

---

# **Business Meeting**

---

*Wednesday, January 28, 2015*

---

UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE  
ON FOREIGN RELATIONS  
114<sup>TH</sup> Congress, First Session

---



# BUSINESS MEETING

*Wednesday, January 28, 2015*

U.S. SENATE  
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

1           The committee met, pursuant to notice, at 9:48 a.m., in Room 419, Dirksen Senate  
2 Office Building, Hon. Bob Corker, chairman of the committee, presiding.

3           Present: Senators Corker [presiding], Johnson, Flake, Gardner, Perdue, Isakson,  
4 Menendez, Coons, Udall, and Markey.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. BOB CORKER,  
U.S. SENATOR FROM TENNESSEE**

5           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Okay. I am going to call the meeting to order. I want to thank  
6 everybody for being here, and I know people have differing places to go. So what I  
7 thought I would do is walk through what we are going to do so when people arrive and  
8 we have 10 here, we can vote. But, again, thank you.

9           This is the first business meeting of our committee. We have had the opportunity  
10 to organize the committee, establish our subcommittees, and set rules for the Congress.  
11 In addition, we will consider resolutions authorizing expenditures for the committee  
12 and commemorating the 70th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz  
13 extermination camp in Nazi-occupied Poland.

14           First, we are considering the proposed subcommittee membership and  
15 jurisdiction for the 114th Congress. I have worked with Senator Menendez to structure

1 our subcommittees and issues that they cover. I appreciate his support in this effort and  
2 the work of his staff in helping us strike the right balance. In modifying our  
3 subcommittees, I hope they will play an even greater role in the work that this  
4 committee does.

5 I also want to thank each and every one of you for your willingness to serve on  
6 these important subcommittees, and I look forward to working with respective  
7 chairmen and ranking members. And I do want to say there was an extreme amount of  
8 interest relative to these committees this year, and I want to thank you for that. The  
9 subcommittee process I think will be very robust.

10 I would also note that we are approving the chairmen, and ranking members,  
11 and membership of these subcommittees subject to the approval of waivers and other  
12 required procedures of the Senate Republican Conference and the Senate Democratic  
13 Caucus as appropriate. We are also considering the proposed rules for the 114th  
14 Congress. There are a handful of changes to the overall framework of the rules that  
15 have served this committee well in the past, and we hope that these rules changes  
16 demonstrate our effort to help ensure that our committee members get the support and  
17 assistance they need, particularly with respect to staff support at classified hearings, an  
18 effort I know Senator Menendez also strongly supports.

19 With that, I would like to recognize the distinguished ranking member for his  
20 comments, Senator Menendez.

**STATEMENT OF HON. BOB MENENDEZ,  
U.S. SENATOR FROM NEW JERSEY**

1           **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman, and let me again welcome all  
2 our new members and our returning members. Senator Isakson, it is great to have you  
3 back on the committee and all the work you did on Africa and other issues. So, good to  
4 see you, and to all of our new colleagues. Again, I think this is one of the most revered  
5 and longstanding committees of the United States Senate, and I think you are going to  
6 find the exceptional scope of it to be incredibly important in terms of your work.

7           We have a lot of work ahead of us, and I look forward to our input and carrying  
8 on the mission of one of the oldest and most revered committees in the Senate. I will  
9 look forward to working with you, again, Mr. Chairman, as I said at our first hearing in  
10 this Congress, in the same spirit of bipartisanship that marked our relationship in the  
11 last Congress.

12           And in that spirit, I intend to vote for the rules, jurisdiction documents, and  
13 budget resolution before us, as well as S. Resolution 35 by Senator Mikulski  
14 commemorating the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz. And I urge my  
15 colleagues to do the same.

16           I want to congratulate all of our subcommittee chairs and ranking members on  
17 their selections. As an ex officio member, along with the chairman, of the  
18 subcommittees, I look forward from time to time to visit with you on certain topics that  
19 may be of interest to me as they hold hearings.

1           And with that, Mr. Chairman, when we get the quorum that you need for votes, I  
2 am ready to cast votes.

3           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Thank you, and I know Senator Coons just arrived. He did an  
4 outstanding job this morning, by the way, in a previous meeting. But we have one  
5 more member that is necessary. Does anyone want to speak to jurisdiction or rules?  
6 Any questions or comments? We might move on and discuss, if it is okay. Does  
7 anybody want to talk about S. Res. 35, the resolution that was just referred to?

8           **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** Well, if I may, Mr. Chairman?

9           **THE CHAIRMAN.** Yes, go ahead.

10          **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** Yesterday I went to speak to the floor — Senator Gardner was  
11 presiding — about the 70th anniversary of the commemoration of the liberation of  
12 Auschwitz. And we are losing a generation of the survivors of the Holocaust, and  
13 increasingly in doing so, those of us who are in the positions of public trust, and  
14 particularly on this committee and beyond, I hope will continue to remember, and  
15 particularly as it relates to what we saw in Auschwitz, which I visited last year.

16          It is just such a moving — incredibly moving place to visit and to understand the  
17 totality of man's inhumanity to their fellow man, the extent that can take place. So that  
18 when we say "never again," it is, I think, critically important to mean what we say and  
19 to say what we mean. And in that respect, some of the work that this committee has  
20 been doing on the question of challenges in the world, the issues of anti-Semitism, that

1 it is rearing its ugly head once again, is incredibly important. And this resolution, I  
2 think, speaks volumes to that, and I will look forward to supporting it. Thank you, Mr.  
3 Chairman.

4 **THE CHAIRMAN.** I am very pleased that this is the first resolution we are taking up,  
5 and I appreciate your comments yesterday on the floor. I know we have a quorum  
6 now. Does anyone else wish to speak to the resolution we are talking about?

7 [No response.]

8 **THE CHAIRMAN.** I am going to go ahead and move through it quickly then. I know  
9 that — first of all, I would ask a motion to approve the committees and their  
10 jurisdiction.

11 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** So moved.

12 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Is there a second?

13 **SENATOR JOHNSON.** Second.

14 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Without objection, so approved.

15 I would also like to hear a motion, if we could, on the budgets for the committee  
16 itself.

17 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** So moved.

18 **THE CHAIRMAN.** Second?

19 **SENATOR JOHNSON.** Second.

20 **THE CHAIRMAN.** All in favor?

1 [A chorus of ayes.]

2 **THE CHAIRMAN.** All opposed?

3 [No response.]

4 **THE CHAIRMAN.** I would like to hear a motion, if I could, on the resolution, as  
5 amended by the chairman's amendment.

6 **SENATOR MENENDEZ.** So moved.

7 **SENATOR JOHNSON.** Second.

8 **THE CHAIRMAN.** All in favor?

9 [A chorus of ayes.]

10 **THE CHAIRMAN.** If I could, I would just like to ask unanimous consent that staff be  
11 authorized to make technical and conforming changes. Without objection, so ordered.

12 If I could, tomorrow at 2:00, General Allen is going to be here in a classified  
13 setting. He just returned today from Gaziantep. I think it is going to be an impactful  
14 hearing relative to the AUMF, and would urge people to attend.

15 Without any further business, I want to thank everybody for organizing this  
16 way. And without objection, we stand adjourned. Thank you.

**[Whereupon, at 9:55 a.m., the hearing was adjourned.]**