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## **88<sup>th</sup> EU-US Inter-Parliamentary Meeting**

### **TRANSATLANTIC LEGISLATORS' DIALOGUE**

**Brussels – 5 April 2024**

#### **JOINT STATEMENT**

We, the members of the European Parliament and the U.S. House of Representatives, met on 4 and 5 April 2024 at the European Parliament's premises in Brussels (Belgium) for the 88<sup>th</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Meeting of the Transatlantic Legislators' Dialogue (TLD). More than ever, the E.U. and the U.S. must join forces to tackle the huge geopolitical, geo-economic and sustainability challenges that the world is currently facing. The E.U. and the U.S. must continue to show mutual trust and joint international leadership, as this is not a partisan issue but a fundamental shared interest. The future of democracy, fundamental rights and freedoms, rule of law – including international law – and our way of life depend on it. We will keep promoting cooperation with like-minded countries across the world in this regard and pursue multilateral solutions and international rules-based cooperation.

Economic security and close trade ties are essential for our growth and stability; we agree to enhance the coordination of our respective legislative work, including the oversight over our executives, in this field. We are determined to ensure, among other, resilient supply chains, the protection of our physical and cyber infrastructures, and the coordination of our export controls. We will collectively protect technology affecting our security and fight any sort of economic coercion from rival powers. We are committed to establishing binding guardrails to Artificial Intelligence across the Atlantic that allow our societies to benefit from its large opportunities, while ensuring that human rights and democratic values are fully preserved. We strongly support the efforts of the EU - US Trade and Technology Council (TTC) and its working groups, as reflected in the five ministerial meetings held



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so far. We appreciate the engagement of the stakeholders and emphasise their importance of the transparency and effectiveness in the work. We have high expectations for the outcome of the sixth ministerial meeting, which is being held in parallel to this TLD meeting, in the nearby city of Leuven. We also confirm our support for the US-EU Energy Council, its related goals and for other dialogue and cooperation fora, including on clean energy technology, where more work is needed. We are eager to see finalised agreements on all TTC priority files and in particular on critical minerals. Similarly, we ask for fair and lasting solutions to all transatlantic trade irritants, including but not limited to a Global Arrangement on Sustainable Steel and Aluminium. This will maintain the strength of our mutual trade and investment flows, which constitute the most integrated economic relationship in the world. Stakeholders' involvement in TTC must be reinforced, including the integration of a strong parliamentary dimension.

The transatlantic partners share a historical responsibility to support Ukraine in its third year confronting the ruthless Russian war of aggression. The outcome of this unprovoked war will have far-reaching consequences for us and for the world order. A Russian victory would carry a high price for our citizens, and be highly detrimental to peace and security on the European continent and the global rules-based order. We strongly condemn the large North Korean and Iranian supplies of weapons and ammunition to Russia and demand China to halt its role as an intermediary for shipments of critical components for the Russian military, and to refrain from giving any diplomatic cover to Russia's unacceptable justification to invade Ukraine. Ukraine's military, government and civil society are at a crucial point; Ukraine can better defend itself with the combined efforts of both the E.U. and the U.S. We welcome the E.U. decision on 1 February 2024 to provide a new package of EUR 50 billion of predictable and stable support to Ukraine until 2027 under the Ukraine Facility and expect the fruition of an urgent bipartisan agreement in the U.S. Congress on additional U.S. aid. We are also concerned about Moldova's precarious situation in the face of Russian threats and interference. We welcome the progress made towards the start of EU accession negotiations by



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Ukraine, Moldova and Bosnia and Herzegovina, the candidate status for Georgia and the renewed EU-enlargement momentum in the Western Balkans.

We underline the importance of continuing the coordination of sanctions on Russia and supporters of its war efforts, as well as of coordination of military support to Ukraine. We call for reinforced transatlantic coordination to act decisively against sanctions circumvention. Russia must pay for the damages it causes in Ukraine. We, therefore, support G7 discussions on coordinating the best way to use frozen Russian assets to help Ukraine, and we look forward to the June 2024 G7 Summit decisions in this regard. We welcome the recent European Commission proposal to allocate 90% of revenues generated by frozen Russian assets held in Europe to an EU-run fund that finances the supply of weapons and ammunitions for Ukraine and 10% to the EU Budget to enhance Ukraine's Defence industry and reconstruction. We also welcome the progress in the U.S. Congress of the "REPO" legislation on the use of Russian sovereign assets for Ukraine reconstruction and the "Asset Seizure for Ukraine Reconstruction Act".

