

December 1, 2014

Franklin Center & Ripon Society Hold Policy Conference Looking at Key Issues Facing U.S., Italy and the EU

WASHINGTON, DC – The Franklin Center and The Ripon Society held a policy conference in Rome from November 7-11 looking at some of the key issues impacting the relationship between the United States, Italy and the European Union.

Called *The TransAtlantic Capital to Capital Exchange*, the policy conference included keynote addresses and panel discussions examining such topics as food security, human trafficking, trade, health care, immigration, tax reform, technology and cybersecurity.

“This is the 30th year that we have held this international conference,” stated Jim Conzelman, the President & CEO of the Franklin Center and Ripon Society. “In light of global events over the past 12 months, I can’t think of a better time to have it. From fighting the spread of Ebola in Africa to passing new trade agreements with Europe and other regions of the world, the U.S. faces a wide range of both challenges and opportunities abroad. The goal of this policy conference was to look at these challenges and learn how they are affecting our interests and our allies.”

Conzelman noted that Italy currently holds the presidency of the European Union, and that the conference not only featured representatives from Italy’s public and private sectors, but representatives from the EU, as well. Also participating were three U.S. Ambassadors and a bipartisan delegation that included 16 Members of the U.S. Congress.

The Ambassadors included: Kenneth Hackett, U.S. Ambassador to the Holy See; John Phillips, U.S. Ambassador to the Italian Republic and the Republic of San Marino; and, David Lane, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture. The Members of Congress included: Dave Camp (R/MI-4); Mike Capuano (D/MA-7); Mike Doyle (D/PA-14); Renee Ellmers (R/NC-2); Luis Gutierrez (D/IL-4); John Larson (D/CT-1); Frank Lucas (R/OK-3); Patrick Meehan (R/PA-7); Bill Pascrell (D/NJ-8); Erik Paulsen (R/MN-3); Jim Renacci (R/OH-16); Steve Scalise (R/LA-1); Bill Shuster, (R/PA-9); Fred Upton (R/MI-6); and, Greg Walden (R/OR-2). Also participating was Pat Tiberi (R/OH-12), who, along with former Ambassador and Representative Connie Morella (R/MD-8), served as Co-Chair of the 30th *TransAtlantic Capital to Capital Exchange*.

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According to Conzelman, the conference kicked off on Friday afternoon with an in-country briefing by Ambassador Phillips and members of his staff at the U.S. Embassy in Rome. The briefing was followed by 10 panel discussions over the next three days which focused on a number of key areas, including:

“Feeding the Planet” – which featured an examination of food security and food assistance issues as the U.S., Italy and the EU work together to adequately feed a growing world while also facing challenges such as drought, emergencies, poverty, and a lack of agricultural infrastructure and innovation.

Participants included: House Agriculture Committee Chairman Lucas; Dan Gustafson, Deputy Director General, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; John McIntire, Associate Vice President for Program Management, International Fund for Agriculture Development; Mr. Stefano Porretti, Director of Emergencies, World Food Programme; and, Ambassador Lane, who, in addition to delivering a keynote address on the issue, also moderated the discussion.

“Confronting Human Trafficking” – which featured an examination of the work being done in Congress and how the United States is working with faith-based and community-based organizations, and other countries to eradicate the global epidemic of human trafficking.

Participants included: Ambassador Hackett and Rep. Paulsen, who both delivered keynote addresses and then participated in a discussion of the issue. The discussion was moderated by Ambassador Morella.

“Increasing U.S. Competitiveness through Tax Reform” – which featured an examination of the fact that the U.S. and Italy have two the



Chairman Tiberi presents Amb. Phillips with a gift of appreciation for his and his staff's assistance with this year's conference. Applauding to the left is Amb. Morella.

highest corporate tax rates in the industrialized world, at 39.1% and 31.4%, respectively. The discussion focused on how both countries can increase competitiveness, explored what both countries can do to reform their tax code, and looked at what a comprehensive tax reform package for the U.S. might entail.

