



## DG ENVIRONMENT

Head of Cabinet Vascega

American Chamber of Commerce to the EU

(BERL, 11 March 2020, 12h00)

### BRIEFING NOTE

**Scene setter / Context:**

*This is a courtesy visit by the American Chamber of Commerce to the EU (AmCham) at their request. The team will be led by AmCham's CEO Susan Danger, accompanied by [REDACTED]. Their CV's are attached. AmCham EU is a frequent visitor to ENV and last year they met with Directorate B to discuss Circular Economy issues.*

- *Based on the letter of congratulations to our Commissioner following his appointment (attached) they will no doubt wish to present the environmentally relevant aspects of their "Agenda for Action 2019-2014". This document (included in the briefing pack) gives their view of what should be the EU's priority areas for action, some of which touch upon environmental issues.*

*This meeting takes place the day after the scheduled adoption of the second Circular Economy Action Plan. It is suggested that the briefing material that will be produced for the adoption be used to frame the discussions on this theme.*

*It is suggested that we should be in listening mode and ask questions in response to what they present. As requested, some material is offered in the background section of this briefing labelled according to the headings of their agenda to give so input from our side if appropriate to the discussion.*

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

## **Lines to take**

### ***The European Green Deal and the Circular Economy Action Plan***

- Present the European Green Deal and its overall ambition to promote a transition towards a modern, resource efficient and competitive economy and transform Europe into a climate neutral continent by 2050, where natural capital and ecosystems are protected and growth is decoupled from resource use.
- Emphasize also the “just transition” element of the European Green deal, as well as the commitment of the Commission to smart regulation and for close engagement/partnerships with all stakeholders, including the private sector (e.g. Circular Plastics Alliance, EU Business and Biodiversity Platform, etc.)
- Elaborate in particular about the new Circular Economy Action Plan (CEAP)
- Emphasise that the new CEAP looks at the whole lifecycle of products, fostering sustainable resource use. It also tackles sectors of high circularity and high GHG emission reduction potential such as textiles, construction and electronics.
- Highlight that the Commission also just presented its new industrial strategy to address the twin challenge of the green and digital transformation and ensure that the EU remains competitive on global markets.
- Enquire about the work of their environment committee, what are the outputs? How can they help us in delivering the ambitions of the EGD and stepping up cooperation with the private sector to this end?
- Based on their presentation, question AmCham as to how they would suggest our service can carry some of these ideas forward.

### ***Under the AmCham EU, Agenda for Action priorities***

- If they present their Agenda for Action you could inform them of the Climate Pact and of our “citizens dialogues” (see background) as an example of our “engagement” work linked to their Action Agenda priority of “Empowering people/Inclusion”.
- In the same vein under their priority “investing in the future” you can tell them about the new research programme “Horizon Europe” (information in background)
  - Horizon Europe (2021-2027), the new R&I Programme of the EU, is under negotiation among the co-legislators. It is to enter into operation in 2021 (see background information).
  - The EU is striving to lead the social, economic and ecologic transitions towards sustainability at international level; notably ensuring common ethics approaches, safety standards and other regulatory matters for scientific

knowledge and new technologies development (e.g. artificial intelligence). Also reinforcing scientific capacity to better understand drivers of change and tackle emerging threats.

- That is why Pillar 2 (Global Challenges and Industrial Competitiveness), the main pillar of the programme focuses on a number of issues related to this transition (see table below)
- As in the past, Horizon Europe will be open to the participation of third-country researchers and institutes. The detailed modalities and funding opportunities are still part of the ongoing MFF negotiations. In this context, the EU and the USA could enhance the participation of international researchers and businesses in their R&D programmes, promoting researchers' mobility to create new career opportunities, and increase knowledge, creativity and innovation.

### ***EU-US bilateral relations***

- Although this organisation is “EU centric” and focussed on the interests of US business in Europe you could ask for their views on the current state of environmental protection in the USA and where they would see scope for collaboration between the EU and the US.
- Should it seem appropriate you could say that despite the difficulties in working with the current US Administration we are managing to develop a positive agenda on issues where we share a joint interest and priority with the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Those of most relevance to AmCham are:
  - Circular Economy
  - Air pollution
  - Water issues
  - Chemicals management
- In pursuing this positive agenda, last year DG Calleja visited the US EPA and then later hosted a return visit of the Head of the US EPA (Administrator -Andrew Wheeler) to DG Environment. It was followed up with a series of contacts and exchanges that continue to this day.

### ***Follow-up***

- Should they wish to go into more detail on any particular technical issue then offer to take contact with the appropriate technical units after the meeting.

## **Background information**

Attached background documents

- CVs for the three AmCham participants
- Congratulations letter to the Commissioner
- AmCham EU “Agenda for Action”
- Green Deal Communication Annex (Road Map of Key Actions)

### **1. The American Chamber of Commerce to the EU (AmCham EU)**

AmCham EU ([www.amchameu.eu](http://www.amchameu.eu)) presents itself as speaking for American companies committed to Europe on trade, investment and competitiveness issues. It says that it aims to ensure a growth-orientated business and investment climate in Europe and that AmCham EU facilitates the resolution of transatlantic issues that impact business and plays a role in creating better understanding of EU and US positions on business matters.

