

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

**Dublin, 31 May - 1 June 2013**

**JOINT STATEMENT**

We, the Members of the United States House of Representatives and the European Parliament, held our 74<sup>th</sup> Interparliamentary meeting of the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue in Dublin on 31 May and 1 June 2013. Based on our common values of freedom, democracy and the market economy, we discussed ways of deepening our relations, in particular to be better prepared to address the economic challenges that our nations face. Following up on discussions at previous meetings, we exchanged views on recent developments in cyber security and foreign policy, both areas of common concern to our nations' security.

*Economic and financial challenges*

Our economies are still in need for growth and the creation of more jobs. A reliable financial sector, sound public finances and competitive structures are important conditions towards this goal. We noted the importance of improved financial regulations on both sides of the Atlantic. We are therefore continuing our efforts in implementing the G20 commitments in the area of financial services in a timely, comprehensive and consistent manner. We underlined the importance of close transatlantic macro-economic cooperation and encouraged the competent institutions to strengthen their coordination, especially in the area of supervision and systemic risk prevention.

While recognizing the importance of debt and public deficit reduction, we focused our discussions on ways to prevent tax evasion. We emphasized fairness and integrity of national tax systems and acknowledged that tax havens jeopardize our nations in raising the necessary revenue for public policies. We called upon the Leaders of the G8 to send a strong message in this regard at their upcoming summit and we reaffirmed our commitments undertaken at the G20 gathering in Moscow in February 2013 on taking necessary action in tackling tax avoidance and reminded that national measures alone will not deliver the desired effects. We further welcomed steps by the EU and US towards exchange of information on foreign account tax compliance.

*Transatlantic trade and economic partnership*

The upcoming negotiations on a Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) are an opportunity to contribute to creating jobs and economic growth in a true transatlantic market, while preserving and recognizing the high labor, consumer protection, societal approaches and environmental standards our nations have. We emphasized the need to pay particular attention to SME's. We look forward to a comprehensive agreement including financial services and one that brings to the centre the issues of equivalence, mutual recognition, convergence and extraterritoriality.

Further increase of trade and economic growth can be achieved not only through reduction or removal of tariffs, which are already low, but most importantly by removing non-tariff barriers and by strengthening regulatory cooperation. We discussed therefore the prospects for regulatory

cooperation with representatives of the business community and the European standardization institute CEN. We were convinced that a TTIP based on these principles can also serve as a reference for further trade agreements and help to revitalize the multilateral trade system, such as the WTO.

We also underlined the need for a close involvement of Congress and the European Parliament throughout such negotiations, and will exchange between our Legislatures through this dialogue, taking into account input from stakeholders and civil society.

#### *Cyber security and Internet*

Following up on our exchanges in Copenhagen and Washington in 2012, we discussed the recent legislative developments concerning cyber security. We welcomed the EU Cyber Security Strategy and the proposed Directive concerning measures to ensure a high common level of network and information security across the Union, to be discussed in the European Parliament. We noted the wide-ranging proposals for the establishment of minimum security requirements at national level, information sharing between key sectors and national authorities and an increased cooperation among Member States. We also discussed legislative initiatives in Congress, aimed at improving network security through information sharing, and steps taken by the executive branch to improve critical infrastructure cybersecurity. The threats posed by cyber attacks, including from entities in Russia and China, and the recent breaches of US defense plans by Chinese hackers were discussed in depth. With ever-increasing cyber threats we need a clear legal framework and common standards to ensure robust cyber security and to protect our economies and citizens. We also welcomed the start of operations of the European Cyber Crime Center (EC3) and the expansion of mandate of the European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA) and encouraged these agencies to engage in close cooperation with their US partners. While focusing on the need to ensure greater cyber security and resilience, we stressed our shared concern for the protection of digital freedoms and the respect for privacy.

