European Parliament

Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue

85th US-EU Inter-Parliamentary Meeting

TRANSATLANTIC LEGISLATORS' DIALOGUE

Mount Vernon, Virginia – December 3rd, 2022

JOINT STATEMENT

We, the members of the U.S. Congress and the European Parliament, held our 85th Inter-Parliamentary Meeting of the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue (TLD) on December 1-3rd, 2022. We were hosted by the US Congress at the Capitol in Washington D.C. and at Mount Vernon, Virginia, the home of President George Washington.

1. Ukraine: defence and humanitarian needs

We commit to continue our military and economic support for the people and government of Ukraine, as they defend their freedom, territorial integrity, and full sovereignty of their nation. We define the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine as a flagrant and senseless violation of international law. We strongly condemn the war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the Russian occupation forces and affirm that all persons responsible must be prosecuted.

We support continuing humanitarian assistance to the Ukrainian people in need, and continuing support for Ukrainian refugees - both inside Ukraine and in neighbouring countries. We demand that Russian authorities allow all Ukrainian refugees in Russia to return to their country or to seek refuge in other countries.

We call for coordinated US and EU sanctions against Russia to remain until Russia retreats its forces from all Ukrainian territories. We also stress the importance of transatlantic cooperation to prevent sanctions evasion and the need to streamline the enforcement of export controls with a particular focus on Russia.

We strongly condemn the threats made by Russian President Vladimir Putin to use nuclear weapons in the war he has initiated, and we demand that Ukrainian exports of grain, other foods, and fertilizers can safely keep transiting through the Black Sea. We also condemn the Russian government's cruel attempts to use hostages as political pawns in prisons and labor camps.

2. Long-term economic and democratic reform in Ukraine and Moldova

We welcome the EU decision to award Ukraine and Moldova the status of candidate countries.

We strongly condemn the Russian targeted attacks on civilian infrastructure in Ukraine, and reiterate our intention to help Ukraine keep its basic infrastructure usable and running, such as water, wastewater, electricity, and heating. We ask to make all necessary arrangements to expand the intra-EU energy solidarity system to include Ukraine and Moldova, particularly during winter.

The reconstruction of Ukraine will require substantial international support, and Russia should be made responsible for the destruction it has created, in line with the United Nations General Assembly Resolution A/RES/ES-11/5.

We welcome and encourage the reform efforts by the governments of Ukraine and Moldova with particular regard to the implementation of their EU Association Agreements.

We underline that anchoring the democracies of Ukraine and Moldova in human rights, fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law is essential to modernization, and will ensure their full integration in the western world and its markets. We also call on the US and the EU to cooperate closely with Ukraine and Moldova in their fight against Russian disinformation and malign influence.

We appreciate the progress made by several Western Balkan countries in their modernization and reform programmes. We remain concerned, however, with the disparities in these processes and the strong disinformation and interference campaigns applied by Russia in the different countries. The future of the entire Western Balkans region lies in the European Union.

2b. Transatlantic support for Iranian civil society

We firmly condemn the brutal repression by the Iranian regime of its own people, particularly of women and minorities. We express our deepest condolences to the families of Mahsa Amini and the many others killed by the Iranian police for exercising their fundamental rights to free speech and assembly. We hail the persistent demonstrations of brave Iranian citizens, inside and outside Iran, against brutal, theological dictatorship.

Furthermore, we condemn delivery to Russia of Iranian weapons, including combat drones, used in Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine. We call for maintaining US and EU sanctions against Iran until Iran respects the universal human rights of its own population and refrains from being a constant threat to other nations in the Middle East. We commit to keep funding US and EU programmes of support for Iranian civil society, and to develop new ones.

3. Trade and Technology Council: The trade and digital agenda

We stress that multilateralism and open trade have been the cornerstones of peace and stability in the world since World War II.

We strongly endorse the work of the Trade and Technology Council (TTC), including that of the upcoming third ministerial meeting. We firmly advocate for deeper and stronger cooperation between the EU and US on technology innovation and usage that promote democratic principles, shared values, and the rules-based international order.

We stress the importance of reaching a transatlantic agreement on rules concerning data governance, technology standards, investment screenings, and competitiveness, as well as a joint approach regarding subsidies and state-owned enterprises. We emphasize the importance of the TTC's work on technological innovation, supply chain integrity, cybersecurity interoperability, sustainable trade benchmarks, and transatlantic commerce, and urge the adoption of actionable next steps following the ministerial. Further, we stress the importance of stronger parliamentary involvement and scrutiny in the TTC.

