



**77TH INTER-PARLIAMENTARY MEETING
TRANSATLANTIC LEGISLATORS' DIALOGUE**
Washington DC, November 4 and 5, 2015

JOINT STATEMENT

We, the members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the European Parliament, held our 77th Inter-Parliamentary Meeting of the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue in Washington DC, on November 4th and 5th, 2015. Building upon our strong foundation of our common values and shared principles, we discussed ways to further strengthen our relationship, increase cooperative efforts to jointly address challenges as well as capitalizing on opportunities.

Following-up on previous discussions, we exchanged views on: bringing the *international trade agenda* forward, as leaders in trade and international standard setting; cooperating on *energy security* and opening a path of cooperation on a *transatlantic digital economy*; and tackling current *foreign and security matters* of transatlantic concern.

We committed to show leadership to address these challenges and opportunities together as legislators. We reaffirm the conclusions of the 76th inter-parliamentary meeting and we show resolve to bring these and the current aims to completion.

TTIP – Keeping Momentum on the International Trade Agenda

We noted that the United States and European Union are unique strategic partners, and that the TTIP agreement holds promise to solidify our transatlantic partnership beyond the trade dimension. TTIP envisions a global framework to pursue a future of shared opportunities that align our interests and our values even further.

We note that TTIP should lead to lasting genuine market openness on a reciprocal basis, cooperation on regulatory regimes and a common set of trade-related rules. We wish to create a level playing field for free and fair trade, geared towards achieving sustainable growth and jobs, while safeguarding the existing high standards on issues, such as labor and the environment.

We follow closely the developments with regards to the announced conclusion of negotiations on a Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement. We remain confident in the necessity of TTIP negotiations going forward in order to have a leading role on global trade rule setting as TTIP is complementary to TPP and can promote rule-based global trade and enhance the global competitiveness of our respective economies.



TTIP is an opportunity to invest in deeper international cooperation and to shape and enhance the international trade and investment regulatory framework in order to ensure that both sides thrive in an interconnected world based on common rules and values.

On market access, we discussed the prospects for the elimination of duty tariffs while respecting that there are a number of sensitive products on both sides which will have to be agreed upon during the negotiation process. Market access for services ought to be increased, and we reaffirm the EU-US Joint Statement on Public Services of March 2015. We also called for an ambitious and comprehensive approach to the chapter on public procurement.

We trust regulatory cooperation will foster bilateral cooperation in order to avoid unnecessary divergence, particularly as regards new technologies and services, for the benefit of U.S. and European consumer choice. The established regulatory systems on both sides of the Atlantic are to be safeguarded along with the supervision role of each legislature. We discussed, in the negotiations on SPS and TBT measures, the high standards that have been put in place in order to ensure food safety, human, animal or plant life or health. We should ensure that TTIP includes a modern and balanced chapter on precisely defined areas of intellectual property rights, and also discussed the issue of recognition and protection of geographical indications for the benefit of the consumers and to prevent counterfeit goods.

We recognize the importance of mutual recognition of professional qualifications and support a legal framework that enables U.S. and EU professionals to practice on either side of the Atlantic and facilitates the mobility of investors, professionals, high-skilled workers and technicians between the United States and European Union in sectors covered by TTIP, to the best extent possible. Recognizing the benefit to both societies of greater interaction between our people, we encouraged our respective Executive branches to pursue ways to facilitate the mobility of our citizens, goods and services.

We support a dedicated chapter in the negotiations on energy. We agree that the United States and Europe should strengthen regulatory cooperation in financial services. TTIP should also include ambitious proposals on SMEs based on the joint commitment of both negotiating parties and aiming at creating the opportunities for U.S. and EU SMEs.

We wish to ensure that our respective provisions on data privacy are maintained as regards data flows, while recognizing the relevance of data flows as a backbone of transatlantic trade and the digital economy.

We discussed various proposals for reform to the current investor dispute arbitration mechanism, including the proposal of a new investment court submitted by the European Commission. We invite negotiators to rapidly resume negotiations on investment protection in TTIP.

We welcome the exchange by the United States and European Union of more balanced and ambitious market access offers, which were discussed at the last 11th TTIP negotiating round in Miami (October 19-23, 2015) and encourage U.S. and EU negotiators to proceed with ambition in these negotiations.



