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Combined summary

- Partnership continues to be the key word to describe transatlantic relations. But the NSA/Prism affair puts a certain strain on this partnership. For the EPP political family in Europe, it will be difficult to further postpone a full debate in the European Parliament about this. And the topic of data security and protection of privacy will be a factor in any transatlantic trade deal.
NATO is a centrepiece of the transatlantic relationship, but European defence cutbacks, as well as sequestration in the US, could have dangerous consequences. The challenge on both sides is to get our finances in order, and maintain a strong defence.
- In the Middle East (especially Iran, Syria, Libya, Egypt and Hezbollah), the entire West is challenged, both by the global threat of jihadism and by the increasing complexity of the Islamist/secular conflict as well as the Shia/Sunni rivalry. Syria is a case in point, with the mutually contradictory goals of Western policy.
- In the past, Europe used to suffer from home-grown jihadist terrorism, but it is beginning to threaten the US as well. Europe's 'immigration to welfare' and a weak tradition of immigration have contributed to the emergence of the problem in Europe since 2000. The prevalent culture of adaptation of immigrants in the US has shielded them for a while, but cases in New York, Boston and elsewhere show that America has a problem here, as well. On both sides of the Atlantic, defence of Western values is key to solving the home-grown terrorism problem.
- Trade and investment are obviously the next big project of the transatlantic partnership. The beginning of the TTIP negotiations is great news. The focus is shifting from tariffs to regulation. The US will become an energy exporter, thanks to shale gas; Europe, if it can't exploit shale gas to the same extent, should at least buy it from the US. Protectionist temptations must be resolutely resisted, otherwise the TTIP project will come to nothing. Data protection will have to play a role here, if only because digital services will make up such a big share of value added in the future transatlantic economy. But the EU has to create its own digital single market first.