

68th Interparliamentary Meeting
Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue
European Parliament - United States House of Representatives
Madrid, 3-6 June 2010

Joint Statement

We, the Members of the European Parliament and the United States House of Representatives, held our 68th Interparliamentary meeting (Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue) in Madrid, from 3-6 June 2010.

Building on the joint statement issued following our last meeting in New York on 4-7 December 2009, we reasserted the importance of regular dialogue on political, social, economic and environmental challenges that affect all of our citizens. We agreed to report back to our parent bodies on the content and outcome of our discussions in Madrid, in particular in the areas where joint efforts are likely to produce positive outcomes.

The first experiences with the Lisbon treaty, and the enhanced powers it gives to the European Parliament, were evaluated and we concluded that this emphasizes the need for continued and expanded dialogue and interaction between legislators in the United States Congress and the European Parliament.

In the field of civil liberties, we recognised that we share many common values yet we also recognised that we may have different approaches to finding optimal solutions. It was noted that these differences in approach are being addressed with a view toward coming to a permanent agreement on the Terrorist Finance Tracking Program (TFTP). We welcomed the intensified contacts, also on the level of the relevant committees, to understand differences and explore common ground. We took note of the EU-US and Member States 2010 Declaration on Counterterrorism of 3 June 2010 'Forging a durable framework to combat terrorism within the rule of law'.

In the same spirit we discussed issues concerning energy and climate change. We exchanged views on adopted legislation on the EU side, in particular the 2020 goals, and on pending legislation on the US side. We emphasized the importance of sustainable policies on both sides of the Atlantic which could facilitate agreement in the larger international context. In this respect the up-coming COP16 in Cancun was noted. We discussed the aim of 'greening the economy', including alternative energy sources, to provide the opportunity of enhancing the quality of the environment and improving the economic situation, as well as the perspective of setting common standards for new and environmentally friendly technologies, such as electric vehicles. The national security implications of energy sources and independence were also discussed.

In the presence of the Director General for External Relations of the European Commission, Mr. João Vale de Almeida, the prospects for bilateral and global cooperation between the EU and the US were discussed and our shared commitment for disaster relief in third countries and our common interest in stable and sustainable development in all areas of the world were recognized.

In the presence of the Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs and current President of the EU General Affairs Council, Mr. Miguel Ángel Moratinos, we exchanged views on regions in the world where tensions are high. In this respect we focused attention on the situation in the Middle East, in Afghanistan and Pakistan, in Iran, Somalia and Cuba.

An extensive discussion was held on the latest financial and economic developments in Europe, the US and the world. With regard to Europe, government interventions to stabilise the situation in Member States and the Eurozone are needed. We recognised the global character of the crisis and its effects and therefore emphasised the importance of coordinated action. In this respect the prospects for common approaches regulating the financial sectors of the economy were explored.

We evaluated the state of play of the Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC) and ways to enhance EU-US economic cooperation. The transatlantic market should be allowed to develop its full potential in particular through reducing non-tariff barriers and joint efforts to find common standards. The importance of a successful outcome of the Doha Round was reiterated. We welcomed a proposal to submit a TLD paper to our respective administrations on ways to expand US-EU trade and economic cooperation.

Finally, we reviewed progress in strengthening the Transatlantic Legislators Dialogue, in particular:

- the growing interest in communication among Members of our institutions, both in general and on specific topics,
- the strengthening of the TLD in the Congress by enhancing its status, increasing stability of membership and involving the Speaker of the House of Representatives,
- the opening on 29 April 2010 of the European Parliament Liaison Office (EPLO) in Washington,
- the steps in expanding contacts among staff of our institutions,

and discussed options for further enhancing it, such as:

- inviting EU and US officials to provide perspectives on strategic issues related to financial recovery and economic growth,
- expanding interaction between the US Congress and the European Parliament in Brussels and in Washington, including through video-conferencing,
- the possibility of joint hearings and the issuance of joint statements.

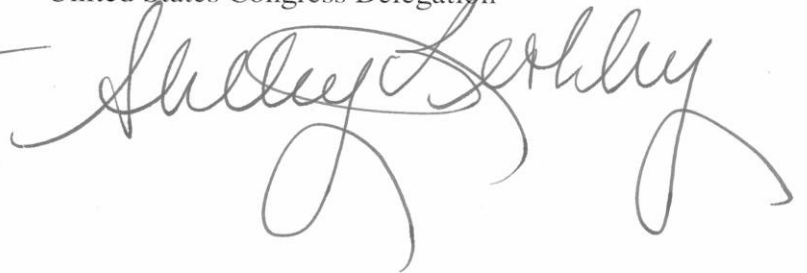
In conclusion, we reaffirmed our commitment to strengthening the transatlantic relationship and working in partnership to solve common challenges. We pledged to continue improving the effectiveness of our dialogue in order to realise the full potential of our interparliamentary relationship, as well as to ensure the relevance of the TLD's work to the European Parliament and the United States Congress.

Attached: statement on Iran

Elmar Brok, MEP
Chairman
European Parliament Delegation



Shelley Berkley
Chairwoman
United States Congress Delegation



Sarah Ludford, MEP
Vice-Chairwoman
European Parliament Delegation



Cliff Stearns
Vice-Chairman (Ranking Republican)
United States Congress Delegation



Niki Tzavela, MEP
Vice-Chairwoman
European Parliament Delegation



Jim Costa
Vice-Chairman
United States Congress Delegation



Annex : statement on Iran

We, the members of the Transatlantic Legislators Dialogue, condemn the systematic violations by the Iranian regime and its agencies of the human rights of the Iranian people. The actions of the regime are denying the Iranian people the basic human rights as described in the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights. We call on our respective Administrations to strengthen their efforts to assist the Iranian people in achieving the rights that they are due, through effective means to counteract the regime's repression.

We welcome the coordinated strategy and concerted action by the US government and the European Union to halt the threat posed by Iran's nuclear weapons and ballistic missile programs.