

# Congressional Affairs Programming

## 2019 at a Glance



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#### Relaunch of the Congressional European Union (EU) Caucus

January 15, 2019



Dr. Karen Donfried, president of GMF, participated on a panel with EU ambassador to the United States, David O'Sullivan, and other experts to discuss the cooperation efforts between the United States and the European Union. This event was to celebrate the relaunching of the EU Caucus by Reps. Joe Wilson (R-SC) and Gregory Meeks (D-NY).

#### Understanding America, the National Urban League

February 12, 2019



GMF hosted National Urban League in order to discuss the German Marshall Fund's work around "Understanding America," election interference and voter suppression. Marc Morial, president and CEO of the Urban League, announced

his plans to engage in a series of speeches this year on the broader issues of Democracy and Civic Engagement, as well as on election interference and fighting the efforts by foreign actors to suppress minority voting in the lead up to the 2020 elections.

#### Congressional Testimony on Sanctions and Economic Statecraft

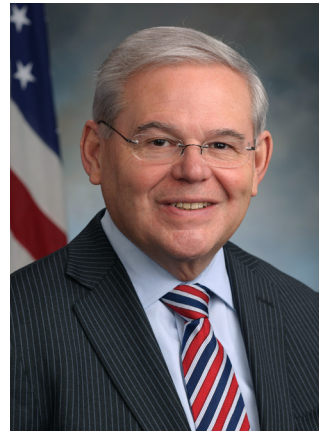
February 12, 2019



Dr. Evelyn Farkas, senior fellow at GMF, testified before the House Financial Service Committee regarding the use of sanctions and economic statecraft in addressing U.S. national security and foreign policy challenges.

#### Congressional Speaker Series on "Transatlantic Relations in a Changing World" - featuring Senator Bob Menendez (D-NJ)

February 18, 2019



Senator Menendez (D-NJ), ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, participated in the launch of the Congressional Speakers Series hosted in Brussels, Belgium. Senator Menendez spoke on the crucial role the transatlantic alliance plays in global affairs and the importance of preserving that partnership.

#### 16th Annual Congress-Bundestag Forum

February 19-24, 2019



The 16th Annual Congress-Bundestag Forum took place in Berlin and Dresden, Germany. A bipartisan delegation of members of the U.S. House of Representatives met with members of the German Bundestag for a series of off the record discussions regarding security and defense, workforce development, and technology, among other issues. Members in attendance included

Representatives Alma Adams (D-NC), Rob Bishop (R-UT), Anthony Brown (D-MD), Jim Costa (D-CA), Doug Lamborn (R-CO), Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), David McKinley (R-WV), John Rutherford (R-FL), and Scott Tipton (R-CO).

## Roundtable with Governor Phil Murphy and European Ambassadors

February 25, 2019



GMF hosted Governor Phil Murphy (D-NJ) and members of the European ambassadorial community for an intimate discussion on subnational diplomacy and its increasing importance in global affairs and trade and investment. As the former

U.S. ambassador to Germany, Governor Murphy provided a unique perspective on the nexus of international and subnational engagement.

## Congressional Speaker Series on “The State of the Homeland” featuring Congressman Bennie Thompson

February 26, 2019



Congressman Thompson (D-MS), chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security, was featured to discuss the committee's legislative priorities for the 116th Congress and the current state of the homeland.

## Congressional Speaker Series hosts Senator Mark Warner for the Launch of the Digital Innovation and Democracy Initiative

February 27, 2019



Senator Warner (D-VA), vice chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee, keynoted GMF's launch of the Digital Innovation and Democracy Initiative. Senator Warner discussed the

rapidly-changing international digital landscape and how new technologies may be harnessed to facilitate progress in the transatlantic policy community.

