

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 1417

Recognizing the importance of transatlantic relations between the United States and the European Union and recognizing the growing importance of the dialogue between Congress and the European Parliament.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 28, 2010

Ms. BERKLEY (for herself, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, and Mr. COSTA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

RESOLUTION

Recognizing the importance of transatlantic relations between the United States and the European Union and recognizing the growing importance of the dialogue between Congress and the European Parliament.

Whereas, on May 9, 1950, then-French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman presented his vision for rebuilding Europe after the devastation of two world wars by uniting enemies through economic cooperation within the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC), explaining that “Europe will not be made all at once, or according to a single plan. It will be built through concrete achievements which first create a de facto solidarity”;

Whereas the Common Assembly of the European Coal and Steel Community was established in 1952, became the

European Parliament in 1962, and began direct elections in 1979;

Whereas for the last 60 years, the United States has supported the evolution of the European Coal and Steel Community into the European Union, working in solidarity with our European partners to address the political and economic challenges confronting the transatlantic alliance;

Whereas the United States and the European Union have developed a strong and integrated economic relationship, which generates an estimated \$4 trillion in commercial activity per year and accounts for close to 60 percent of global GDP and roughly 40 percent of world trade;

Whereas the United States and the European Union are each other's largest trading and investment partners, responsible for creating up to an estimated 14 million jobs on both sides of the Atlantic;

Whereas the European Union and its Member States combined are among the major donors supporting the reconstruction and transition process in Afghanistan, having contributed more than 8 billion Euros between 2002 and 2010;

Whereas President George W. Bush, in a speech to leaders of the European Union on February 21, 2005, stressed that “the alliance of Europe and North America is the main pillar of our security” and that “our strong friendship is essential to peace and prosperity across the globe”;

Whereas Vice President Joseph Biden, in a speech to the European Parliament on May 6, 2010, declared that “the past 65 years have shown that when Americans and Eu-

Europeans devote their energies to common purpose, there is almost nothing we are unable to accomplish”;

Whereas formal exchanges between the House of Representatives and the European Parliament began in 1972, when the first group of Members of Congress traveled to Brussels to meet and exchange views with their parliamentary counterparts;

Whereas in 1995, in recognition of the importance of the transatlantic political and economic partnership, the United States and the European Union adopted a “New Transatlantic Agenda” which established a framework for consultation between leaders on both sides of the Atlantic, including their respective legislative bodies, to promote peace, stability, democracy, and development around the world, to respond to global challenges, and to contribute to the expansion of world trade and closer economic relations; and

Whereas, on December 1, 2009, the Lisbon Treaty entered into force in the European Union, increasing the powers of the European Parliament in the legislative process and creating a High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and a President of the European Council: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) congratulates the European Union on the
3 60th anniversary of the Schuman Declaration, which
4 is now celebrated as Europe Day on May 9th, that
5 led to the successful union of European nations and
6 contributed to lasting peace and prosperity across
7 the continent;

1 (2) recognizes that the United States and the
2 European Union face common challenges at home
3 and abroad and believes that a regular dialogue be-
4 tween Congress and the European Parliament is im-
5 portant in fostering the United States and European
6 Union relationship; and

7 (3) recognizes the importance of regular dia-
8 logue between Congress and the European Par-
9 liament.

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