



84th EU-US Inter-Parliamentary Meeting

TRANSATLANTIC LEGISLATORS' DIALOGUE

Paris, France - 22 May 2022

JOINT STATEMENT

Introduction

We, the members of the European Parliament and the U.S. House of Representatives, held our 84th Inter-Parliamentary Meeting of the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue (TLD) in Paris on 21 and 22 May 2022. We were welcomed by the Embassy of Romania to France and by The Jean Monnet House in Bazoches-sur-Guyonne, the home of one of the European Union's founding fathers.

The partnership between the United States and the European Union is our most fundamental political, economic, security and strategic relationship. The strong foundation of our partnership is based on our common history and values, including the principles of democracy, rule of law, human rights, and free and open societies and markets. We, as elected representatives of the United States and of the European Union, used this Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue to discuss ways to further strengthen our alliance and cooperation.

The unity and resolute will of the EU and the US against the Kremlin's war in Ukraine, demonstrates our joint decisiveness in helping Ukraine achieve its legitimate aspiration to self-determination, full sovereign control of its entire territory and democracy and prosperity for its people.

We exchanged views on issues organised under six themes:

1. Transatlantic partnership in support of Ukraine.



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2. Russia deterrence and transatlantic cooperation in the fight against disinformation.
 3. Political and trade relations with China.
 4. The EU-US Transatlantic Dialogue on Trade and Technology.
 5. Energy security and climate
 6. Political developments and political challenges in the EU and the US.

1. Transatlantic partnership in support of Ukraine

We condemn in the strongest possible terms the Kremlin's illegal, unprovoked and unjustifiable war of aggression against Ukraine. We reiterate our commitment to the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders, and support Ukraine's efforts to fully enforce those principles. We underline the importance of our sustained unity and solidarity in this regard.

The EU and the US, along with all the like-minded democratic countries committed to peace and universal values around the globe, should continue to provide political, economic and humanitarian aid and military equipment to Ukraine, while the war continues, so that Ukraine, as a sovereign State can continue to take charge of the defence of its territory, of its people and its future.

We concur on the value of a NATO that is capable of responding swiftly and addressing the security threats of its Members as well as the EU's own capacity of defence and welcome and encourage further steps towards enhancing the EU's defence capabilities. We note that in the Ukraine war the EU has reacted promptly in synergy with NATO. For the EU, this means the development of a Defence Union, which includes a rapid reaction force, and joint EU defence procurement.

We concur the importance of regular consultations between the EU and NATO so that they can develop a strong capacity of communication, coordination and pursue further synergies and stronger



complementarity. We agree to that security and defence should be a high priority issues for TLD exchanges and reflections.

In this context, we support the swift accession of Finland and Sweden to NATO.

Our unprecedented and coordinated sanctions against Russia should be maintained with the same determination shown so far to ensure their full implementation and efficiency. New sanctions should be envisaged, as needed, particularly in response to the increased intensity of the Kremlin's aggression. China should neither help Russia circumvent the sanctions nor should it provide any material support to Russia's war effort in Ukraine. The EU and the US must work towards sanctions enforcement closing any loopholes that allow Russia to evade sanctions.

We stress the need to further coordinate our diplomatic and cooperation activities with African, Latin American, Caribbean and Asian countries, including through our respective democracy support actions, to build more international support condemning the Kremlin's invasion and its breaches of international law.

The TLD is committed to provide a platform for its members to discuss and scrutinise commitments, reforms and initiatives that defend and promote democracy, the rule of law and human rights and fight corruption and authoritarianism. We intend to foster democracy and promote joint strategies at global level including multilateral forums.

We emphasise that the flagrant war crimes and other atrocities committed by Russians in Ukraine cannot be left unpunished. The EU and the US should continue their united and coordinated effort in support of the ongoing investigation by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, the Ukrainian government and other international bodies. The purpose of these proceedings is to identify, document and denounce each and every brutal act committed in Ukraine to ensure sufficient evidence to prosecute the perpetrators and those responsible before the competent authorities.



The EU, its Member States and the US share a moral obligation to continue providing shelter and aid to the great number of internally and externally displaced people of Ukraine. Our governments should become the icons of solidarity and empathy towards these refugees, supporting the various organisations and individual citizens' initiatives and promoting their socio-economic integration and the capacity to continue to build their lives, their future and a prosperous future for Ukraine.