## New Congressional Members Dinner

March 5, 2019



To celebrate the freshmen members of the 116th U.S. Congress, GMF hosted an intimate dinner conversation for three new members of Congress and members of the European diplomatic community. The conversation allowed new members to

engage with both European diplomats and GMF experts to discuss the issues most pressing to the transatlantic relationship. The attendees included Representatives Abigail Spanberger (D-VA), Andy Kim (D-NJ), and David Joyce (R-PA).

## Congressional Testimony, “NATO at 70: An Indispensable Alliance”

March 13, 2019



Derek Chollet, executive vice president of GMF, testified before the House Foreign Affairs Committee regarding the relevance of NATO in 2019. His testimony focused on the modern challenges NATO faces, such as territorial defense, alliance

commitments, public support, and enduring commitment to common security.

## Congressional Staff Salon - Prospects for Transatlantic Cooperation on China

March 15, 2019



GMF convened congressional staffers to discuss the necessity of transatlantic cooperation on addressing expanding Chinese influence with Jamie Fly, director of the Asia Program, and Andrew Small, senior transatlantic fellow at GMF.



## Senate Banking Committee Congressional Delegation visits GMF Brussels

March 22, 2019



Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID), chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, led a CODEL to Europe where members participated in a roundtable on transatlantic digital issues with GMF experts and industry representatives. Chairman Crapo was joined by Senators John Barrasso (R-WY), Deb Fischer (R-NE), John Kennedy (R-LA), and Representatives Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), and Russ Fulcher (R-ID).

## Congressional Transatlantic Leadership Intensive (CTLI)

March 29, 2019



GMF conducted a one-day intensive leadership seminar, in partnership with the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, for senior congressional staff from the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate. CTLI focused on institutional and emerging challenges in the transatlantic space along with broader global leadership efforts in peace and security initiatives.

## Congressional Testimony, “NATO at 70: Partnership in the 21st Century”

April 2, 2019



Dr. Karen Donfried, president of GMF, testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on the longevity and resilience of the NATO alliance. She credited NATO with its ability to adapt and remain relevant to a changing strategic landscape and meet the resulting new challenges.

## Congressional Testimony, “The Future of NATO: New Challenges and Opportunities”

April 2, 2019



Dr. Evelyn Farkas, senior resident fellow at GMF, testified before the House Foreign Affairs Committee about the future of the transatlantic alliance and challenges to NATO and U.S. national security and foreign policy.

## NATO Engages: The Alliance at 70

April 3, 2019



GMF presented NATO Engages: The Alliance at 70, which commemorated NATO's 70th anniversary. It preceded the NATO foreign ministers' meeting on April 4. In conjunction with the Atlantic Council and Munich Security Conference, GMF hosted Senators Chris Murphy (D-CT) and Jean Shaheen (D-NH) and Representatives Mike Turner (R-OH) and Gerry Connolly (D-VA) as featured speakers.

**Congressional Testimony, “Privacy Rights and Data Collection in a Digital Economy”**

May 7, 2019



Peter Chase, senior fellow at GMF, testified before the Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee regarding the European Union’s General Data Protection Regulation and other approaches to data privacy. His testimony focused on the European Union’s General Data Protection Regulation and its provisions and implementations.

**U.S.-China Governors Collaboration Summit**

May 23-24, 2019



Reta Jo Lewis, director of Congressional Affairs and senior fellow at GMF, participated in the U.S.-China Governors Collaboration Summit, that set the stage for leaders from the United States and China to exchange views and best practices regarding trade and investment. Representatives from federal and state governments, diplomatic corps, trade offices,

industry and non-governmental organizations attended. Gov. Matt Bevin (R-KY) was a featured speaker for the summit.

**Diversifying Diplomacy: A Conversation with Women of Color Leaders of the State Department**

May 17, 2019



GMF hosted a panel discussion with three high-level political appointee women from the Department of State, Dr. Kiron Skinner, director for policy planning and senior adviser, Mary Elizabeth Taylor, assistant secretary for legislative affairs, and Dr.