We note the ongoing efforts to increase transparency in the negotiations, and hope that these transparency efforts translate into meaningful practical results, for legislators and the public.

In order to ensure that TTIP is accompanied by a deepening of transatlantic parliamentary cooperation, we look to the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue and its experience as a basis and a platform for dialogue.

Transatlantic Cooperation on Energy

We affirm that the cooperation in the field of energy security remains a crucial aspect of transatlantic relations. The European Union is striving to diversify its energy sources, suppliers and routes and we have reiterated our shared interest in the United States becoming an important partner in this respect. We highlighted the legislative initiatives in the United States Congress which aim to enable and facilitate exports of US energy resources, such as LNG Permitting Certainty and Transparency Act and recent legislation to adapt to changing crude oil market conditions.

We further note that the prospect of U.S. energy exports further reinforces the need for high standards for global trade and investment in energy. We note the potential for the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership to contribute to this process. We highlight free trade as an essential element in ensuring secure energy supply and reiterate our call from the 76th IPM to retain the objective of dedicating a specific chapter to energy in the TTIP.

We reject the use of energy supplies as a weapon of political coercion as practiced by the Government of Russia. Instead, we support Ukraine and other vulnerable European countries and promote the reforms needed to transition to secure, efficient, sustainable and transparent energy systems. The European Union was also actively involved in trilateral talks with Ukraine and Russia on an agreement ensuring gas deliveries for the upcoming winter period (October 1, 2015-March 31, 2016) and continues to support efforts to reach a sustainable long-term agreement. The support of the United States in this process continues to be of great significance.

We uphold that the United States is an important partner of the European Union in ensuring transatlantic energy security. We noted the fact that the development of indigenous shale gas in the United States resulted in an abundance of supplies, resulting in lower prices not only in the domestic, but also global energy markets. Liquefied natural gas (LNG) could therefore be an increasingly important element in global gas supply security and a more flexible and transparent LNG market may further strengthen the position of this energy source. We note the ongoing and completed construction of LNG terminals in some of the most vulnerable EU Member States, opening new options for gas supplies and reducing their dependence on Russian-supplied gas. The United States has the potential to become a stable and reliable supply source and provide reassurance for the allies, while creating jobs in many of its states and stimulating investment in its energy sector.



We discussed the upcoming COP21 international conference in Paris. We explored ways to enhance cooperation on energy research, development and innovation, including environmentally-friendly technologies. We believe that both the United States and the European Union companies should be encouraged to increase their resource and energy efficiency.

We value the work of the U.S.-EU Energy Council as a central component of the U.S.-EU energy relationship. We also encourage the establishment of a similar frame among lawmakers in U.S. Congress and the European Parliament, which could be a tool of great strategic relevance for both sides. We welcome this meeting with members of the Energy and Commerce Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives within the framework of the TLD as an important first step in that direction.

Data-driven economy and privacy

We note that the digital economy has come to the foreground of U.S.-EU relations in a variety of ways and at the moment there is a plethora of areas in which cooperation and international agreement negotiation are taking place.

We consider that data flows constitute a critical aspect of transatlantic economic and trade cooperation as it underpins an increasing amount of economic relationship between the United States and European Union.

We affirm the importance of a Digital Single Market in the European Union. The rationale for the DSM lies in understanding that to allow new opportunities for companies and citizens to emerge on both sides of the Atlantic, and maximize the growth potential of the data-driven economy, digital economy and society issues cannot be confined to the borders of states and by their nature have a global dimension, requiring action at an international level.

On data privacy, we noted that given that the Safe Harbor initiative was one of the central avenues for data transfers from Europe to the United States, it is crucial to conclude the discussions on a renewed framework for transatlantic data flows as soon as possible with adequate levels of protection. This is important for transatlantic commercial relations, for the future of digital trade and for our citizens. And we need to ensure that the new arrangement lives up to our respective legal frameworks.

We note that work on other agreements has been encouraging, such as the Umbrella Agreement on Data Privacy and Protection, finalized in September 2015, which could help fill the gap establishing a framework for data protection in U.S.-EU law enforcement policies. The bill for a U.S. Judicial Redress Act passed by the House of Representatives and awaiting the Senate's vote, extends the benefits (including redress rights) of the U.S. Privacy Act to citizens of countries that are major U.S. allies.



