on raw materials from the likes of China. TTIP could free up capacity to do that.
- EP work is divided between US Delegation/ AFET/ Transatlantic Legislators' dialogue
- There are very good contacts with the House, but the contacts with the Senate should be reinforced.
- We should improve the coordination from the European side when MEPs (representing different Committees) tend to be in Washington DC at the same time.
- US Delegation should take the lead from the EP side.
- When inviting US law makers, it makes sense to bring them elsewhere in Europe than Brussel. This heightens their interest.