Yleme D.S. Poblete, assistant secretary for arms control, verification, and compliance. The discussion focused on the importance of increasing opportunities for women of color in foreign policy, as well as to bring the discussants’ unique perspectives into the conversation.

**Congressional Testimony, “Undermining Democracy: Kremlin Tools of Malign Political Influence”**

May 21, 2019



Laura Rosenberger, director of Alliance for Securing Democracy and senior fellow at GMF, provided testimony before the U.S. House Committee on Foreign Affairs concerning the Kremlin’s undermining of democracy through avenues, such as asymmetric tools to undermine democratic institutions as a means of weakening Europe, the United States, and transatlantic ties.

**Brussels Forum 2019**

June 27-29, 2019



Brussels Forum 2019 featured a CODEL led by Senator Roy Blunt (R-MO) and Representatives Suzan DelBene (D-WA) and Mark Green (R-TN), as well as eleven senior congressional staffers. Members and staff were provided the opportunity to meet with their European counterparts regarding issues of mutual concern.

**Congressional Staff Salon - Transatlantic Technology Congressional Delegation**

July 26, 2019

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Karen Kornbluh, Digital Innovation and Democracy Initiative director and senior fellow at GMF and Victoria Espinel, president and CEO of Software.org hosted congressional staff members

for a briefing on the obstacles and opportunities for digital innovation in the transatlantic community. The briefing also served as a recruiting event for the third annual 2019 Transatlantic Technology Congressional Delegation (TTCD) in Berlin, Germany, and Brussels, Belgium.

**U.S.-China Relations: The View from Cities and States**

July 29, 2019



Reta Jo Lewis, Congressional Affairs director and senior fellow, participated in a Brookings Institute panel discussion to explore the costs, benefits, and impacts of sub-national exchanges between the United States and China. The panel was preceded by a keynote conversation featuring Governor Kate Brown (D-OR) and former Governor Bob Holden (D-MO)

discussing the steps governors and mayors have taken to expand their international portfolios in order to attract investment and jointly address transnational challenges.

**U.S. Helsinki Commission Readout on Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly and 116<sup>th</sup> Congress Priorities**

August 1, 2019



GMF hosted a roundtable conversation with Alex T. Johnson, chief of staff of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (U.S. Helsinki Commission). He provided an overview and analysis of the recent 2019 OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's Annual Session in Luxembourg, which included the largest bipartisan, bicameral U.S. congressional delegation in history.



### Congressional Staff Salon - Senate Baltic Freedom Caucus Roundtable

September 6, 2019



GMF and the Baltic Quad Conversations held a roundtable discussion, hosted by Senator Chuck Grassley (R-IA), to better understand the pressing security issues facing the Baltics and its transatlantic partners. These intimate, working group discussions on pressing security issues further GMF's goal of

bolstering transatlantic ties and promoting opportunities for cooperation between the United States and Europe.

### Paris Inclusive Leadership Summit

September 18-20, 2019



GMF TIL hosted the summit with the objective to explore and study the practice of inclusive leadership. Reta Jo Lewis, Congressional Affairs director and senior fellow at GMF, moderated a panel

on "Women in Transatlantic Leadership: Transatlantic Strategy Exchange," which focused on strategies women leaders are deploying to advance in national politics in the United States and Europe.

### Antwerp Maritime Strategy Group

October 3, 2019



Congressman Hank Johnson (GA-D) joined senior officials from the European Union institutions and the member states, parliamentarians, academics, and media for the strategy group as a featured speaker. The strategy group

is a premier platform to shape the transatlantic agenda on maritime policy. Discussions between participants related to developments in global trade, political and strategic trends, security risks, and social change.

### Congressional Staff Salon - New Turkey, New Challenges?

October 4, 2019



GMF in partnership with the House Foreign Affairs Committee conducted a briefing with experts on Turkey's recent local elections and their effects on the international political landscape. Ozgur Unluhisarcikli, director of GMF Ankara, Kadri Tastan, TOBB senior fellow, and Jonathan Katz, senior fellow

at GMF, provided their insight on the challenges and future outlook of Turkey.

