

69th Interparliamentary Meeting
Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue
European Parliament - United States House of Representatives
San Francisco, 3-5 December 2010
Joint Statement

We, the Members of the European Parliament and the United States House of Representatives, held our 69th Interparliamentary meeting (Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue) in San Francisco, California, from 3-5 December 2010.

Building on the joint statement issued following our last meeting in Madrid on 3-6 June 2010 we reasserted the importance of regular dialogue on political, social, security, 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 San Francisco, in particular in the areas where joint efforts are likely to produce positive outcomes.

We discussed issues ranging from the global financial situation and trade, to Iran, Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan and climate change. We were briefed on data sharing and privacy issues by Mary-Ellen Callaghan from the Department of Homeland Security and met with the Foreign Minister of Pakistan, His Excellency Shah Mehmood Qureshi.

Our delegations noted that the U.S. and EU must be aware of long-term trends and challenges including the economical and political rise of Asia, cooperation with Latin America, and seek answers to issues like climate change and cybersecurity. In this context, we discussed inviting a NATO representative to the next TLD meeting.

The European Parliament Delegation expressed its gratitude to the US for its vote in support of a strengthened EU presence in the United Nations General Assembly.

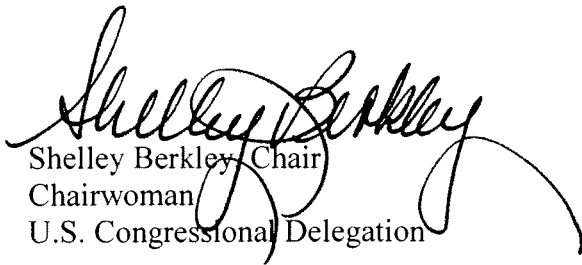
We noted the statement by the leaders of the U.S. and the EU giving a central role to the Transatlantic Economic Council (TEC), and outlining “the potential of transatlantic commerce to boost our growth and generate jobs on both sides of the Atlantic.” We support the joint efforts to “promote innovation, streamline regulation, and eliminate non-tariff barriers to trade and investment, bringing benefits to business, workers, and consumers in both markets.” The reducing of non tariff barriers and the streamlining of regulations were agreed as priorities when the TEC was established. We call on the TEC leaders once again to reach out directly to Congress and the European Parliament.

The October 14 2010 European Parliament Delegation ‘Brief on EU-US trade and economic cooperation’ was well received and we look forward to further proposals to improve the Transatlantic market. In this respect we also discussed the need for us as legislators to take a more active role to reduce non-tariff barriers to trans-Atlantic trade, including working with executive agencies on a few specific projects, for instance as regards product testing procedures of automobiles and emerging products through advances in nanotechnology.

We discussed ways to further enhance our dialogue and deepen transatlantic ties, even in times of economic constraints and respecting the need for cost effectiveness,, including:

- expanding contacts among staff of our institutions,
- 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, including through video-conferencing,
- promoting closer contacts between the Members responsible for specific legislative issues, in particular on a committee to committee basis,
- 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.



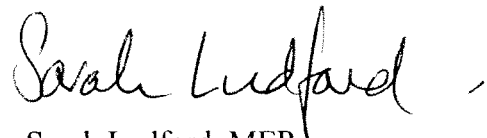
Shelley Berkley, Chair
Chairwoman
U.S. Congressional Delegation



Elmar Brok, MEP
Chairman
European Parliament Delegation



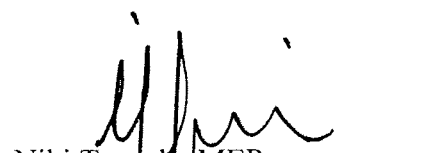
Cliff Stearns
Vice-Chairman (Ranking Republican)
United States Congress Delegation



Sarah Ludford, MEP
Vice-Chairwoman
European Parliament Delegation



Jim Costa
Vice-Chairman
United States Congress Delegation



Niki Tzavela, MEP
Vice-Chairwoman
European Parliament Delegation