

March 27, 2010

Brussels Forum

Remarks by the Co-Chairmen of the U.S. Congressional Delegation and by the President of the European Parliament

SPEAKER: The co-chairs of the delegation this year are Senator Casey from Pennsylvania and Senator of Ohio. Both of them have been involved in Brussels Forum at various points over the years. I am going to ask Senator Casey to come up first. Before I do I want to reiterate the comments that were made yesterday. Senator is retiring from the United States Senate. In the United States there is only a few Senators that really, really get deeply engaged in foreign policy and Senator has been one of those especially on issues related to the Balkans it is hard to find many experts who knows as much about the issues as he does. It will be a tremendous loss to the United States that he is not in the United States Senate but we hope he will keep coming to the Brussels Forum in the future and keep giving good advice to the American people about

foreign policy.

With that I'm going to turn the floor over to Senator Casey who is the co-chair of the delegation.

The Hon. Robert Casey, Jr.: Well good morning, Craig thank you very much for your introduction and for your welcome. I want to thank the German Marshall Fund and all of those that made this possible. We had an interesting trip here. We almost didn't make it as well this year mostly because of what is happening in Washington. I have to say Craig that I agree with every word that you just spoke about George Voinovich. We are going to miss him terribly in the United States Senate, someone who brings experience and good judgment, character to his work, but also in a very real way a strong commitment to bipartisanship which is in short supply today in Washington. I am grateful and honored to be not only joined here by Senator Voinovich but also to be a co-chairman with him.

Another legislator from the state of Ohio Congressman Mike Turner from the third district of Ohio traveled with us and we're grateful for his presence here, as well.

I just have a few short remarks this morning about this critically important relationship between the United States and our friends in Europe, this Transatlantic relationship which is being promoted in advance by the Brussels Forum, and has been for several years now. Transatlantic understanding and dialogue and I believe common purpose. It's been a relationship that's been nurtured by the bonds of common heritage. It's been a relationship tested and strengthened by the awful horror of war in that crucible. And I also believe our joint efforts which we've talked about and we continue to talk about to confront several challenges, certainly the challenge provoked by terrorism and the economic down turn and the financial crisis is the challenge posed by climate change.

We also know that what we spoke of last year and certainly the year before remains with us in terms of challenges. A nuclear armed Iran is a major challenge for all of us. We are going to be speaking about that later today. Secondly NATO's renewed efforts in Afghanistan to eradicate extremists who threaten stability and also threaten the establishment of

democratic institutions and I believe threaten as well enduring peace. And finally nonproliferation. I had some good news about that in the last couple of days, last couple of hours really. The United States and Russia at the point of coming together on a new agreement as well as the nuclear summit which will be hosted by President Obama to discuss and to confront another challenge in this area which is nuclear material getting in the hands of terrorists and other extremists, a tremendous challenge for the world and certainly a challenge for this partnership between the United States and our friends in Europe.

So with that I want to express and reiterate the thanks that we have brought this morning with us and the gratitude of the American people for this opportunity to have 3 members of the United States Congress come together to talk about these issues but I also want to turn the microphone over to my friend and a great Senator and a great colleague, Senator George Voinovich.

The Hon. George Voinovich: Thanks, Bob, for your nice words and Craig, thank you very much. First of

all I want to congratulate Craig and his German Marshall team for doing an outstanding job and also I want to thank the sponsors of this, those of you that are investing in it I think for me it is the most worthwhile conference I attend every year. The forum is important because of the fact that we have an open dialogue in exchange of ideas and I believe that is very critical to the future of the Transatlantic alliance.

I would like to say that Senator Bennett would have been the co-chair with Senator Casey, but he is back home campaigning to get re-elected. Senator McCain is usually here and he is back home in a campaign. We have a new party in the United States called the Tea Party candidate who happens to be running candidates against many of our Republicans because they are not far enough to the right for them. So I'm hoping that Senator Bennett and Senator McCain are back next year. Senator Shaheen asked me to express her regrets of not being here because of a family commitment, but I want you to know that she is chairman of the European subcommittee and the foreign relations committee and

she is very, very interested in this organization and traveled with me a month ago to southeast Europe or we traveled to Slovenia and Croatia and Bosnia and Macedonia or for some of you Prahran and to Serbia.

I regret that this is the last opportunity I'm going to have to be here as a participant. I'm hopeful that maybe I will be back in another capacity. As I mentioned this is the most worth while conference I attend every year. I would like to just mention two things, issues. One is Afghanistan. I want to thank everyone here for their participation in our partnership. One of the things that I was very concerned about in terms of Afghanistan when the president was making his mind up as to what our policy was going to be was that we involve our brothers and sisters. And I wrote to Senator Clinton back in October and one of the things that I mentioned in my letter to her is this. It is clear that our friends in Europe want to play a constructive role as we redouble our combat security assistance and civilian capacity building efforts, but my fellow Parliamentarians stated adamantly that they want to be treated as equal

partners and stake holders on Afghanistan policy. They do not want to be lectured and told what to do by the United States. And I feel very good from talking to Secretary General Rasmussen and others that Senator Clinton, Ambassador Holbrook, Defense Secretary Gates, and General Jones have really tried to get out and spend some time to get everyone's opinion.

In addition in that letter I mentioned that we should reach out to the European Republic. All of you have problems in your respective countries in terms of your participation, most of you do, and I thought that President Obama did a marvelous job when he accepted the Nobel Peace Prize of outlining the responsibilities that we have internationally to maintain peace in the world. I thought that was very courageous on his part when you consider the forum at which he was speaking.

