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**EIN-A4**

(06-04-2016)

**EIN Working breakfast on the: "USA 2016 Presidential Elections. An inside view of a crossroads."**

**Chair:**

- **David McALLISTER MEP**, *Chairman of the Delegation for relations with United States in the European Parliament*

**Keynote speaker:**

- **Clark S. JUDGE**, *founder and managing director of the White House Writers Group Inc. and an opinion journalist; Former speechwriter in the Reagan White House*

- There is still uncertainty on the final winner on both parties. Nobody in USA understood either.
- There is high probability that, neither Trump (who will certainly be obliged to gain the Republican nomination in Cleveland, Ohio with over 60% of the Republican Party against him) nor Hillary Clinton (burdened with past history) will be the candidates.
- Trump's flamboyance and extravagance may look strange to Europeans but until today worked well for him. His simple and direct talk, with common sense solutions, appeals to the lay person. Trump speaks on questions in people's minds. His main argument is: "*I am like them and that is why I am going to destroy them*" [The establishment]. He insists that he is the only one able to do it. His success, until today, may originate from a public perception that "*Trump is doing something*". Clinton campaigns mainly on domestic policy issues. Her main weakness is that she is seen as representing the status-quo which is now an anathema to US citizens. Polls show that only 24% of Americans believe that their country is on the right track today.
- The two remaining candidates from the Republican Party can still play a role in the final outcome. Ted Cruz is followed by better educated people and has links with Tea Party ideology. He wants to be seen as a critic of Washington despite the fact that he comes from Washington. If the other remaining Rep candidate, John Kasich, elected, he could probably win against anyone from the Democrats. If Trump loses the Republican nomination and wants to continue, he has very few chances as an independent candidate. On the democratic side, if Clinton fails in NY, we may see VP Biden emerging as a compromise candidate with good chances to win the nomination. Sanders, on the other hand, attacks mainly Wall Street and its institutions. His support comes from young people in bad economic conditions. Democrats appear weak at this moment except Sanders who is seen as a socialist or a kind of a liberal in American terms.
- In answer to **Mr. McALLISTER MEP**, was mentioned the problem with south US border (with Mexico). Trafficking seems to originate in the South Border as a gate for drugs and potential terrorist threats.
- In answer to **Mrs. HÜBNER MEP** concerning the TTIP, was mentioned that Republican Party supports it but there is distrust in negotiations carried by Obama's Administration. Democrats are divided and against both TTIP and TPP.
- The general feeling, in the US, goes against the establishment and it seems that people want some form of insurgency. Two front runners in the Presidential race take advantage of this trend.
- On the political aspects of the presidential race, some important differences with Europe were mentioned: party structures are weak in America; leadership in the US comes from localities and not from centrally controlled parties; everybody raises his own funds.

*The 'EIN-A4' represents a summary of EIN seminar initiatives. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the EPP Group political line.*