

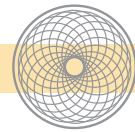
# MODEL STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

January 2016

Where appropriate, use your employer's official letterhead



Mayor's Office, City of San Miguel, Texas



**Ms Patricia Lee SMITH**

## 1. Current Professional Responsibilities

I am currently serving as Mayor (People Have The Power Party) of San Miguel, Texas, a city that provides an important link in international trade. San Miguel is an ethnically and culturally diverse community (population 94,554). San Miguel is the center of a 15-county region that has a diversified economy based largely on agriculture (e.g. cotton, livestock, etc.) in addition to petroleum, wind energy, medical, communications, education, federal, military, retail, retirement and tourism activities.

As Mayor, I conduct oversight of municipal administration that includes operation functions of various units of government. I possess a thorough knowledge of regulations, ordinances and laws governing municipalities.

Analysing a variety of administrative problems and making sound policy and procedural recommendations are my main duties. As an elected official, I work to develop and maintain effective working relationships with city officials, employees and representatives of private and public sector organizations.

## 2. Themes of the Trip

A strong EU and its relationship with the U.S.A. are central to world affairs. As an elected official, I am interested to gain a first-hand appreciation of the EU's goals and policies and to receive a general introduction to EU-USA relations.

The success of a region or city is mostly due to a combination of different factors and policies decided at different levels of governance. Of greatest interest to me is how local authorities throughout Europe interface with the overall goals and policies of the EU. Therefore, I would like to study the following topics during my EUVP tour:

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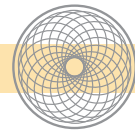
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## A. Solidarity Policies

**Regional aid.** How is money used to boost development in regions lagging behind? What is being done to help young people and the long-term unemployed find work? Taking into consideration the overall crisis, does it still make sense for the EU to invest money in regions that are lagging behind? What is the stance of the more developed regions in this matter?

**Convergence.** How successful are efforts to help less developed regions catch up more quickly with the wealthier regions? What are the best practices for investing in physical and human capital?

**Tourism.** What programmes exist to develop tourism? Are there some successful examples?

**Town twinning.** What are the benefits of town twinning? How is it organized?

## B. Innovation Policies

**Energy.** What kind of partnerships exist between local authorities, businesses and the EU regarding the use and development of alternative energy (e.g. wind, solar, etc.)?

**Waste management.** What innovative strategies are local authorities implementing regarding waste management (e.g. recycling, waste-to-energy, etc.)?

## C. Illegal Immigration

Like other cities, San Miguel is faced with illegal immigration. How does EU immigration policy work? What is done to fight illegal immigration?

## D. Multicultural and Minorities' Challenges, Social Plans

**Government housing.** What challenges do local authorities contend with regarding immigration (both legal and illegal)? What strategies are used to help integrate these immigrants into mainstream Europe? How does the EU interface with local authorities with regard to multicultural issues?

**Social inclusion.** How is social inclusion promoted in the EU? Are there any successful examples of social inclusion that the U.S. could learn from?

**Gay, lesbian and transgender rights.** How have civil rights for these groups evolved in the EU? How are these issues dealt with by countries seeking to join the EU?

**Education and employment policy.** How does the EU boost education and prospects for unemployed/uneducated citizens?

**Social plans for health and pensions.** What is the EU currently doing for its ageing population in terms of health security and pension plans?

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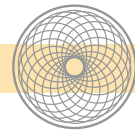
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### 3. Some Desired Appointments

I would like to meet with officials of the European Commission and the European Parliament, as well as MEPs during my study-tour. Also meetings with other EU bodies would be of interest to me. Some meetings I would like to have:

- EEAS: U.S. Desk for a general introduction to its work
- European Commission:
  - DG REGIO: regional and urban policy
  - DG GROW: tourism policy
  - DG ENER: wind and renewable energy sources
  - DG ENV: waste management
  - DG HOME: immigration policy
  - DG EAC: education and youth policy
  - DG EMPL: employment policy, social inclusion, health security and pension plans
- European Parliament:
  - Committees REGI, ITRE, LIBE, EMPL, CULT and TRAN
  - MEPs defending LGBT rights, minorities and social inclusion
  - MEPs responsible for ageing population policies, including health policy
- EACEA: town planning
- Economic and Social Committee
- Committee of the Regions
- Eurocities and related organizations.

Mayor Patricia L. Smith  
San Miguel, Texas, January 2016

*P.L. Smith*