

March 15, 2013

Brussels Forum

Welcome

Mr. Craig Kennedy: Welcome to the 8th Annual Brussels Forum. We're really pleased to have so many of you here. Quite a few new people this year, but a lot of veterans of all eight of these.

When we founded it, the purpose was to find common transatlantic solutions to global problems. We wanted to create an intellectually engaging, but politically relevant, meeting that would stimulate action.

I want to start by thanking our two long-time partners, Daimler and the Federal Government of Belgium, that have been with us since the beginning. I think Martin Yeager and a few other people, in fact, both of them are here. It would not be possible without them.

This year we are working hard to innovate. Last year, a lot of people came up and said, "Wow, I mean, it's still a great meeting, but it's getting a little

formulate. People are starting to copy all of the things that used to make Brussels Forum different and interesting. You need to start rethinking what you're doing."

So we started out by creating a theme this year. The Fragility of the Global System. We asked Timothy Garton Ash to give a prologue. Not with the idea that you were all going to agree with it, but to stimulate, provoke, and maybe even get a few people angry.

We have some other innovations that we're adding. Some simple.

The breakfast sessions will be shorter and more focused.

We've created a Brussels Forum café out in the bar area where authors will be meeting in between the sessions.

We have a new publication, [Brussels Forum Views](#), which is a compilation of pieces on this theme of fragility.

We're going to highlight some of the GMF programs at various points.

We also have a whole set of new leadership development initiatives that will be part of the Brussels Forum. Some, like the young professionals summit, has been here before. Others, like the transatlantic inclusion leaders network, the Asmus Fellows, and a few others, are new this year, and especially tonight, as we start the sessions, the night owls, you'll start to see them.

And we even have a younger crowd here this year. For the first time, we're offering child care. The participants in that part are not going to be allowed to come to the night owls, but they may be asking questions on Sunday morning. So when you see the very precocious five-year-old walk up to the mike, you know what's going on.

We have 24 partners that have made this event, this year possible. It's twice as many as last year. And we'll talk more about them at dinner tonight.

And we've got a few other exciting developments. But I really want to thank all of you who took the time to make suggestions, to criticize, to suggest that it was really time to freshen things up. And I hope we've succeeded.

Now it's my pleasure to introduce Senator Chris Murphy, who's the new Chair of the Europe Subcommittee of Senate Foreign Relations Committee. He was elected in November of 2012 after three terms in the U.S. House. He has made a great effort to get here today, taking -- well, maybe, only planes. I was going to say planes and trains, but only planes. But he had to go by a little bit more securitous route than we'd planned. But we really wanted to give him a chance to at least say a few words at the beginning of the session. Senator Murphy.

{applause}

Senator Chris Murphy: Well, thank you very much, Craig. And it is wonderful to be here. This is my first Brussels Forum and certainly won't be my last. I am

only sorry that I believe I'll be the one member of the Senate delegation who will be here. We are in the middle of attempting to solve our most recent manufactured economic crisis in the United States and it is caused most people to stay behind.

But as the new Chairman of the European Affairs Subcommittee on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, it was important for me to be here and express to you my excitement, my passion, for working with you over the next two years, and hopefully, far beyond.

You know, we talk about this being an amazing moment of transition for the globe, but this is also a moment of transition when it comes to American foreign policy. We are a war-weary nation, coming off of ten years in which we have lost 4,000 lives and spent a cumulative of almost three trillion dollars. And we have a collective foreign policy establishment in the House and the Senate that is asking, what is next?

And to me, the new European - U.S. trade agreement is the bedrock of the answer to that question. We're at

a moment for the first time in modern history in which you can become a superpower, not by the size of your army, but by the size of your economy. And we realize that by linking ourselves in a new way to Europe, that the economic state craft, that we all believe will become the basis of true political power in this world going forward accrues to us, if we build our economies together.

It won't be easy. But it will be absolutely necessary. And so I'm here today to introduce myself to many, to hopefully begin some important new friendships and partnerships. This is an amazing moment, to be part of this transatlantic partnership. To me, this trade agreement can be the most significant document since Churchill and Roosevelt sat in Newfoundland Harbor almost 70 years ago.

I hope this is a great conference for all of you. I know it will be for me.

Thank you very much for having me.

{Applause}

Mr. Craig Kennedy: We are very, very pleased to have the Senator with us. He's shown a tremendous interest in learning about what's going on in Europe, of listening to all of you. I'm not going to suggest that everybody try to corner him, but you'll find him a really interesting guy, and well worth your time.