Last but not least I want you to know that we are committed to Afghanistan. As I mentioned yesterday we are increasing our defense budget, we are committed to it. Not only the defense budget but our budget for the State Department, so we are in this, we're making the commitment so you know we are there. Actions speak

louder than words. Actions are there. The other issue that I have been involved in over the years is Southeast Europe. I'm not going to go into the details, but we have unfinished business there in Southeast Europe that we need to address our attention to. I'm hoping that some of you will be able to attend the meeting that we are going to have later today with President Sipovich and President Tadic' and several others to talk about some of the challenges that we still have in that part of Europe.

I have a motto that I have had since I was Mayor of the City of Cleveland and Governor of the state of Ohio and that motto was "Together we can do it". And as I mentioned yesterday we all have a symbiotic relationship with each other and that means that the more we cooperate with each other the more we're going to be able to achieve our respective goals. I would hope that this coming year we come closer together and we prioritize our challenges and continue to make a difference. I will do everything I can during this last year to be a participant and helpful. Thank you.

SPEAKER:

Now it is my pleasure to introduce our third President that we have had as a speaker at this conference. Yesterday we heard from President Barroso and President Rompuy, now we get to hear from President Buzek, President of the European Parliament where he has been a member since 2004. Before that he was a member of the Polish Parliament and Prime Minister of Poland. For us it is a great honor to have this kind of representation from Europe and especially from the European Parliament. Without further ado I will turn it over to you, President Buzek.

The Hon. Jerzy Buzek: Thank you very much. Dear Senators, friends, colleagues, I welcome you in Europe, in Brussels on the conference organized by you. So thank you very much. That is such a possibility I hope when we are going to organize similar conferences in Washington all the authorities from government would be attending, as well, our meeting. It is very important on both sides, bilateral relations, E.U. and United States.

Well that is a very important issue just informed to us but we are lucky because we are sitting around

knowing it is a new era. Over a year into the new Obama Administration and now the European Parliament and other office holders are in place and that is a good moment. The timing of this Brussels Forum could not be better. I would like to tell you too much about our new construction after the Lisbon Treaty because maybe it is slightly more complicated. I am quite sure it would be more efficient than it was until now. Of course, the most important issue is outcome, what we can organize and what we can decide on this basis.

I only want to mention that I have the honor to chair European Parliament which is a rising power and in Lisbon Treaty takes the power to a new level. In effect, like in the United States we now have an upper chamber which is in European Union council of ministers from all the member states. We have European Parliament which is the lower chamber in a single legislative system. Shortest way to explain.

Being co-legislator on the side of European Parliament. Full co-legislator. In parallel things have changed on the council side, executive side, because our executive leadership by the European

council, it's meeting of heads of state and government and every day leadership in executive European commission.

So we have a new design to the political system of the European Union. What are we to use this power in Europe and your power in United States to achieve? The Lisbon Treaty would have Europe better coordinate its policies both internal and externally and help both of us to develop a new way of dealing with the rest of the world. Together I believe that we will need a new form of global governments. We need to modernize multi-literalism as my friend Bob Zoellick has put it. We need to use the Euro Atlantic partnership; this conference is a great step every year in this direction, to change the way global government's functions. The United States and Europe can and must take a leadership role in defining the principles and structures of this new multi polar, multi lateral world. We all know the difficult challenges we face today, economic insecurity, independence, climate change, terrorist, money laundering, nuclear weapon, common action on these fronts is essential. And

undressing these issues we need to find ways of bringing about because our bipolar reading is not enough. Russia, China, India, Brazil and other usual powers, how to take them on board.

In such a word American Europe must still serve as an access of global stability and values we believe in. Of course, we should not be too conceited or stuck up, but we are very proud of our democracy and our civilization as well as necessary to defend it. I believe we need to use this partnership to put in place the right policies and right institutions on the world wide scale. The time to do this is now and if you fail the beginning may be the first half of the twenty first century would be a center of insecurity and instability for us both and for all the globes.

Dear colleagues I believe fundamentally that the E.U.'s unit of sharing sovereignty between 27 members yesterday of promoting common solidarity, common responsibility, solidarity and responsibility both of them we were discussing this problem during the last days. Financial crisis, Euro zone, solidarity is as important as responsibility. This order is working

well and can be a model for the rest of the world. We believe in it. Yesterday's European Union summit here in Brussels which I had the privilege to attend agreed on an economic modernization strategy for Europe in 2020 because we need our own 2020 plan for both United States and European Union our cooperation which clearly defined goes back by a road map to deepen our partnership. I know because the Transatlantic economy could council cooperation between parliaments but it is not enough. We need to set ourselves a more ambitions challenge by 2020. We need to implement a genuine plan of Transatlantic single market based on the four freedoms which already exist here in Europe, free movement of goods, services, capital and people. I am just giving simple examples of how it could work. Politically we should look at creating new structures for cooperation and dialogue. At the executive level this could be done by, say, a Transatlantic Environmental Council or Transatlantic Financial Services Council, to address two important issues where decisions are currently taken into E.U. and U.S. without scarcely any regard for the other.

And in the Parliamentary field which is especially important for me and for you, as well, Senators, members of Congress, the American Congress, we need to build up the relationship between the European Parliament and both houses of the U.S. Congress into something much bigger and more ambitious than we see at the present. The European Parliament has called for a Transatlantic Parliamentary assembly, just as a NATO Parliamentary assembly was created years 50 ago to reflect the realities of the Cold War at the time.

We are fortunately not in Cold War time but it is still crisis around us, even such a, let's say, small, but very important like piracy. It was not the case 30 or 40 years ago. We need to fight together also against such cases.

So dear friends [Inaudible] lived in the United States during the Second World War and being one of the fathers of United Europe once said that everybody is ambitious. The question is whether he is ambitious to be or ambitious to do. To be ambitious to do as [Inaudible] said believing first of all in United States and later in Europe. Thank you very much.