

	<p>BRIEFING</p> <p><i>Origin: DG TRADE</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Subject: EU-US trade relations in times of US tariff and sanctions policy ○ Meeting / Official visit / Event: DG meeting Art. 4.1 (b) ○ Date: 27 June 2019, 12:00 ○ Place: Brussels
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SCENE SETTER

You will meet with Art.4.1 (b), a lawyer by training, who is president and managing partner of McLarty Associates. McLarty is an offshoot of Kissinger Associates and advises mainly multinational clients on country risk analysis and other government affairs issues. Art.4.1 (b) worked in the Clinton White House as the Advisor for Western Hemisphere Affairs (CV in background). He is familiar with trade policy issues and is well-connected in the political ecosystem in Washington DC. He will be happy to share his views with you on evolving political developments in DC, and he has in the past briefed several Commissioners on the subject.

CHECKLIST OF KEY MESSAGES

- Grateful if you could give me your assessment of the political situation in DC.
- On Trade: EU trade relations with the US are complex and require careful management. We have the deepest economic relation in the world, but also several difficult and important disputes (steel, cars, aircraft). Our views of the WTO have also been diverging. We are also trying to find shared responses to address the China challenge.
- On Sanctions: You wished to discuss these. The increasing targeting of EU companies through US sanctions is of concern to us. Sanctions should be used in agreement between the EU and US as strong security partners, not against each other.
- The EU is countering the Iran sanctions and the application of the Helms-Burton Act through its Blocking Statute. Nevertheless, the only winner of the suing in US courts and countersuing in EU courts are the lawyers while our bilateral relations are put under pressure.

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- We are concerned about the implications of Senator Ted Cruz’ “Protecting Europe’s Energy Security Act” against Nord Stream 2. The EU has made large steps to improve its security of energy supply, for example through liquefied natural gas (LNG) imports from the US. Art. 4.1 (a)

- Art. 4.1(α)

- We would be interested in your views on President Trump’s and his administration’s stance towards further sanctions

Art. 4.1.(a)

BACKGROUND

Art. 4.1 (a)

While ultimately trying to force Cuba to reduce its support of the Venezuelan regime, the recent activation of the Helms-Burton Act (also known as LIBERTAD Act of 1996) against persons “trafficking” in US properties expropriated by the Cuban government in the 1960s means that EU economic operators active in Cuba can be sued in US courts, or company executives denied entry into the US. The US previously refrained from applying the Helms-Burton Act based on an EU-US Understanding from 1996.

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Art. 4.1. (b)