

**75th Interparliamentary Meeting
Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue**

Washington, D.C., March 25th-26th, 2014

JOINT STATEMENT

We, the Members of the United States House of Representatives and the European Parliament, held our 75th Interparliamentary meeting of the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue in Washington, D.C., on March 25 and 26, 2014. Based on our common values of freedom, democracy and the market economy, we discussed ways to deepen our relations, in particular to be better prepared to address the economic challenges that our nations face and to create growth and job creation in both our economies. Following up on previous discussions, we exchanged views on recent developments in trade policy, cyber security and foreign policy, and opened discussions on energy policy.

Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership

The U.S. and EU have an unparalleled economic relationship and a common interest in promoting a global marketplace based on the core principles of transparency, accountability, and rule of law. The continuing negotiations on a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) are an opportunity to contribute to creating jobs and economic growth in a true transatlantic market, while preserving and recognizing the high labor, consumer protection, societal approaches and environmental standards our nations have. We emphasized the need to pay particular attention to SME's and were pleased that the fourth round of talks addressed many of those issues. We look forward to a timely completion of a comprehensive agreement that includes financial services.

The U.S. and the EU have a keen interest in cooperating and coordinating our approaches to the challenges presented by globalization, demographic trends, technological developments and rising actors on the global stage. Further increase of trade and economic growth can be achieved not only through reduction or removal of tariffs, which are already low, but most importantly by removing non-tariff barriers and by strengthening regulatory cooperation. We are convinced that a TTIP based on these principles can also serve as a benchmark for future trade agreements and help to revitalize the multilateral trade system.

We discussed and emphasized the role of legislators in regulatory cooperation under a future TTIP agreement. We therefore underlined the need for a close involvement of Congress and the European Parliament throughout such negotiations, and we will exchange views between our legislatures through this dialogue, taking into account input from stakeholders and civil society.

Any regulatory cooperation mechanism agreed in the framework of TTIP must also be subject to effective Parliamentary and Congressional oversight.

Energy Policies and Areas for Enhanced Cooperation

Improving energy supply security, diversification and efficiency in line with sustainability principles are priorities for both the U.S. and the EU. Reliance upon Russia for supplies of natural gas has left some European countries vulnerable to disruptions in energy shipments through Ukraine and Belarus to Europe. We discussed options to diversify supplies, such as US LNG exports to these countries, and suggestions to reverse the flow of gas through existing interconnectors from Europe to the Eastern Partnership countries.

Technological advances in production and extraction techniques have enabled the U.S. to progress from solely an energy consumer to an energy exporter as well. Opportunities exist for some countries in Europe to apply these techniques as transitional energy source, while developing more sustainable and renewable options for the future. We also welcome the close US-EU scientific energy cooperation setting the leading example in terms of new technologies, standards and approaches.

Cyber security and Data Protection

We discussed the legislative steps taken to improve our cyber security since our last exchange in Dublin in 2013. We welcomed the focus on ensuring a high common level of network security in Europe and various legislative initiatives in Congress, aimed at improving network security through information sharing, and steps taken by the executive branch to improve critical infrastructure cyber security.

Increasingly sophisticated threats are targeting the critical infrastructure on both sides of the Atlantic and we need a coordinated response, including a clear legal framework and common standards. We noted the important role that organizations such as NIST and ENISA play in formulating cyber security standards and encouraging industry to adopt such voluntary standards. As the private sector plays a pivotal role in the global digital economy, information sharing and adoption of cyber security standards and best practices is essential in order to ensure robust cyber security.

We acknowledged that advancing privacy can complement business opportunities and enhance trust in the online environment. We discussed the need for transatlantic solutions in order to facilitate trade and services flows. We reiterated the importance of protection of privacy and civil liberties, as well as democratic oversight, to ensure the continuing trust of our citizens.

Foreign Policy and Security Cooperation

We are united in our condemnation of the violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity by the Russian Federation. There must be appropriate and significant consequences in the face of such aggression and disregard for international commitments by Russian leaders and military forces. The sanctions and diplomatic consequences already imposed by the US and the EU are good first steps, and we urge our respective administrations to work to effectively implement and enforce these measures. Further steps by Russia to destabilize the situation in the Ukraine should lead to additional and targeted sanctions.

We condemned in the strongest terms the ongoing brutality and atrocities perpetuated by Bashar al Assad and his regime on the Syrian people, and any use of chemical weapons. We insist that all parties to the conflict must fully respect international humanitarian and human rights law. We express our grave concern at the engagement of various extremist groups, such as Hezbollah, in the Syrian conflict and condemn its terrorist activities, including those on European soil. We urged the international community to continue its support of negotiations to find a political solution to the conflict and to promote a peaceful transition to democracy and rule of law. We see a role for the UN Security Council and our partners in the region. We called upon our Administrations to step up support for moderate forces, which commit to universal values of democracy, rule of law and human rights, support non-proliferation and counterterrorist efforts, and renounce sectarian violence and extremism. We commend the host communities in Syria's neighboring countries for their support to refugees and underline the importance of the humanitarian assistance provided by both transatlantic partners to civilians affected by the conflict across the region.

We recognize the serious threat posed by Iranian efforts to acquire a nuclear weapons capability. We appreciate the close cooperation between the US and EU on enforcing the sanctions regime. We agreed that it is of critical importance to the security of both the US and the EU that Iran completely and verifiably abandons its efforts to acquire a nuclear weapons capability.

We continue to be deeply concerned about the continuing unrest and lament the serious violent incidents that have taken place in Venezuela. We are alarmed by the reports of human rights violations, including detention of students and political figures and disproportionate use of force by state security forces. We support efforts to bring all Venezuelan parties to the table in an open and inclusive dialogue.

Conclusion

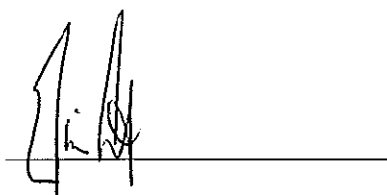
We are convinced of the need to further strengthen our relations, in particular in order to increase synergies between our economies, and look forward to substantial progress in the TTIP negotiations. We will continue the issue oriented approach in the TLD, and expect to meet for our 76th meeting later this year in Europe.



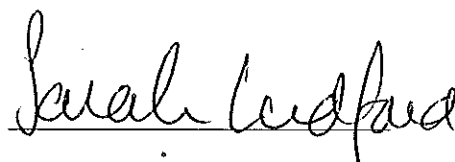
Mario Díaz-Balart
Co-Chairman
US Delegation



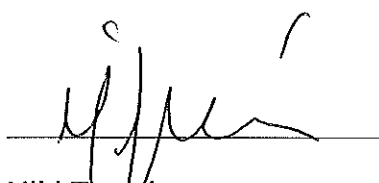
Christian Ehler
Co-Chairman
EP Delegation



Jim Costa
Vice-Chair
US Delegation



Baroness Sarah Ludford
1st Vice-Chair
EP Delegation



Niki Tzavela
2nd Vice-Chair
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