

Wednesday 16 September 1998

17. Transatlantic relations/Echelon system

B4-0803, 0805, 0806 and 0809/98

Resolution on transatlantic relations/Echelon system

The European Parliament,

- having regard to its resolution of 15 January 1998 on transatlantic trade and economic relations ⁽¹⁾,
- having regard to the Commission communication to the Council, the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee on a New Transatlantic Market,
- having regard to the conclusions of the EU-US Summit in London (18 May 1998).

- A. considering the importance of defending and sharing the same values in the new era of globalisation,
- B. pointing out that transatlantic relations are the most intense in the world, both at political and economic level,
- C. whereas the progress and deepening of EU-US relations will lead to an increase in political and economic stability,
- D. recalling the strong stand Parliament has taken concerning the extraterritorial effects of the Helms-Burton and d'Amato Acts,
- E. aware of the recent interim study 'An appraisal of technologies of political control' produced by the STOA unit for the Civil Liberties Committee,

1. Stresses the importance of EU-US relations, which are based on common economic, political and security interests, as well as a common perception of responsibilities and needs at world level;

2. Considers that common political objectives include promoting peace, stability, democracy and development, as well as responding to global challenges through enhanced cooperation;

3. Recalls that the transatlantic economic relationship is underpinned by the most important trade and economic links in the world, and that the EU and the US have the world's largest and most complex economic relationship;

4. Welcomes the highly significant achievements obtained within the New Transatlantic Agenda (NTA) and recognised in the statement agreed at the EU-US summit; in this context, the Transatlantic Economic Partnership (TEP) would constitute a key instrument for developing the bilateral relationship;

5. Considers that the prospective agreement, to be negotiated within the TEP, in particular on mutual recognition agreements (MRAs) and 'equivalent standards', on government procurement and on intellectual property should drastically reduce bilateral conflicts on regulatory matters, and induce a process of 'regulatory convergence';

6. Supports the People-to-People initiative which, through its fostering of contacts in the business world, makes an important contribution to dismantling barriers in transatlantic trade;

7. Stresses however that US extraterritorial legislation, and in particular the Helms-Burton and d'Amato Acts, remain unacceptable to the European Union; asks the US Congress to act speedily in order to eliminate such legislation and, in any case, to grant the waivers requested;

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 34, 2.2.1998, p. 139.

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8. Asks to be fully informed about the implications of the Understanding with respect to further negotiations of the MAI, as the Understanding codifies some of the core principles of the MAI project, such as expropriation and compensation;
9. Welcomes the joint declaration issued by the Delegation for relations between the European Parliament and the US Congress on the strengthening of interparliamentary dialogue in order to develop a balanced and mutually advantageous transatlantic partnership; considers therefore that existing interparliamentary exchanges should be greatly reinforced;
10. Recognises the vital role of international cooperation with regard to electronic surveillance in stopping and preventing the activities of terrorists, drug traffickers and organised criminals;
11. Further recognises, however, the vital importance of having democratically accountable systems of control with respect to the use of these technologies and the information obtained;
12. Asks for such surveillance technologies to be subject to proper open debate both at national and EU level as well as procedures which ensure democratic accountability;
13. Calls for the adoption of a code of conduct in order to ensure redress in case of malpractice or abuse;
14. Considers that the increasing importance of the Internet and worldwide telecommunications in general and in particular the Echelon System, and the risks of their being abused, require protective measures concerning economic information and effective encryption;
15. Instructs its President to forward this resolution to the Commission, the Council and the US Congress.

18. Waste management

A4-0235/98

Resolution on the communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council concerning the application of Directives 75/439/EEC, 75/442/EEC, 78/319/EEC and 86/278/EEC on waste management (COM(97)0023 — C4-0368/97)

The European Parliament,

- having regard to the communication from the Commission (COM(97)0023 — C4-0368/97),
 - having regard to Article 5 of the EC Treaty,
 - having regard to its resolutions of 8 April 1992 ⁽¹⁾ on the application of Community environment law and 14 May 1997 ⁽²⁾ on the Commission communication on the application of Community environment law,
 - having regard to the report of the Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection (A4-0235/98).
- A. having regard to its commitment to sustainable development as one of the European Union's priority objectives,
- B. whereas effective application of Community environment law is a *sine qua non* for achieving sustainable development.

⁽¹⁾ OJ C 125, 18.5.1992, p. 122.

⁽²⁾ OJ C 167, 26.1997, p. 92