#### *Foreign Policy and Security Cooperation*

We agreed that respect for human rights and support for the strengthening of democratic institutions and the rule of law shall remain the cornerstone of EU and US relationships with Latin American partners. We underlined the importance of a strong Inter-American System of Human Rights for the promotion of universal values in the Western Hemisphere. We discussed our concerns with regard to the situation of human rights in several Latin American countries. In particular, we are troubled by the ongoing repression of civil society and political opposition in Cuba. We urged the Cuban government to unconditionally release all political prisoners and to respect fundamental human rights of its people. We also join the call for an international independent investigation into the alleged murder of Cuban political reformer and EP Sakharov Price laureate Oswaldo Payá.

We condemned in the strongest terms the ongoing brutality and atrocities perpetrated by Bashar al Assad and his regime on the Syrian people, and any use of chemical weapons. We insist that all parties to the conflict must fully respect international humanitarian and human rights law. We urged the international community to find a political solution to the conflict and to promote a peaceful transition to democracy and rule of law, and see particular responsibility with the UN Security Council and our partners in the region. We called upon our Administrations to step up support for the moderate forces, which commit to universal values of democracy, rule of law and human rights, support non-proliferation and counterterrorist efforts, and renounce sectarian

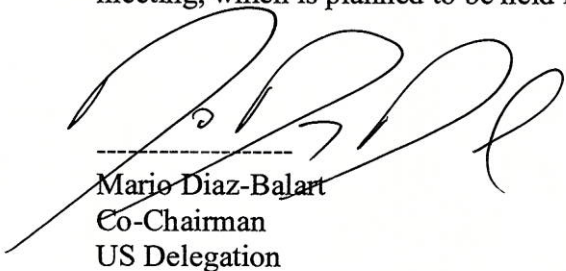
violence and extremism. We commend the host communities in Syria's neighboring countries for their support to refugees and underline the importance of the humanitarian assistance provided by both transatlantic partners to civilians affected by the conflict across the region. We express our grave concern at the engagement of Hezbollah in the Syrian conflict and condemn its terrorist activities, including those on European soil.

Our delegations examined the serious threat posed by Iranian efforts to acquire a nuclear weapons capability, and its support for international terrorism. We appreciate the close cooperation between the US and the EU in the framework of the P5+1 negotiations with Iran as well as on enforcing the sanctions regime. We 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.

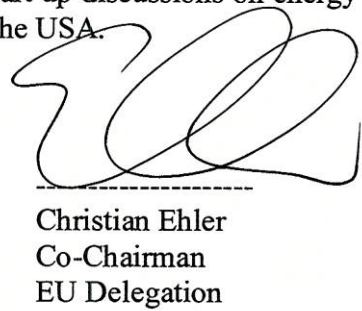
We analysed the progress in the Eastern European Neighbourhood countries and welcomed the accession of Croatia to the EU and EU efforts towards improvements in the relations between Serbia and Kosovo. Challenges with regard to strengthening democracy and the rule of law in Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia were discussed.

### *Conclusion*

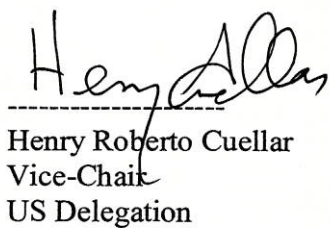
Our discussions have convinced us of the need to further strengthen our relations, in particular in order to increase synergies between our economies. We will continue the issue oriented approach in the TLD, closely follow the TTIP negotiations, and start up discussions on energy at our 75th meeting, which is planned to be held in autumn 2013 in the USA.



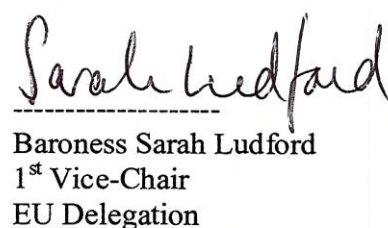
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Co-Chairman  
US Delegation



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Christian Ehler  
Co-Chairman  
EU Delegation



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Henry Roberto Cuellar  
Vice-Chair  
US Delegation



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