



[www.ein.eu](http://www.ein.eu)

EIN-A4

(5-05-2017)

**EIN joint seminar with Instituto Francisco Sá Carneiro and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation on:**  
**"The Future of Europe"**  
**Oporto - Portugal**

**Panel 3- Transatlantic Relations, Security and Defence**

**Chair: Mairead McGuinness, Vice-President of the European Parliament**

**Speakers:**

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

**Kristine Berzina, Transatlantic Fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the US (GMF's), Brussels office**

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

**Edita Hrdá, Managing Director for the Americas at the EEAS European External Action Service**

- The relationship between the European Union (EU) and the United States (USA) is the logical consequence of their history. They are strongly connected and they depend on each other on a variety of matters.
- The two regions have a robust relationship with exchanges of trade, services and investments. They depend on each other to grow. For that reason, after American request, TTIP is still an option, contrary to other trade agreements agreed under Obama's administration.
- In terms of Defence and Security relations, the cooperation between the USA and the EU has weakened. The EU has to unify its action in terms of Foreign and Security Policy. NATO has become a weakened organisation for a common action and ambassadors from different EU Member States in Washington D.C. are setting bilateral talks on the security relations they want to have with the USA. When the USA asked for more expenditure on NATO that might mean they will need it in the future.
- Brexit will also complicate the transatlantic relationship since the USA has economic and security interests in the EU and in the United Kingdom (UK).
- The EU and the USA are also facing major challenges at the global stage that require transatlantic cooperation and beyond. There are four main domains that should be addressed together: Russia's influence, not only in Europe but worldwide; counterterrorism, concerning actions on Syria and Libya; «new emerging hybrid threats», such as fake news, propaganda, cyber press, strategic communications; and issues related to Asia, such as North Korea and China. If the USA is at risk, the EU will also be at risk.
- In terms of security and prevention of radicalisation, there is a widespread conspiracy theory in the middle-east against the West in general and the USA, specifically. Therefore, the EU cannot continue funding Muslims Mosques that are under Salafists' support from Saudi Arabia. In addition, the EU should have a new approach concerning Muslims, by preventing foreign funding, when it is used to brainwash and harm European citizens. Nonetheless, this conspiracy theory has nothing to do with religious doctrine.
- The EU and the USA should challenge fundamental beliefs among Muslim populations to be able to tackle Islamic terrorism. This should not be seen as interfering in internal matters of countries such as Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia and even Turkey. However, whatever happens in those countries, in their societies, in their schools and universities, in their TVs and in their textbooks, concerns the fundamental beliefs that could influence our societies.
- In relation to Iran, the transatlantic cooperation is needed and the EU should have a more critical view on the nuclear deal. For the European countries, Iran's not posing a serious threat and that feeling should change. Iran requires a broader answer rather than one only aimed to the Arabic Islam.
- The USA and the EU experience some clash of values on issues other than Security and Defence such as environmental concerns or internet surveillance. The USA is not against some invasive however sophisticated data analysis. These fields might have a negative impact on the transatlantic relations to come.
- In conclusion, Canada should be included on the equation when discussing transatlantic relations.