We condemn in the strongest terms the murder of courageous Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny, in an Arctic Siberian prison. We commend the sanctions adopted in the E.U. and U.S. against Russia's brutal and systematic internal repression but urge further action. The flawed and uncompetitive so-called elections, also held in illegally occupied territories of Ukraine, are the latest evidence of Russia's repressive regime. Russia's political and military leaders will have to face justice for grave and systemic violations of human rights, and international humanitarian law, including possible war crimes and crimes against Humanity committed during the war of aggression in Ukraine. This includes the forced displacement, adoptions and "passportisation" of Ukrainian children to re-education and military camps in the Russian Federation and in the illegally occupied territories of Ukraine, and in Belarus, which violate the Russian Federation's international obligations, including those under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. We support efforts to bring back and safely settle Ukrainian children in Ukraine. We will pay particular



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attention to the ongoing discussions on the establishment of a tribunal for the crime of aggression against Ukraine, and we welcome the recent USD 1 million U.S. financial support to the International Centre for the Crime of Aggression established in Eurojust.

We strongly welcome Sweden's accession to NATO on 7 March 2024 and highly value its contribution to shared transatlantic security and defence. We salute the ongoing "Steadfast Defender" military exercise in Northern and Central Europe, NATO's largest exercise in Europe since the end of the Cold War. We look forward to the Washington NATO Summit scheduled for 9-11 July 2024, which will celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Alliance and will discuss common answers to the challenges facing our transatlantic community, including the need to support to Ukraine. We strongly welcome the recent significant increases in defence spending among EU member states and support a bolstered European Union role in enhancing transatlantic security, in close and effective coordination with NATO structures. We are encouraged by the important progress in the level of NATO-EU cooperation. We welcome the further strengthening of NATO's defences, the robust new military plans, more forces at higher readiness, the strengthening of defence partnerships and the major increases in defence investment. We encourage and support the creation of the NATO Centre for Democratic Resilience. Over the decades, NATO has proven to be the most reliable and successful military security alliance, and the cornerstone of the security of citizens on both sides of the Atlantic. We call for its preservation and further reinforcement as an essential deterrent against attacks on any of the Allies. We also reaffirm our support for NATO's Open-Door policy and urge leaders at the Washington NATO Summit in July to provide greater clarity to prospective member states, on potential paths to membership. Furthermore, the E.U. and the U.S. must keep jointly combatting terrorism, violent extremism, and the proliferation of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction.

We are increasingly concerned about the continuous destabilisation of the Middle East region following the vicious Hamas terrorist attacks in Israel on 7 October 2023, and the ongoing war in



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Gaza. We call for the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages, deeply regret the high number of civilian victims and are deeply concerned by the high risks of starvations. We support the access of secured humanitarian aid to the civilian population. We reiterate our call for renewed efforts by the EU, the US, and partners in the region, to identify a viable path to a lasting and sustainable solution for peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians. We are also alarmed by the Iran-supported Houthis ongoing attacks on international shipping in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden, which have killed seamen, disrupted trade, and led to hostages being taken by the militia. We also call for ever-closer coordination between the E.U. and the U.S. to preserve freedom of navigation in the South-China Sea, and to address the growing Chinese assertiveness in the Taiwan Strait. It is important to cooperate on all challenges posed by the People's Republic of China, aiming at de-risking our dependencies.

2024 is an important year for the E.U. and the U.S. We are proud of one of the basic pillars of our democracies: holding regular, free and fair elections. We are committed to fighting foreign information manipulation. Russian, Chinese, and Iranian efforts to interfere, and divide us as partners, as well as our societies, will not be tolerated.

We strongly recommend to E.U. leaders that in their conclusions of the June European Council, special consideration be given to the strengthening the cooperation and partnership between the E.U., its Member States, and the United States of America. Likewise, we call on leaders at all levels in the US and the EU to keep the Transatlantic relationship at the forefront of their agendas and to foster stronger ties. We must keep reinforcing the exchanges between our academic and scientific communities, fostering closer research cooperation and stimulating people-to-people contacts between our citizens.

The U.S. and E.U. common values are worth defending for the future of our free, democratic, and prosperous societies as well as for that of many like-minded countries. Together we are strong. The



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European Parliament and US Congress call for pressing and significant leadership initiatives on both sides of the ocean to make our transatlantic relationship stronger, deeper, and lasting.

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*Danuta Hübner*  
Co-Chair  
EU Delegation

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*Nathaniel Moran*  
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*Miapetra Kumpula-Natri*  
Vice-Chair  
EU Delegation

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*Jim Costa*  
Ranking Member  
US Delegation