We express the highest concern on the growing number of cases of human trafficking that arise from the unprecedented pace of the flow of migrants as well as widespread informal reception response at the different Ukrainian borders. War combined with the trafficking infrastructure already in place between Ukraine and various states, and access to potential victims has significantly increased the risk of trafficking and needs to be addressed collectively.

We are very concerned about the Russian efforts to block food exports from Ukraine as this will lead to food shortage and hunger in Africa and the Middle East and Northern Africa, which depend on the Ukraine for grain.

The future of Ukraine lays within the European family.

The EU and the US share great concern about the Russian attempts to destabilise Moldova, an EU-associated country that is moving on an ambitious reform path and which has recently applied for EU candidate status, while suffering from a protracted conflict within its territory fuelled by Russia.

The EU and the US share great concern about the Russian attempts to destabilise the Western Balkans. We recall the importance of the Dayton Paris Agreement, as well as the implementation of the relevant European Court of Human Rights judgments and local courts' judgements as the best way to preserve stability in the Western Balkans. We share the hope that the current developments will re-dynamise the accession processes of the countries of the Western Balkans into the European Union.



2. Russia deterrence and transatlantic cooperation in the fight against disinformation.

Both the EU and the US must counter Russian and Chinese targeted disinformation campaigns and deliberate efforts to influence our democratic processes, whose aim is to cause chaos and sow mistrust amongst our citizens as regard the capacity of our institutions to deliver and our way of life. The EU and the US are succeeding in pushing back against cyber-attacks and have developed effective strategies and tools against hybrid threats and will continue to do so.

We acknowledge the brave response by some parts of Russian society, Russian journalists and many ordinary Russian citizens to the Kremlin's propaganda. We condemn the Kremlin's continued harsh repression of freedom of expression, including against those who criticise the invasion of Ukraine and the human rights abuses committed against its population.

We share the conviction that to counter foreign information manipulation and interference, including disinformation we need to invest in 1) situational awareness, 2) societal resilience, 3) regulation and instruments of disruption and 4) foreign policy tools and international partnerships.

3. Political and trade relations with China

We consider that cooperation with China is essential in addressing global challenges, such as environment and climate change, nuclear disarmament, the promotion of the economic recovery from COVID-19 and the fight against global health crises. China must show in tangible terms its commitment to be a partner of the international community in order for us to be able to address these challenges.

We call on China to respect human rights, democracy and international law, and cease its repression of the Uyghurs and other ethnic and religious minorities. China should also adhere to the Sino-British Joint Declaration and respect the fundamental freedoms, rule of law and autonomy in Hong Kong.



China's assertive policies and escalating tensions in regional hotspots such as the South and East China Seas as well as across the Taiwan Strait are a grave concern, including China's continued military provocation aimed at Taiwan.

China's international behaviour and disrespect of human rights within its borders are alarming. We deplore the political persecution of journalists and call on China to ensure the freedom of the press and media in China.

The EU and the US should prevent any Chinese temptation to provide military or financial assistance to Russia in its war of aggression against Ukraine. China should receive a clear message across the Atlantic that any violation of international law triggers isolation from the international scene and a heavy price to pay. We are concerned about China's repeated manipulation of information, including the amplification of Russia's disinformation regarding Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

China should understand that it is for its own interest to respect multilateralism and trade and investment rules for our mutual development and prosperity. We welcome the work on an EU instrument to counter the use of economic coercion by third countries.

China, as a UN Security Council member, has an opportunity to play a positive and constructive role in other developments around the world, such as cooperating with the EU and the US in fighting against nuclear proliferation in countries, like North Korea, and in reinforcing the capacity of the negotiating process with Iran under the JCPOA and contributing to the stability, security and prosperity of the regions of the world that are more vulnerable and less developed.

4. The EU-US Transatlantic Dialogue on Trade and Technology.

We welcome the concrete outcomes of the second official meeting of the Trade and Technology Council (TTC) that took place in France just one week before this inter-parliamentary meeting. Such outcomes include export controls, the launch of a dialogue to strengthen the resilience of global food production and global food security, tackling disruptions in semiconductor supply chains and support



for multilateral trade and WTO reform. We highlight the importance of developing common technical standards, enhancing trustworthy AI and praise the efforts by the EU and the US in supporting open global Internet.