Foreign Affairs Matters of Transatlantic Concern

We affirm that the United States and the European Union share a unique and strategic partnership that is based on common values. This year we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the New Transatlantic Agenda of 1995 which included promoting peace and stability, sustaining democracy and development and responding to global challenges among its main objectives. A great deal has been achieved since then under the umbrella of U.S.-EU collaboration and our cooperation on foreign policy has significantly strengthened in recent years.

We continue to strongly condemn the ongoing violation of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity by the Government of Russia. We reiterate our support for the sanctions and diplomatic measures imposed by the United States and the European Union, which are necessary due to the Government of Russia's actions challenging the international order. We urge all parties to fulfill their commitments under the Minsk agreements and express our hope that these will provide time for a political solution to this crisis. If the Government of Russia does not fully implement its Minsk commitments, the policy of economic pressure through sanctions should be continued, and efforts to deepen engagement with civil society should be pursued. However we remain open to a more positive engagement with Russia if they change course and comply with their obligations. We further resolved to increase close dialogue and cooperation in the region, in countries like Moldova and Georgia, in their quest to achieve democratic and economic aspirations and longer term stability.

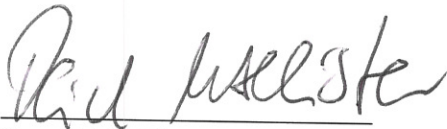
We consider that the recent military attacks launched by the Government of Russia in Syria go beyond the Islamic State and other UN-designated terrorist groups and must cease immediately and we urge the Government of Russia to avoid further violations of the sovereign airspace of NATO countries which is destabilizing and dangerous. This military escalation risks enflaming and prolonging the conflict, fostering radicalization, worsening the humanitarian situation and undermining any political process that may lead to an end of hostilities in Syria and Iraq. We call on the Government of Russia to focus its efforts on our common objective of defeating ISIS and finding a political solution to end the conflict.

We strongly condemn the disproportionate and indiscriminate attacks and systematic human rights abuses that the Government of Syria continues to commit against all its citizens. We condemn the atrocities perpetrated by the Islamic State and other terrorist groups in Syria and throughout the region, and commit to jointly combatting the extremist forces of the Islamic State. The United States and the European Union are committed to continuing their important humanitarian work in Syria, Iraq and the neighboring countries which give shelter to refugees, and addressing the refugee crisis at its source, while pursuing a political solution to end the conflict, such as through the Vienna Process.

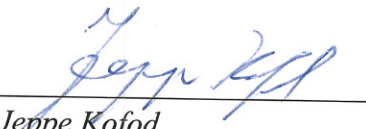
We will continue to support UN-led efforts to find a political solution to the conflict and will engage key regional actors such as Turkey, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and others to build the conditions for a peaceful and inclusive transition. With over seven million Syrians internally displaced and over four million seeking refuge abroad, this conflict has created an unprecedented refugee crisis posing multiple social, economic, and security challenges across the European continent. We note that the European Union has made major efforts to adapt its border management policies including initiatives on relocation and resettlement of refugees. Given the unparalleled nature of the crisis, the vast numbers of refugees still anticipated, and related global consequences, greater cooperation and coordination between the EU and the U.S. is important in order to cope with this extraordinary international crisis.

Conclusion

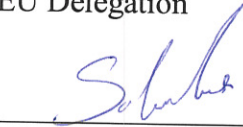
Our discussions have convinced us of the need to further strengthen and deepen our relations. We will continue the policy-oriented approach in the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue, to attentively follow the TTIP negotiations, to work towards increased security and to cooperate more closely on energy and on the digital sphere, in a spirit committed to enriching our valuable partnership. We look forward to achieving progress on these and other topics by our next meeting in Europe in May 2016.



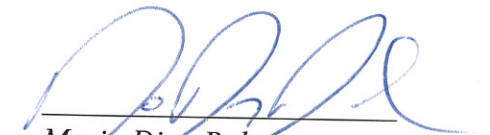
David McAllister
Co-Chairman
EU Delegation



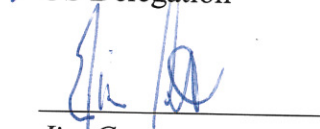
Jeppe Kofod
Vice-Chair
EU Delegation



Marietje Schaake
Vice-Chair
EU Delegation



Mario Diaz-Balart
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Jim Costa
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