Its website reports that aggregate US investment in Europe totalled more than €2 trillion in 2018, directly supports more than 4.8 million jobs in Europe, and generates billions of euros annually in income, trade and research and development.

AmCham is in regular contact with DG ENV and last year has shown a particular interest in the Circular Economy work (meeting with Directorate B).

In making contact for this meeting they provided a copy of their “Agenda for Action 2019-2024” and no doubt will present this document today. It presents their view of the priority areas that the EU should address during the term of the current Commission and is grouped under 4 headings.

- Empowering People (*Education, skills, inclusion*)
- Leading global Cooperation (*Transatlantic Partnership, Trade and investment, sustainable development*)
- Boosting the Single Market (*Smart regulation, Better Harmonisation and implementation, Capital, digital, energy and transport*)
- Investing in the future (*Human capital, research and innovation, infrastructure and best-in-class public procurement*)

### **2. Possible material to offer as information from our side (following the briefing request)**

#### **2.1 Under the “empowering people” priority**

##### ***Dialogues with Citizens 2020 / CitizENV***

DG ENV is holding a series of 4-hour participatory workshops on Biodiversity. They are designed as Dialogues with Citizens, ie open discussions between citizens and an official from the European Commission, and targeting the new generation of young Europeans aged 18-30. The biodiversity dialogues grew out of CitizENV, a series of discussions held in all Member States between native-speaker colleagues from the MS in question and a group of 25 young men and women aged between 18 and 30 years old. The free-ranging discussions last around four hours. Different activities and questions in a friendly and participatory atmosphere enable Commission staff to report back on the interests and

preoccupations of young Europeans regarding biodiversity. Follow-up activities usually involve a project led by locals in the area.

DG ENV also receives visits from schools and groups in its Beaulieu offices, shaping the dialogue according to the timing and the interest of the pupils.

The DG is also training a number of CitizENV 2019 participants who have expressed the wish to carry on and spread the message, and will support follow-up workshops as required.

## 2.2 Under the “Investing in the future” priority

### Horizon Europe Structure

#### Pillar I '*Excellent Science*'

- the European Research Council (ERC),
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie *Actions* (MSCA)
- research infrastructures

#### Pillar II '*Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness*'

- cluster 1. 'Health'
- cluster 2 '*Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society*',
- cluster 3 '*Civil Security for Society*',
- cluster 4 'Digital, Industry and Space',
- cluster 5 '*Climate, Energy and Mobility*'
- cluster 6 'Food, *Bioeconomy*, Natural Resources, *Agriculture and Environment*'
- non-nuclear direct actions of the Joint Research Centre (JRC)

#### Pillar III '*Innovative Europe*'

- the European Innovation Council (EIC)
- European innovation ecosystems

#### Part '*Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area*'

- *widening participation and spreading excellence*,
- reforming and enhancing the European R&I system

#### Pillar 2

#### Global Challenges & Industrial Competitiveness:

boosting key technologies and solutions underpinning EU policies & Sustainable Development Goals

Clusters implemented through usual calls, missions & partnerships	Budget (€ billion)
Health (guestimate 5% environmentally relevant 380mio)	€ 7.7
Inclusive and Secure Societies (5-10% env. rel. 150-300mio)	€ 2.8
Digital and Industry (20-25% env. rel. 3-4bn)	€ 15
Climate, Energy and Mobility (80% env. rel. ~12bn)	€ 15
Food and Natural Resources (85% env. rel. ~8.5bn)	€ 10
<b>Joint Research Centre</b> supports European policies with independent scientific evidence & technical support throughout the policy cycle	€ 2.2

## **Horizon Europe Missions**

- Missions are the most innovative features of Horizon Europe and are currently designed to ensure a high impact to tackle key challenges of the society contributing to reach European Union priorities.
- Missions will provide highly visible examples on how European R&I provides concrete solutions and benefits to the European citizen by fixing a concrete target and timeframes
- Missions shall represent around 10 % of the Pillar 2 budget during the first three years and should have a clear objective, a measureable impact and a well-defined time and budget. Approximately 1 billion euros per mission.
- Missions shall stimulate activity across disciplines requiring a collaboration from the different clusters within Pillar 2. They will act as catalysts to mobilise additional complementary resources to Horizon Europe from other sources (other EU programmes, national funds, private investments).
- Mission boards have been established (one per mission). Each of them includes 15 independent experts with a mixed of knowledge and experience in the specific area. The selection of the members was made through an open call for expression of Interest.
- Mission areas agreed with the Council and the EP:
  1. Adapting to climate change, including societal transformation
  2. Cancer
  3. Healthy oceans, seas, coastal and inland waters
  4. Climate-neutral and smart cities
  5. Soil health and food

## **Horizon Europe Partnerships**

- Partnerships represent a substantial component of Horizon Europe Pillar 2 (likely around 40 % of the budget).
- They represent a benefit as compared to the Standard Horizon Europe Work programme. E.g. Leverage of investments (Industry, Member States).
- DG ENV is participating in 25 Horizon Europe Partnerships (out of 49 in total) in DG ENV's main priority areas:
  - 8 Institutional Partnerships (out of 11 in total) which will be agreed by Dec.2020
  - 17 Non- Institutional partnerships (CO-programmed / CO-funded)
  - Main areas: Biodiversity, Water (including oceans), Chemical risks, Circular economy, Transport emissions, Built environment, Agro-environment, bio-economy



