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**Comments during the opening reception
in the Delegation of the European Union to the United States**

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I have been in this place in different capacities several times over the last years but for the first time I have the pleasure to be here as chair of the Committee for Constitutional Affairs of the European Parliament. Inter institutional relations are an important element of AFCO competences and I would like to wholeheartedly thank Ambassador David O'Sullivan for creating the possibility of this inter institutional European encounter on the American soil.

We, the members of European Parliament work with our American partners using a number of channels and platforms but we have been always rather sectorial in our approach, focusing on concrete policies and policy measures.

But there are moments when we can see with clarity that behind those sectorial issues there are shared values and principles. When combined with political will and readiness, they create a good foundation for achieving additional value added from cooperation. One of those moments we are living now.

TTIP has created an opportunity to look at regulatory practices on both sides of the Atlantic, at constitutional similarities and differences. It is allowing us to discover potential for strengthened cooperation in the future.

We are both parts of the same global world, increasingly unpredictable, full of conflicts, messy.

Deeper transatlantic cooperation builds confidence and capacity to act together globally, to recuperate global agenda, to teach President Putin geography so that he knows where Russia is and where Russia is not.

It would be good to come one day on this side of the Atlantic and see it boring.

Unfortunately this is not the case. Important things happen on both sides of the Atlantic. On both sides of the Atlantic we have our small battles. They prevent us from looking beyond the horizon, more long term.

TTIP is an opportunity to put small battles away, to acquire a new, different perspective, to understand that doing things transatlantic way might be much more effective than doing things our own way on both sides of the Atlantic.

TTIP has taught us that there is a huge unexploited potential in reaching beyond policies toward regulatory framework, toward better understanding of constitutional similarities and differences. We, in AFCO believe that what we introduce through

TTIP, this new dimension of cooperation, can contribute to the mindset change and upgrade our relations to what challenges of the XXI century demand from us.