



**BRIEFING FOR COMMISSIONER KADRI SIMSON**

**MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**TO THE EUROPEAN UNION MARK GITENSTEIN**

**23 May 2022, Brussels**

**SCENE SETTER**

The meeting is arranged on the request of the US Ambassador to the EU Mark Gitenstein. It offers opportunity to exchange views on a number of EU-US relevant issues.

Proposed key messages to pass to the Ambassador

- The EU is making a very strong effort to end dependence on RU gas (REPowerEU and its Plan: diversification, EU Energy Platform, accelerate RES, savings);
- The US is a key and indispensable partner to implement that Plan;
- The EU-U.S. Energy Council is a well-established backbone of EU-US energy relations with well-defined cooperation areas; now focus on implementation and technical work (no discussion on the next round yet (>> Business Forum on offshore wind was a great deliverable));
- The EU-US Energy Security Task Force, set by Commission and U.S. Presidents, is instrumental to help the EU end its dependence from RU gas it complements and reinforces our relations & it is contributing with record levels of LNG inflows and new contracts.
- We are looking forward to more US LNG supplies at the same time it is fundamental that we keep our net-zero goals by 2050 clearly in mind; it is important to speed up our bilateral (and multilateral) cooperation on the reduction of methane emissions, also in the context of US LNG.
- Despite the challenging situation on energy markets, we move forward with the global decarbonisation (>> our external energy strategy), US is our ally, we should continue working together (GMP a great example of EU-US cooperation);
- We should keep on ensuring coordination of our actions on Ukraine (energy emergency support, energy market integration/reforms once the situation allows);

Importantly to inquire the Ambassador about his/U.S. current reflections on EU-U.S. energy cooperation.

## LINES TO TAKE

### Key speaking points on EU-U.S. energy relations

- The United States is the **key partner and ally to help end EU dependence on Russian gas**. Cooperation with the U.S. is instrumental to deliver on REPowerEU and its Plan. It is fundamental for EU energy security.
- Our cooperation with secretary Granholm in this respect is excellent.
- Only since the beginning of the year we jointly organised the EU-US Energy Council and the EU-U.S. Business Forum on offshore wind
- Now the attention focuses on the **Task Force**, set up by the EU and the U.S. Presidents on 25 March in their Joint Statement. The Task Force works to ensure that
  - we replace the Russian gas with additional 15 bcm in 2022 and 50 bcm in the next years;
  - First meeting of the Task Force took place in Washington on 28 April;
- **The Commission** is also setting up an **EU energy platform** to aggregate demand and allow matching of gas needs and supplies.
- The Platform should also provide a replicable long-term framework for gas, hydrogen and clean energy. This Platform is open to Ukraine, Georgia, Moldova and the Western Balkans, giving them a strong signal of solidarity.
- We are working closely with energy companies and likeminded international partners to explore alternative pipelines and to increase LNG supplies to the EU.

- The Platform should also help us to fill EU storages ahead of **next winter**.
- In this regard, the **US LNG has already been making a significant and growing contribution** to the EU security of supply with very high level of U.S. LNG being brought onto the EU market.
- **We however need longer-term cooperation with the U.S.** to send a strong signal that EU and U.S. intend to also cooperate over the long-term. We aim to use the Task Force to build a strategic success in diversification and also reduce consumption of fossil fuel.
- Of course the work also continues on **incentivising monitoring and capturing methane emissions**; our cooperation under the Energy Council on the life cycle analysis on methane is fundamental. We need to make U.S. LNG experts and climate friendly as possible.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[Redacted]

- [Redacted]

- [Redacted]

- [Redacted]

## Mark Gitenstein



Ambassador Mark Gitenstein arrived in Brussels in January 2022 to assume his position as the United States Ambassador to the European Union.

Gitenstein is a lawyer who recently retired from Mayer Brown LLP, where he had served over the last 30 years as partner and counsel. Gitenstein served as U.S. Ambassador to Romania (2009-2012) and began his career with 17 years of service in the U.S. Senate on the Judiciary and Intelligence committees. He worked for then-Senator Biden for 13 of those 17 years.

He has spent much of the last decade working in Central and Eastern Europe, especially Romania. Since 2009 he has, either as ambassador or as counsel to NGOs and commercial clients, focused

on preserving and fortifying democracy by ensuring transparency in equity markets, fighting corruption, and strengthening the rule of law.

In addition to his service with President Biden for 13 years in the Senate, he co-chaired the then-Senator's transition to the vice presidency in 2008 and helped set up his transition to the presidency in 2020.

He earned a BA from Duke University and JD from Georgetown Law School. He was awarded the Star of Romania, the nation's highest civilian honor, by the president of Romania in 2012. In 1993, he was also awarded the American Bar Association's Silver Gavel award for his book *Matters of Principle* about his role as chief counsel of the Senate Judiciary Committee during its consideration of Robert Bork to be an associate justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.