We call for the US and the EU to jointly address the challenge of emerging and disruptive technologies and develop robust mechanisms against their use by foreign actors. We thus welcome a US-EU common approach on security and risk management in the use of artificial intelligence systems that ensures human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The US and the EU should work together to reform the World Trade Organisation and ensure that any improvements in its efficiency do not contradict all the achievements it has reached. We must also continue to promote and maintain open markets for American and European companies. We encourage the US and the EU to coordinate implementation of their CHIPs legislation to strengthen our interconnected semiconductor supply chains and to jointly boost our market share in the global semiconductor value chain.

We anticipate tangible outcomes from the third US-EU TTC ministerial meeting, taking place in Washington D.C. on December 5th, 2022. The future work of the Council should also include more focus on climate change.

We insist on the need for increased EU-US joint funding and investments in research and development, and support for technology start-ups and SMEs. The investment into advanced technologies should be accompanied with training and education to build a workforce with the right skills and knowledge to advance the digital economy.

4. Inflation and US / EU domestic economic priorities

Price stability is necessary for strong and sustainable economic recovery and prosperity for our citizens. We welcome the efforts of the Federal Reserve and the European Central Bank in taking aggressive actions to control price stability, which should prioritise full employment.

We stress that economic policy responses from the US and the EU to consecutive crises such as the pandemic, the Russian invasion of Ukraine, and the challenges posed by the climate crisis should not introduce new trade barriers.

We note that the high inflation experienced by the transatlantic community is due in large part to COVID-19 supply chain disruptions and ongoing recovery, in addition to Russia's war of aggression and the significant impact it has on energy and food prices. We condemn the Kremlin's initiative to use energy and food supplies as weapons.

5. China and critical supply chains

China is a systematic rival, a competitor, and a vast market with global implications. While we acknowledge the need for partnership on global challenges such as climate change, public health, and cyberspace, China's violation of the rules-based global order cannot be ignored. China continues to support flagrant human rights violations such as the imprisonment of Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, severe restrictions on religious freedom, movement, and speech in Tibet, and crackdowns on protest across the country. We also express great concern about China's ongoing economic coercion and efforts to create debt dependency.

We underscore that a high dependency of crucial commodities from countries with autocratic regimes is a sincere concern that should be addressed jointly by the US and the EU, along with other countries that share our values. We stress the need for the EU and US to achieve a coherent and consistent approach to global supply chains to ensure flexibility and resilience, in particular with respect to semiconductors and critical minerals.

We condemn in full any efforts by China to threaten Taiwan militarily, and call for close US and EU coordination on maintaining peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait. Any attempt by Beijing to change the status quo by force will bring significant consequences.

We express concerns with the Chinese assertive pretensions in the South China Sea, and denounce the double standard applied by China to the principle of freedom of navigation in the South China Sea and in the Arctic. We welcome synergic approaches in both US and EU Indo-Pacific Strategies.

6. Climate: recapping COP 27 and energy security

We welcome the COP 27 decisions adopted, in particular the commitments of the US and the EU to step up efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in their respective territories. As reiterated during the COP27 climate summit, the EU and the US must continue efforts to phase down the use of fossil fuels.

We note that the US and the EU should lead by example and work on financial commitments with other major emitters. We underline that countries such as China and India also need to do their fair share, including via adequate support for more vulnerable countries in advancing their climate mitigation and adaptation policies. We affirm that the current energy crisis should not deter our transition towards a carbon neutral economy.

In order to bolster energy security and adaptability, we stress the importance of EU and US cooperation on diversifying their energy sources, including affordable US LNG exports to the EU, and continued collaboration on clean and renewable energy production. We welcome the EU's efforts to diversify its gas supplies, reduce the overall use of fossil fuels, and cut its greenhouse gas emissions, as stated in the REPowerEU Plan.

We urge the US and the EU to continue providing emergency energy assistance to Ukraine and Moldova to combat Russian efforts to weaponize energy supplies.

We note the steps taken in the US Inflation Reduction Act to foster decarbonization, but recognize the concerns expressed by the EU that certain IRA provisions will negatively impact the EU economy. We also recognize that the US objective of the Inflation Reduction Act is to in part provide financial security for American families. While we have different perspectives, it's important that ultimately we agree on creating the conditions for strong transatlantic cooperation and policy convergence on decarbonization and technological innovation.

7. The Future of the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue

In order to maintain strong and regular transatlantic relations, it's vital that the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue be composed of two permanent, statutorily authorized bodies. The European Parliament has had a permanent delegation to the TLD since 1999 and a dedicated steering committee since 2000, and we urge the 118th Congress to support swift passage of legislation to codify into law the US Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue.

Radoslaw Sikorski
Co-Chair
EU Delegation

Jim Costa
Co-Chair
US Delegation

Miapetra Kumpula-Natri
Vice-Chair
EU Delegation

Nicolae Ștefănuță
Vice-Chair
EU Delegation