

61<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue  
European Parliament - United States Congress  
Interparliamentary Meeting  
Vienna, 18-21 April 2006

Chairmen's Statement

Members of the European Parliament and the United States House of Representatives held their 61<sup>st</sup> interparliamentary meeting (Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue) in Vienna, 18-21 April, 2006.

Our sessions were marked by lively, constructive discussions on a wide range of political and economic issues.

Bearing in mind the importance of the transatlantic relationship we summarize the sense of our meeting for the public, our colleagues, and, especially in view of the upcoming EU-US Summit, for our respective administrations:

We recommend that both sides strive to strengthen their ability to act in common so as to promote their interests and shared values throughout the world.

We underline the enormous advantages for our constituents that could result from a Barrier-Free Transatlantic Market, in terms of innovation, growth and employment. We should maintain high labour and environmental standards. Such a barrier-free market is not meant to be an isolated area of prosperity, but will present opportunities to others who wish to trade with us. To this effect, clear objectives and a time line to achieve them should be set.

We noted with concern the increasing pressures to respond to foreign competition by means of protectionist or unfair trade measures and reiterated our commitment to the principles of openness, transparency and the rule of law.

In order to make progress on this and other aims outlined here, the relationship between the United States and the European Union should be renewed by replacing its current structure with a EU/US Partnership Agreement. This agreement should retain key features of the current arrangements such as the involvement of civil society but should provide a way to respond more efficiently to new challenges. For example, we would provide a framework to reach, as appropriate, binding agreements between us. It should also provide for better methods to resolve disputes bilaterally.

Participants agreed on the need for promotion of alternative energy sources, for the diversification of sources of supply and development of closer cooperation with supplying partners in the framework of a common EU/US energy security strategy.

A special "TLD Workshop" on the EU/US joint Economic Initiative took place on 20 April 2006, with the participation of legislators, stakeholders, and the two administrations.

Participants discussed the work programme agreed to at the 30 November 2005 United States-European Union economic Ministerial.

Participants also

1. Heard a report on progress in the field of regulatory cooperation, in particular the holding of the first High Level Regulatory Cooperation Dialogue meeting on “good regulatory practices” on 26 January 2006; they stressed the importance of involving all stakeholders (and in particular the business community and consumers), in order to improve transparency and accountability of the regulatory process
2. Underlined that legislators ought to have an increased input in the regular review and assessment of the progress made under the work programme
3. Agreed that both the European Parliament and Congress should encourage regulatory agencies to engage in meaningful Transatlantic regulatory cooperation, and should provide them, where appropriate, with the required mandate and resources.

On the basis of the specific and more detailed exchanges held on capital markets, intellectual property and innovation, we remained confident that substantial progress on the Economic Initiative can be achieved by the next Summit.

The two sides believe that their work should be made more relevant to each of their parent bodies. We will involve specialists from our parent bodies in our work and will have more contacts between sessions, including through committees and staffs. We will explore how to give our work added relevance by linking more closely with stakeholders. We hope to soon reach the point where it would be productive to consider resolutions in a transatlantic assembly.

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Chairman  
European Parliament Delegation

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