Participants included: Rep. Tiberi, Rep. Larson, Rep. Renacci, and Sandro De Poli, the President and CEO, General Electric Italy and Israel. The discussion was moderated by Rep. Camp, who serves as Chairman of the Ways & Means Committee and also delivered keynote remarks.

“Agenda for the 114th Congress”—which featured an examination of the results of the 2014 Congressional elections and the impact they will have on the agenda of the 114th Congress.

Participants included: Rep. Walden, Rep. Larson, Rep. Scalise, Rep. Pascrell, Rep. Capuano, and Rep. Tiberi. The discussion was moderated by Rep. Camp.

“The Future of the U.S. Health Care System, and Global Pharmaceutical and Medical Innovation”—which featured not only an examination of the Patient Protection Affordable Care Act and the present state of the U.S. health care system, but a debate about the role of government in health care innovation and ways in which the U.S. and Italian governments and companies can collaborate in the future.

Participants included: Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Upton, who also delivered keynote remarks; Rep. Meehan; and Prof. Sergio Pecorelli, President, AIFA (the Italian Regulatory Agency for Medicines). The discussion was moderated by Kelli Briggs, the Deputy Chief of Staff for Rep. Tiberi.

“Immigration: Challenges and Opportunities”—which featured an examination of the strengths and weaknesses of the U.S., Italy, and the EU and their immigration policies, both with regard to illegal immigration and talented, highly-skilled workers, and a discussion about how both countries can address these issues.

Participants included: Rep. Gutiérrez; Rep. Ellmers; and, Paul Berg, the Minister Counselor for Political Affairs at the U.S. Diplomatic Mission to Italy. The discussion was moderated by Stacey Glasscock, the Chief of Staff for Rep. Frank Lucas.

“Italy, the EU, and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership”—which featured an examination of the possible TTIP trade agreement between the U.S. and the EU, which, if approved, would not only involve nearly half the world’s economic output, but bring numerous benefits to the countries and regions involved.

Participants included: Rep. Lucas; Rep. Larson; Rep. Paulsen, who serves as Co-Chair of the TTIP Caucus; Rep. Pascrell; Jörg Leichtfried, MEP, Vice President, Political Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats, European Parliament; Franco Frattini, President, Italian Society for International Organization;

and, Amedeo Teti, Director General of Trade Policy, Italy’s Ministry of Economic Development. The discussion was moderated by Ambassador Connie Morella.

“Encouraging Technological Growth”—which featured an examination of what the U.S. and Italy can learn from each other in the growing technology sector. The panel also looked at such issues as patent infringement, wireless spectrum rights, and ensuring that government regulations do not stifle innovation and economic growth.

Participants included: Rep. Walden, who also delivered keynote remarks; Rep. Doyle; Rep. Ellmers; Alessandra Poggiani, Director General, AGID Agency for Digital Italy; and, Simone Crolla, Managing Director, American Chamber of Commerce in Italy. The discussion was moderated by Rep. Renacci.

“Balancing Innovation and Privacy with Homeland Security and Cybersecurity”—which featured an examination of the national security aspects of technology and what the U.S. and Italy can learn from each other when setting policy to strike the critical balance of innovation and privacy concerns with those of intelligence gathering, homeland security, and cybersecurity.

Participants included: Rep. Pat Meehan, who serves as Chairman of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection and Security Technologies; Rep. Gutiérrez; and, Paolo Ciocca, Deputy Director General, Security Intelligence Department (Dipartimento Informazioni per la Sicurezza – DIS). The discussion was moderated by Rep. Shuster.

“Global Energy Trade, Development, and Market Expansion”—which featured an examination of the energy industry in the U.S. and Italy, a country which imports 90% of its energy from abroad, and one where calls for increased domestic production grow louder with each passing day. Drawing ties between U.S. off-shore drilling with that of Italy, the panel explored what both countries can learn from each other with regard to technological innovation and common sense regulations to boost the availability of safe, affordable energy. Additionally, with the development of the South Stream and Trans Adriatic Pipelines in Europe and the Keystone XL Pipeline in North America, the panel looked at the unprecedented opportunities in both the U.S. and Italy to import greater quantities of gas and oil into their countries.