We emphasise the importance of democratic scrutiny of these outcomes and of the dialogue among legislators and outreach to relevant stakeholders to enhance and ensure transatlantic cooperation, including at parliamentary level, by creating a TLD TTC transatlantic platform. We agree about the importance of holding regular consultations and outreach activities at TLD level. We recognise the increased strategic importance of the resilience of global value chains and agree that trade policy is an increasingly important tool to achieve together greater common goals such as a level playing field, green and digital transition. Indeed, the TTC proved already to be a very efficient platform in coordinating export controls to counter the Russian invasion. We also recognise the importance of the dialogue on trade and labour as well environmental and climate aspects. We stress that the TTC should be there to give a new impetus to multilateral and fair trade. Working for common goals and to address global challenges will help build a positive agenda for transatlantic relations.

We stress the importance of ensure fair competition across the Atlantic. We emphasise again our belief in a rules-based, open and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system, which helps both the EU and the US fight unfair trade policies and practices. We call on both our executives to advance on the reform of the WTO and its Dispute Settlement System, despite the challenging times, by creating the necessary conditions to deliver concrete results at next Ministerial Conferences (MC12 and MC13).



5. Energy security and climate

We welcome President Biden's decision on 8 March 2022 to ban the import of Russian oil, liquified natural gas, and coal. Similarly, we welcome the European Parliament resolution on Ukraine of 7 April 2022, calling for an immediate and full embargo on Russian imports of oil, coal, nuclear fuel, and gas, and for both Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines to be completely abandoned. In that same spirit, we also support a gradual ban on the import of all Russian oil as proposed in the 6th package of sanctions of the European Union and support efforts to achieve full consensus to this effect.

We support the EU efforts to develop an Energy Union, meant to create energy security through diversification of supply, by creating an internal energy market, while improving energy efficiency, decarbonising the economy and supporting breakthroughs in low-carbon and clean energy technologies. We must balance the priorities with a realistic view of the base-load generation, while preventing dependencies on malign actors.

We welcome the EU Commission REPowerEU package, which contains a plan to make Europe independent from Russian fossil fuels, starting with gas, well before 2030. We encourage further transatlantic dialogue and cooperation on how to support partnerships with Southern and Eastern Mediterranean countries in advancing a capacity of exploitation of natural gas reserves in the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean. We encourage discussions between the US and EU countries to continue helping diversify away from Russian gas in favour of cleaner and more efficient US LNG. In this context, there should also be a dialogue amongst companies and research and development hubs.

We confirm that the most recent consequences of Russia's war against Ukraine have only strengthened the imperative of staying on track and accelerating the transition to clean energy. We want the EU and the US to jointly advance the deliverables of COP26, and move forward towards an ambitious, successful, and inclusive COP27.



It is our belief that through technology, renewable energy, energy efficiency, business-driven innovation and existing resources the US and the EU can responsibly achieve energy independence while focusing on said goals. We call on China to also implement the Paris Agreement and we will hold it accountable for not living up to its commitments.

We welcome the establishment of the EU-US High-Level Climate Action Group and we support ongoing work on climate legislation on both sides of the Atlantic, in view of implementing the Paris Agreement and reaching net-zero emissions by 2050. We praise, in particular, legislation to establish carbon border adjustments as an opportunity for both the EU and the US to fight carbon leakage, provide incentives to decarbonise and re-establish a level-playing field in international trade.

6. Political developments and political challenges in the EU and the US.

This was the first TLD inter-parliamentary meeting of the 9th legislature for the European Parliament, and it was also the first held in Europe for the 117th Congress.

We updated each other and exchanged views on the main political developments on either side of the Atlantic, notably the political prospects for the US midterm elections, as well as the legislative priorities of the European Parliament, the results of national elections in EU Member States and preparations for the European elections in May 2024. We also discussed dialogue and cooperation between the EU and the UK in the aftermath of Brexit, and the looming threat of a trade war between the EU and the UK due to the refusal of the UK to adhere to its international obligations under the Withdrawal Agreement.

We call upon the government of the United Kingdom to implement fully the Northern Ireland Protocol, which avoids a hard border on the Island of Ireland, preserves the integrity of the EU Internal Market and protects the Good Friday Agreement in all its parts. We agree that renegotiating the Protocol is not an option. Only joint solutions will work.



Conclusion

Our discussions have further deepened our conviction of the need to further enhance our legislative dialogue as a means to maintain and deepen the transatlantic relationship. We look forward to achieving progress on the above topics by the time of our next meeting in Washington, DC, scheduled for December 2022.

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