

**70<sup>th</sup> Interparliamentary Meeting  
Transatlantic Legislators Dialogue  
European Parliament—United States House of Representatives  
Budapest, June 29, 2011—July 1, 2011**

**JOINT STATEMENT**

We, the Members of the European Parliament and the United States House of Representatives, held our 70<sup>th</sup> Interparliamentary meeting (Transatlantic Legislators Dialogue) in Budapest, Hungary, from June 29, 2011 to July 1, 2011.

As with previous dialogues, we reasserted the importance of regular and open discussion on various 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 Budapest, in particular in the areas where joint efforts are likely to produce positive outcomes.

The United States and the European Union are founded upon the core principles of freedom, democracy and respect for human rights. Building upon the strength of these shared values and ties, we discussed the cooperative and/or complementary efforts for the promotion of freedom and human rights around the world. Specifically, the dialogue focused on the opportunity for positive reforms brought about through the so-called “Arab Spring”, and the most effective policies to encourage concrete democratic reforms in all authoritarian regimes. Our members condemned the aggressive approach by leaders in Libya and Syria on their population. Our members emphasized the importance of the US and EU sanctions regimes against Syria and Iran, and reaffirmed the need for strict oversight and enforcement mechanisms in order to ensure the effectiveness of these measures. The meeting also discussed the political and human rights situation in Cuba, Belarus and China.

In recognition of shared threats confronting the United States and the European Union, our delegations held a focused discussion regarding ongoing joint security operations and concerns. In particular, our Members exchanged views on the effectiveness of EU-NATO cooperation, the continuing multinational operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, the challenges posed by the non-functional government in Somalia and efforts to protect the commercial shipping lanes off the Somali coast from piracy, cooperative efforts to combat terrorism and extremism around the world, and the common interest and joint operations to prevent further proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons.

We discussed the impact of fiscal constraints in both the EU and US in meeting our common military and security obligations in NATO and other multilateral defense efforts. One challenge is to maintain public support for necessary defense expenditures as we deal with deepening budget constraints. This challenge is more urgent as our governments confront the need to complete the ISAF mission in Afghanistan. Additionally, we will be faced with other crises that require our joint action. Our members discussed that this could necessitate a reassessment of the

burden sharing for military and civilian operations and prevention policies to ensure a equitable distribution. Our members also noted cooperation between NATO and EU (as with the Berlin Plus Agreement), and within the EU, could lead to synergy effects in security and defense.

The two delegations reviewed the current state of the economy and financial markets on both sides of the Atlantic, looking at ways to promote economic growth, to reduce budget deficits and to create jobs. Progressively eliminating non-tariff barriers was identified as an essential means to achieve these goals, and members of both sides emphasized the need to make optimal use of the TEC (Transatlantic Economic Council) including regular consultations with our legislative bodies. Considering the increasing interconnected nature of commodities markets and agricultural trade, the delegations delved into the issue of agricultural subsidies; evaluating in particular their positive and negative consequences such as safeguarding domestic production, distortions in global markets, the cost upon other industries which utilize their products as a means of production, and the impact of subsidies upon developing nations and efforts to proceed with the Doha Round negotiations. The dialogue also discussed the shared goal to promote food safety and security, and exchanged views on best practices and divergent opinions regarding the effectiveness of regulatory regimes in the US and EU. The ongoing efforts by both the US and the EU to diversify energy supplies and resources were discussed, not only from an economic and environmental perspective, but as national security priorities for our countries as well.

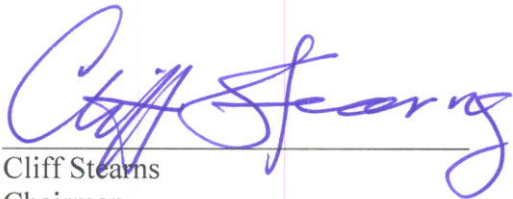
Finally, the members of our delegations discussed the impact of emerging technologies upon our societies, as we work to promote the free exchange of ideas and goods, while protecting the online data privacy of consumers. In addition, the increasing threat presented by increasingly sophisticated cyber-attacks has caused concern amongst all members of our delegations, and ideas for cooperative efforts and the exchange of best practices were discussed.

Along with discussing the security and privacy of the internet domain, our members exchanged ideas, concerns, and proposals for aviation and cargo security. They agreed on the continuing importance of joint efforts to fight terrorism. In these efforts the right balance needs to be struck between the extent to which security data are collected and the importance of privacy protection. Members emphasized the need to reach agreement on PNR (Passenger Name Record) and the EU-US data protection agreement expeditiously with the aim to ensure better cooperation in these fields. They recognized that the objective of the Terrorist Finance Tracking Program is to prevent attacks on the EU as well as the US and has shown success in some cases. It was noted by the members that the exchange of data can be helpful to deny access to criminals and carry out arrest warrants for people who are wanted for serious crimes such as those relating to fraud, drug offences, murder and terrorism. With regard to the restrictions on liquids in hand luggage onboard aircraft, they reiterated that to prevent explosives being carried onto aircraft, the measures taken should be appropriate and proportional to the threat.

In sum, our members found common ground built upon our foundational values of freedom, democracy, and protection of human rights for our citizens and oppressed persons around the globe. Cooperation to address shared security concerns was highlighted as a continuing need,

and ways to enhance such cooperation was discussed in depth. Further, our delegations found common ground and room for progress on the issues of agriculture, cyber-security, transportation and fostering economic growth. Therefore, our members agreed to review these areas in particular, in coordination and consultation with experts in our respective Executive branches and Legislative and Parliamentary bodies. This should lead to the development of recommendations to enhance cooperation in the transatlantic market in areas where barriers can be reduced or eliminated. The results of these reviews will be discussed at the next TLD meetings, in hopes that each delegation will be able to develop legislative or other measures in order to reduce obstacles to full and free trade on a level playing field and cooperation between the US and the EU on these issues in particular. We look forward therefore, to the 71<sup>st</sup> meeting of the TLD as a venue where significant progress on these issues of importance to the transatlantic relationship will be addressed.

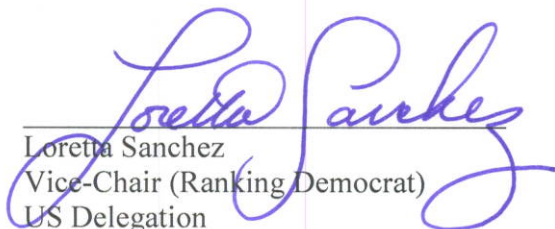
The members of our delegations would like to warmly express our gratitude to the Hungarian Parliament, for their kindness and generosity in hosting us for the 70<sup>th</sup> meeting of the TLD, and we would like to thank our home bodies as well for their support for our efforts.



Cliff Stearns  
Chairman  
US Delegation



Elmar Brok  
Chairman  
EU Delegation



Loretta Sanchez  
Vice-Chair (Ranking Democrat)  
US Delegation



Baroness Sarah Ludford  
Vice-Chair  
EU Delegation