



# USEU SNAPSHOTS

## WORKING TOGETHER, SHARING INTERESTS

(A NEWSLETTER FROM THE U.S. MISSION TO THE EUROPEAN UNION)



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U.S. Attorney General Holder (L) and Czech Justice Minister Posposol (R) celebrating the Agreement on Extradition and Mutual Legal Assistance | © Czech Ministry of Justice

### U.S.-EU Justice and Home Affairs Ministerial in Prague

U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder and Department of Homeland Security Deputy Secretary Jane Holl Lute participated, along with their EU Presidency, Council Secretariat, and Commission counterparts, in the U.S.-EU Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) Ministerial meeting on April 28 in Prague. Topics discussed included: expanding and deepening our cooperation, border management, data privacy and law enforcement information sharing, counter-terrorism, and child protection, among others. The discussions identified next steps and concrete actions. Czech Interior Minister Ivan Langer and Commission Vice-President Jacques Barrot led the meeting and introduced the new Director of Europol, Robert Wainwright. The meeting ended with statements by Swedish Justice Minister Beatrice Ask and Migration Minister Tobias Billstrom about what they foresaw for the next Presidency, particularly in light of the next JHA 5-year plan, the Stockholm Programme. The Attorney General discussed

the President's directive to close the detention center on Guantanamo, explaining the various steps in the process. The DHS Deputy Secretary addressed issues including the Visa Waiver Program, the upcoming joint review of the U.S.-EU Passenger Name Record (PNR) review, and the mutual interest in transatlantic cooperation on Critical Infrastructure Protection. EU and U.S. officials also committed to broadening cooperation to combat transnational exploitation of children and to continuing expert level work at Europol, Eurojust and in countering terrorist uses of explosives, especially homemade explosives and IEDs. After the meeting the U.S. and the Czech Republic and the U.S. and Sweden exchanged instruments of ratification and signed bilateral protocols for the U.S.-EU extradition and mutual legal assistance agreements. Only two member states (Belgium and Greece) have yet to complete their internal approval processes and the agreements will then enter into force. In addition, the U.S. and Frontex (the EU's external border agency) signed a "working arrangement," which is expected to foster greater cooperation on border policies and operations.

### Data Privacy Discussion at The Centre

During her recent visit to Brussels, Mary Ellen Callahan, the Chief Privacy Officer of the Department of Homeland Security, consulted with her various counterparts at the European Commission and Council Secretariat. In a program at The Centre, she discussed the common respect for individuals' personal data on both sides of the Atlantic despite differences in European and U.S. legal traditions and approaches. The EU Directive on Data Privacy dates from 1995 and applies to commercial and other "first pillar" issues whereas the 1974 US Privacy Act is but one of many U.S. laws controlling the use, collection, processing and exchange of personal information. Unlike the European approach that favors an independent data privacy official and a single statute, the U.S. relies on a complex and layered approach with responsibilities in all three branches of Government. Ms. Callahan will visit other European capitals in June to repeat the message and provide facts about the U.S. system for Justice and Interior Ministry officials and try to dispel myths that the U.S. is not concerned about protecting personal data.



Mary Ellen Callahan (L) and Paul Adamson (R) | © Nausher Ali | U.S. Mission to the EU

### ENA Interns Meet U.S. Officials



Chargé Murray briefs ENA students  
© Marijke Hendrickx | U.S. Mission to the EU

The U.S. Mission to the EU hosted a discussion program May 26 for students from the French Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA) as part of the Mission's outreach to the next generation of European and global leaders. One of France's most prestigious academic institutions, the ENA now hosts students from many countries, including this year from Germany, Switzerland, Austria, and Tunisia. The ENA students are in Brussels for six-month internships in EU institutions and European Missions to the EU. In five hours of discussions hosted by Chargé d'Affaires Chris Murray, the students and Mission officials engaged in a lively, deep and wide-ranging exchange of views on issues around the world, including political and economic relations, trade, homeland security and development.

## Spanish Policy Makers Visit the U.S. Mission



L to R: Cosido, Bryan, Lasheras, Murray, Xucla, Saez, Corcuera, Colom, Febrel | © U.S. Mission to the EU

A group of six Spanish policymakers visited the U.S. Mission to the EU in April to learn more about U.S.-EU relations in advance of next year's Spanish Presidency. In Brussels on a trip organized by the U.S. Mission to NATO, the Spaniards energetically engaged a Spanish-speaking panel of USEU officials

from State and Commerce Departments on a broad range of issues including trade, European Security and Defense Policy, and commercial relations. The policy-maker group was composed of specialists in defense and security from the Spanish government and military, a think-tank, and elected members of Parliament.

## Transatlantic Legislators Intensify Cooperation

The Transatlantic Legislators Dialogue (TLD) met in Prague from April 17 through 20 to discuss current political and economic issues. Co-chaired by Rep. Shelley Berkley (Democrat from Nevada) and MEP Jonathan Evans (UK-EPP-ED), the TLD brought together more than 20 members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the European Parliament. Czech Foreign Minister Schwarzenberg, representing the



Transatlantic Legislators in Prague | © European Parliament

Presidency of the EU, addressed the group and answered questions on the financial crisis, energy and climate change, the EU's eastern

neighbors, WTO negotiations, and other areas of common interest. Special sessions were held with Department of State and European Commission representatives on Afghanistan and Pakistan, Guantanamo Bay, and the Transatlantic Economic Council. The Representatives and the MEPs agreed that the legislative branch has an important role to play in the process of transatlantic cooperation and they discussed ways of making greater contributions to that process. They also agreed that more frequent dialogue would be helpful, and decided to hold video conferences on specific issues between their two annual meetings. Participants looked for ways to ensure the continued strength of the ties they had created, especially in light of Jonathan Evans' decision not to run for reelection to the EP this year. His leadership of the TLD, of the EP's Delegation for Relations with the U.S., and his support for transatlantic cooperation will be sorely missed.

## U.S. Middle East Envoy Consults EU on Next Steps

On April 22, U.S. Special Envoy to the Middle East George Mitchell discussed developments in the region with representatives of the 27 EU member states. Following his first trip to the Middle East as President Obama's Special Envoy, Senator Mitchell stopped in Brussels to consult EU Ambassadors on the challenges and prospects for peace in the region. EU Ambassadors concurred with Mitchell's assessment that leaders in the region must act immediately to reverse the prevailing view of "the inevitability of conflict." They also supported his call for transatlantic unity going forward in search of peace.



Mitchell arrives in Israel | © U.S. Embassy Tel Aviv | Matty Stern

## American and European University Students Organize "Sparks of Future" Summit on Global Affairs

Politically engaged European and American university students came together in Brussels, May 23-26, to learn from each other and share ideas for addressing international problems and to launch youth initiatives in the fields of culture, research, economy, education, and sustainability. The



American "Ivy Council" student leaders represented eight U.S. Ivy League universities which aim to foster strong international relations from an early stage. The European Students Forum (Association des Etats Generaux des Etudiants de l'Europe – AEGEE) works to overcome national, cultural, and

ethnic divisions and to create a vision of young people's Europe and to forge relationships with youth across the world. Together, they organized this year's "Ivy-Europe-Middle East Summit." In Brussels, they discussed transatlantic relations with the U.S. Mission to the EU's Counselor for Public Affairs, Renee Earle, and European issues with the European Commission and Parliament. From Brussels, they traveled to Geneva and Istanbul.