Participants included: Rep. Scalise, who also delivered keynote remarks; Rep. Upton; Rep. Doyle; Rep. Shuster; Rep. Capuano; Marco Arcelli, Executive Vice President of Upstream Gas Division, Enel S.p.A; and, Alessandro Ortis, Chairman, Italian Energy Authority. The discussion was moderated by Stacey Glasscock.

In addition to the panel discussions, the bipartisan congressional delegation also participated in meetings with Laura Boldrini MP, the President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, and the Italian-U.S. InterParliamentary Group.



Rep. Paulsen discusses the effort he is leading on Capitol Hill to stop human trafficking during the panel discussion on the issue. Amb. Hackett is pictured on the left.



Rep. Larson delivers remarks during a discussion on global trade. Chairman Lucas is shown on the right.



Chairman Camp delivers keynote remarks about the comprehensive tax reform plan he authored.



With Chairman Tiberi looking on, Rep. Renacci talks about the need for tax reform during a panel on the issue.



Reps. Upton, Meehan and Pascrell share a laugh during a discussion on health care and global medical innovation.



Reps. Ellmers and Gutierrez listen to a question during a panel discussion on immigration reform.



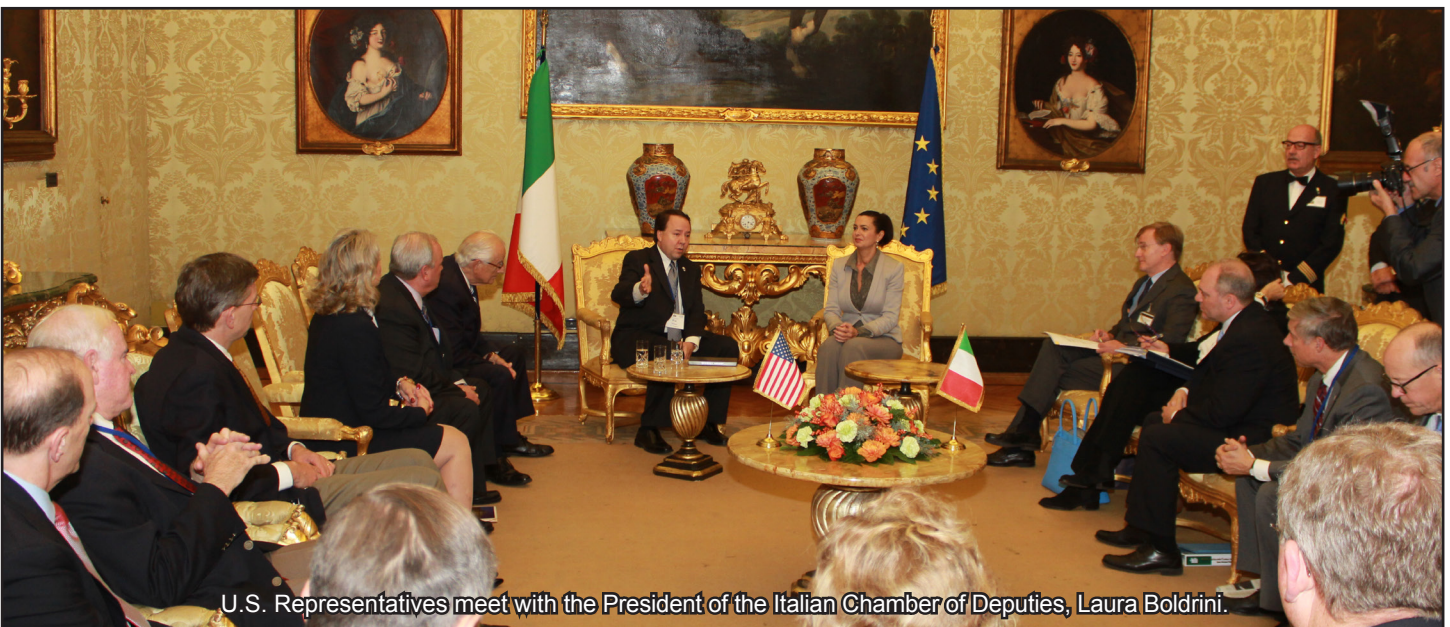
Rep. Doyle delivers remarks during a discussion on technological growth. Rep. Walden is shown on the right.



