

**73<sup>rd</sup> Interparliamentary Meeting  
Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue  
United States House of Representatives-European Parliament**

**Washington, D.C. November 30, 2012 and December 1, 2012**

**JOINT STATEMENT  
-December 1, 2012-**

We, the Members of the United States House of Representatives and the European Parliament, held our 73<sup>rd</sup> Interparliamentary meeting of the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue in Washington, D.C. on November 30, 2012 and December 1, 2012. Building upon our common values of democracy, human rights and economic and political liberty, our discussions focused on the economic challenges that our nations face, technological advances of the Internet and the opportunities and challenges they pose, as well as shared foreign policy and security concerns regarding Ukraine, Georgia, the Balkans, the Maghreb, Syria and Iran. We confirmed the importance of regular and open dialogue and agreed to report back to our parent bodies.

*Transatlantic trade and economic partnership*

We discussed ways to enhance US-EU economic cooperation on trade policy and other initiatives to extend opportunities, as well the broader agenda to strengthen our economic ties and to support the drivers for economic growth and job creation. We welcomed the preliminary recommendations contained in Interim Report of the High Level Working Group on Jobs and Growth for increasing growth potential and creating high-quality jobs and sustained future economic growth through removing tariffs and other trade barriers as well as joint efforts to strive towards regulatory compatibility and coherence. We discussed the prospects for a comprehensive trade and investment agreement and look forward to the launch of these negotiations. We regretted that the European Commission and the US Administration could not already present the Group's Final Report and reiterated the importance for the High Level Working Group to quickly formulate an ambitious and tangible set of objectives and concrete deliverables towards improved trade and investment between the U.S. and the EU. We also underlined the need for a close involvement of the relevant committees of the Congress and the European Parliament in the process leading up to the possible opening of the negotiations, as well as throughout such negotiations.

*Economic and financial challenges*

We noted that the on-going economic and financial crisis and the vulnerability of the global economy remain the most important challenges we face as legislators and emphasized that the long-term sustainability of public finances is essential to stability and growth. We recognized the efforts the EU and the US are making to counteract fiscal imbalances such as debt and a high public deficit and bring about budgetary reform. We agreed that budgetary reform must be linked with structural reforms and investing on key policies such as research and innovation and education to ensure competitiveness and economic stability. We underlined the importance of

close transatlantic macro-economic cooperation and encourage the competent institutions to strengthen their coordination, especially in the area of supervision and systemic risk prevention. We also examined the role of international cooperation in financial regulation and the need for the U.S. and EU to maintain viable financial services and remain committed to implementing jointly-agreed international rules.

### *Cyber security and Internet*

We discussed cybersecurity and recognized the urgent need to step up our efforts to secure the cyberspace in which our citizens, businesses, and governments operate. We stressed that US and EU should take the leading role in establishment and improvement of global norms of behaviour in the cyber security field on the basis of evidence based threat assessments. We underlined the importance of protecting critical information infrastructure, closer cooperation in fighting cybercrime, to exchange best practices for engagement with the private sector, and to raise cybersecurity awareness. We noted the establishment of European Cyber Crime Center at Europol as the hub of information and expertise at EU level and an international partner on government and business levels. We also addressed the role of Public-Private Partnerships in this area, and how to encourage businesses to share information on cyber-threats with the public sector, while ensuring democratic oversight and avoiding privatizing policy and law enforcement. We noted the need to develop common standards and common measures in the field of cyber security and welcomed the cooperation of European and American agencies in this respect.

Additionally, we reviewed cloud computing technology and how it affects individual privacy and security concerns. As the cloud computing industry grows and becomes more global, we recognize the importance of continued dialogue and international cooperation on this important subject. Recognising security and freedom are inseparable, we acknowledged the importance of advancing digital freedom globally, condemned the ways authoritarian governments inhibit internet access and explored ways to support human rights defenders and Internet users operating in repressive regimes. In this light, we reviewed U.S. and EU policies that aim to protect online freedom. Finally, we discussed the status of U.S.-EU cooperation on these efforts, and expressed support for continued efforts to work together on cybersecurity strategies and the advancement of digital freedom.

### *Foreign Policy and Security Cooperation*

We took note of the UN recognition of Palestine and engaged in a debate on the possible implications for the Middle East. While respecting the independent yet complementary roles that the EU and US play, we support the close cooperation between the EU and the US in their approach towards Syria and Iran. We condemn in the strongest terms the ongoing brutality of Bashar al Assad and his regime against the Syrian people, and support the close cooperation between the U.S. and the EU to find a political solution to the crisis and to promote a peaceful transition to democracy and freedom in Syria.

Our delegations discussed the serious threat posed by Iranian efforts to acquire a nuclear weapons capability, and its support for international terrorism. We examined the effect of sanctions on the regime, and agreed that it is of critical importance to the security of both the

U.S. and the EU that Iran completely and verifiably abandons its efforts to acquire a nuclear weapons capability.

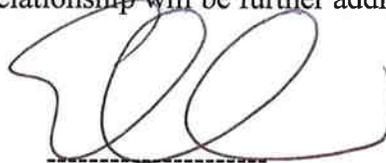
Finally, we looked at perspectives for further EU-US cooperation in promoting democratic reform and the rule of law in transitioning countries in the EU's Southern and Eastern neighborhood. In particular, we discussed political stability of the nations in the Balkan region, elections and the peaceful transition of power in Georgia, and the recent elections in the Ukraine and democratic functioning of its political, judiciary and law enforcement systems. We also agreed on the importance of coordinated engagement of the US and the EU with political leaderships and civil societies in Egypt and other countries in the Maghreb region to assist their transition to consolidated democracies.

### *Conclusion*

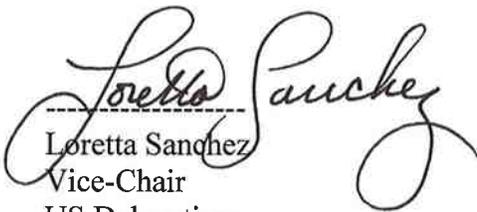
In sum, our members found common ground and room for progress on the issues discussed. We welcome the participation of Members who brought insight and experience in these issues to enhance the discussions. We intend to continue the issue oriented approach in TLD and consider it useful to work on the basis of Non-papers presented by either side. In that respect we welcomed the Non-papers on Financial markets and stability and Cyber security presented by the European Parliament and the research papers presented by Congress through the Congressional Research Service. By increasing dialogue between those who work on legislation in these and other fields on both sides we hope to further develop effective transatlantic communication and cooperation on these issues. In this spirit, we look forward to the 74<sup>th</sup> meeting of the TLD as a venue where these important issues to the transatlantic relationship will be further addressed.



Cliff Stearns  
Co-Chairman  
US Delegation



Christian Ehler  
Co-Chairman  
EU Delegation



Loretta Sanchez  
Vice-Chair  
US Delegation



Baroness Sarah Ludford  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair  
EU Delegation



Niki Tzavela  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Chair  
EU Delegation