### Congressional Staff Salon - Brexit Discussion

October 11, 2019



Dr. Rosa Balfour, GMF senior fellow Brussels, led a discussion for congressional staffers on the United Kingdom and the Brexit vote. With no clear consensus on how to structure a viable Brexit deal and the possibility of national elections further complicating efforts to decode the future of U.K.-E.U. relations, Dr. Balfour offered her insight on how the Brexit process would unfold.

**Congressional Testimony, “Reform in Armenia”**

October 22, 2019



Jonathan Katz, senior fellow at GMF, provided testimony before the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (U.S. Helsinki Commission). The commission held a hearing to examine reform in Armenia. His testimony outlined the historic transformation Armenia has undergone since the Velvet Revolution and the need to support Armenia in working toward democratic reform.

**Transatlantic Technology Congressional Delegation**

November 3-8, 2019



The Transatlantic Technology Congressional Delegation (TTCD), held in Brussels, Belgium and Berlin, Germany, enabled members of Congress to engage directly with stakeholder on topics relating to transatlantic digital space. TTCD covers issues such as

data protection, data ownership, cybersecurity, workforce development, digital trade, and digital entrepreneurship, among other issues. Attendees included Representatives Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE), Charlie Crist (D-FL), Glen Grothman (R-WI), James Sensenbrenner (R-WI), and Greg Walden (D-OR).

**Congressional Testimony, “Democracy and NATO Alliance: Upholding our Shared Democratic Values”**

November 13, 2019



Susan Corke, senior fellow and director of Transatlantic Democracy Working Group, testified before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, Energy, and the Environment on fundamental role of NATO to U.S. security. Her testimony stressed the need for NATO to remain relevant in order to confront current challenges, such as reinforcing democratic principles and support non-performing members accountable.

**Congressional Testimony on, “Public Diplomacy, Democracy, and Global Leadership”**

December 5, 2019



Lora Berg, GMF senior fellow, provided testimony before the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (U.S. Helsinki Commission) regarding public diplomacy, democracy, and global leadership. Her testimony focused on the importance of public diplomacy initiatives in advancing inclusive leadership.



## The Third Annual Women of Color in Transatlantic Leadership Forum: Changing the Face of Foreign Affairs

December 6 , 2019



GMF hosted a panel discussion featuring members of Congress who serve as leading voices in foreign affairs and national security issues in the U.S. Congress to create a pipeline to encourage women of color to continue pursuing opportunities to advance the international and transatlantic component of their leadership. Speakers included Representatives Veronia Escobar (D-TX), Deb Haaland (D-NM), Brenda Lawrence (D-MI), and Lauren Underwood (D-IL), Gwen Moore (D-WI).

For questions, please contact [congressionalaffairs@gmfus.org](mailto:congressionalaffairs@gmfus.org).

### About GMF

The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) strengthens transatlantic cooperation on regional, national, and global challenges and opportunities in the spirit of the Marshall Plan. GMF does this by supporting individuals and institutions working in the transatlantic sphere, by convening leaders and members of the policy and business communities, by contributing research and analysis on transatlantic topics, and by providing exchange opportunities to foster renewed commitment to the transatlantic relationship. In addition, GMF supports a number of initiatives to strengthen democracies. Founded in 1972 as a non-partisan, non-profit organization through a gift from Germany as a permanent memorial to Marshall Plan assistance, GMF maintains a strong presence on both sides of the Atlantic. In addition to its headquarters in Washington, DC, GMF has offices in Berlin, Paris, Brussels, Belgrade, Ankara, Bucharest, and Warsaw. GMF also has smaller representations in Bratislava, Turin, and Stockholm.

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STRENGTHENING TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION

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