Majority Whip Scalise delivers keynote remarks on the importance of energy production to the United States.



With Chairman Shuster listening, Rep. Capuano makes a point during the panel on energy.



U.S. Representatives meet with the President of the Italian Chamber of Deputies, Laura Boldrini.



TRANSATLANTIC CAPITAL TO CAPITAL EXCHANGE
ROME, ITALY NOVEMBER 7-11, 2014

AGENDA AT A GLANCE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2014

- 9:00 am - 3:00 pm - Registration & check-in at hotel
- 4:00 - 5:00 pm - Welcome by Chairman Tiberi & Amb. Morella & in-country briefing by Amb. Phillips and U.S. Embassy staff
- 6:00 pm - Depart for opening reception
- 6:30 - 8:00 pm - Opening reception at residence of Amb. Phillips

Dinner on your own

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2014

- 7:30 - 9:30 am - Breakfast at hotel
- 9:30 am - Depart for the Campidoglio
- 10:00 am - 3:30 pm - Remarks, Policy Panels & Lunch
- *Panel discussion on food security & food assistance*
 - *Presentation on Italian Politics & Government*
 - *Lunch*
 - *Keynote remarks by Rep. Paulsen & Amb. Hackett followed by panel discussion on human trafficking*
 - *Keynote remarks by Chairman Camp & Chairman Tiberi followed by panel discussion on increasing U.S. competitiveness through tax reform*
- 3:30 pm - Return to hotel
- 5:00 pm - Depart for the Vatican
- 6:00 - 8:00 pm - Historian-led visit of the Vatican
- 8:00 pm - Return to hotel
- 8:30 - 10:30 pm - Group dinner discussions

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2014

- 7:00 - 8:30 am - Breakfast at hotel
- 8:30 am - Walk to Horti Sallustiani
- 9:00 am - 1:00 pm - Remarks & Policy Panels
- *Panel discussion on the agenda for the 114th Congress*
 - *Keynote address by Chairman Fred Upton followed by panel discussion on*

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2014 (CONT'D)

- the U.S. health care system and global pharmaceutical & medical innovation*
- *Panel discussion on immigration*
- 1:00 pm - Walk to Restaurant Pomodorini
- 1:15 - 2:00 pm - Lunch at Restaurant Pomodorini
- 2:00 pm - Depart for educational visits
- 2:30 - 5:00 pm - Historian-led visits of the Roman Forum, Roman Senate & Rome's 9/11 Memorial
- 5:00 pm - Return to hotel
- 7:00 pm - Depart for group dinner discussions
- 7:30 - 9:30 pm - Group dinner discussions

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2014

- 7:00 - 8:30 am - Breakfast at hotel
- 8:30 am - Depart for Roma Eventi, Piazza della Pilotta
- 9:00 am - 3:00 pm - Remarks, Policy Panels & Lunch
- *Panel discussion on Italy, the EU & the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership*
 - *Keynote address by Chairman Walden followed by panel discussion on encouraging technological growth*
 - *Panel discussion on balancing innovation & privacy with homeland security & cybersecurity*
 - *Lunch*
 - *Keynote Address by Majority Whip Scalise followed by panel discussion on global energy trade, development & market expansion*
- 3:00 pm - Depart for Palazzo Montecitorio
- 3:30 - 4:30 pm - Meeting with President of Chamber & Italian-U.S. Inter-Parliamentary Group
- 4:45 pm - Return to hotel
- 6:30 pm - Depart for closing dinner
- 7:00 - 9:30 pm - Closing dinner at Palazzo Brancaccio with remarks by Chairman Tiberi & Amb. Morella
- 9:30 pm - Return to hotel
- 10:00 pm - After dinner coffee at hotel