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More cooperation between the USA and Faroes

The USA and the Faroes ought to cooperate more - -I can only be pleased that ExxonMobil is participating in the exploration of the Faroes, confirms the American Ambassador to Denmark, Mrs Laurie Fulton, who has just completed an official visit to the islands. Third visit This is the third time Mrs Fulton visits the Faroes and she is very interested in increasing cooperation/trade between the Faroes and the USA. She is particularly interested in Faroe art and culture. For a small country like the Faroes it is truly a golden opportunity, that a representative for such a large powerful country (also one of our most important markets), is prepared to utilise her contacts for the benefit of the Faroes. During her visit she met representatives for Faroe companies working on green energy projects and with new technology in general. She had in particular requested to be briefed on the oil exploration effort in Faroe waters, as ExxonMobil is a very large American company with a role to play in this respect. Faroe representatives also took the opportunity to acquaint themselves with the USAs position regarding the arctic and cooperation between the arctic nations. The Ambassador also met with representatives for the specialist group appointed by the Faroe government, tasked with drafting a strategy for a Faroe arctic policy. Taken a liking to Faroese Oljan.fo met up with this very nice and likeable ambassador, who has a close connection to the American President Barack Obama, onboard the car ferry, Smyril enroute to the island of Suðuroy. Onboard the Smyril she was entertained by Mr Heri Ziska from Jarðfeingi who spoke and explained the Faroes hydrocarbon exploration venture. Oljan.fo asked Mrs Fulton why she had visited the Faroes three times - -The first time I came to the Faroes I did not know what to expect see or experience. What I did see was a very beautiful country, but first and

foremost I found the Faroese people, who are forthright, friendly, pragmatic and innovative. All this gives meaning when you live in such a climate and with so many challenges, you are forced to adapt. Challenges entice development and a competitive people who are forced to discover new solutions. I came to the Faroes hoping to find innovative and entrepreneur minded young Faroese, who may be of interest to the USA. My task is to forge bridges between Faroese and American scientists and innovators to see if not a cooperation could emerge. During my third visit I will try and accumulate enough knowledge on Faroese business and new ideas and solutions, which American industry and research could possibly gain an insight into and hopefully benefit from. Mrs Fulton is also very interested in history and culture, but her task is first and foremost to look around and see what new technology projects and ideas could be implemented in a worldwide context. Mrs Fulton stresses that both the Faroes and America are Atlantic Ocean coastal countries and the transatlantic relations are of great importance - -I have no doubts that the USA and Faroes could discover several areas within trade & industry, culture and tourism in particular, where a cooperation could be developed. Most Americans next to nothing about the Faroes, so hopefully my visits will assist in opening doors in both directions. We would also like to see more Faroese visit our beautiful and diverse country and this was also one of the reasons why I placed such importance upon meeting Faroese who were studying in the USA. It is quite evident there are large opportunities for young Faroese to go to the USA to study and therefore it was also very pleasant for me to meet some of them here in Tórshavn. I also believe when it comes to marine biology etc., that Americans could benefit from coming to the Faroes. The ambassador also met the CEO for Atlantic Airways, Mr Magni Arge, who told her that the airline company intended in the future to look towards the USA, e.g. with flights to New York. The ambassador was most pleased to hear of these plans. Energy The ambassador also believes energy issues are interesting to debate together with Faroese - -The world is becoming ever more populated and this places demands for more energy. We will be forced to reduce our energy consumption and also find new alternative sustainable energy sources, but we will still for many years to come, have to explore for hydrocarbons to satisfy the ever growing demand. Therefore I have no doubt that an area like the Faroes will in the future be very important for the international oil companies looking for oil, not least if a discovery is made here. I see that a large American oil company is already participating in Faroese exploration and I think if hydrocarbons are discovered here, more American oil companies will come here. Q - There are those who say if the Faroes find oil, they will become independent. What is your opinion about that? A - -That is up to the Faroese to decide. Whatever decision you reach, we will support you. Q - You talk of green energy and also hydrocarbons. Are these two compatible? A - -Yes I believe so. At the same time as sustainable green energy resources are being developed, there will continually be a future requirement for hydrocarbons. It is a question of exploiting hydrocarbons in

the most sensible and environmental friendly manner as possible. I think we will for many years to come require both oil and gas, or as she prefers to say an energy mix. Obama good for the world Finally, Mrs Fulton says she has no doubts that Barak Obama will be re-elected at the election in November, but the running will be tight - -The world today is completely different from the one he inherited from Bush, regarding safety, threats and also economically. We have seen an Obama performing as a cautious but strong leader, willing to cooperate with other countries and multilateral associations and it this down this road we should continue. Photo Laurie Fulton onboard the ferry Smyril together with Johan Dahl, minister of Trade and Industry