Briefing for Director-General Juul Jørgensen

BILATERAL WITH U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Request (ENER/ 7494)

Approved by: ENER TF3

SCENE SETTER

Who
You will be accompanied by Cristina Lobillo Borrero, [redacted]
Participants:

When
30 October 2023 at 12:00-12:45

Where
US Chamber of Commerce

Why
The EU’s position is to remain an attractive place to invest, manufacture and deploy clean energy technologies. In the meeting you should briefly outline the EU initiatives to promote clean tech investments but most notably you should listen to the views of the US companies, both as regards the energy investment climate in the US and in the EU.

Highlight the strength of the transatlantic bond, even if there are differences in approaching certain issues (notably in the context of IRA).

Highlight the importance of transatlantic partnerships and the importance of a secure and sustainable supply of CRMs for the energy transition, and also acknowledged the need to streamline workstreams. You also highlighted the Critical Raw Materials Act.

Explain the latest EU framework to support clean tech (Report on EU policy initiatives for the promotion of investments in clean technologies, adopted on 24 October 2023)

Our interest to continue working closely with the US in various plurilateral fora (such as Conference on Critical Materials and Minerals, the G7, the new IEA Critical Minerals Working Party on critical raw materials and the Minerals Security Partnership).

Topics
- Overall EU-US transatlantic energy cooperation for security and decarbonisation
- EU framework to promote investments in clean technologies.
- EU assessment of the impact of the Inflation Reduction Act
- US companies views on the clean tech investment climate in the US and in the EU
KEY MESSAGES

• The EU has succeeded in turning the crisis into an opportunity to accelerate the clean energy transition by taking strong and united action – thanks to the REpowerEU Plan, the EU has fully compensated for the missing Russian gas volumes.

• Thanks to 1) record roll-out of renewables, 2) energy savings, and 3) energy diversification.

• Ahead of the winter 2023/2024, the EU’s energy security situation has improved compared to last year thanks to the availability of different energy sources, filled gas storages (now at 98%), reduced energy demand and increasingly diversified energy suppliers.

• Transatlantic cooperation played and will play a key role (Task Force).

• In parallel, in the context of the Fit for 55 package and the REPowerEU plan, the EU agreed new more ambitious 2030 targets for renewable energies and energy efficiency.

• We have accelerated the installation of renewable energy capacities, proposed new legislative framework for the reduction of methane emissions, and have been creating a legal framework for renewable hydrogen.

• Globally, the clean-tech race is in full swing. All major economies are seeking to improve the competitiveness of their clean technology industries, including the US, China, Canada, and Japan.

• EU created its own framework, based on the European Green Deal, to create good conditions for a strong manufacturing basis in the clean tech sector. We proposed Green Deal Industrial Plan. We adopted Net Zero Industry Act, Critical Minerals Act and most recently a European Wind Power Action Plan.
• Transatlantic cooperation plays a key role reaffirmed by Leaders on 20 October 2023 in Washington – to advance reliable, sustainable, affordable and secure energy transition.

• Positives:
  o cooperation under the Task Force on Energy Security and the EU-US Energy Council,
  o Global Methane Pledge,
  o Global pledge for RES and EE at COP28;
  o Support to Ukraine

• Altogether, as our Leaders stated:
  o “We are deepening our cooperation to reflect the pressing challenges and opportunities of our time - strengthening our economic security; advancing reliable, sustainable, affordable, and secure energy transitions in our economies and globally; reinforcing multilateralism and international cooperation; and harnessing digital technologies to work for, not against, our shared values of democracy and respect for human rights and the rule of law. We are more united than ever.”