

Franklin Center & Ripon Society Hold Policy Conference in Berlin Examining U.S.-German Relations

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

Called the TransAtlantic Capital to Capital Exchange, the conference included panel discussions examining such policy topics as the importance of trade, immigration and refugees, health care in the U.S. and Germany, modern foreign aid and assistance, energy production and the environment, transportation and infrastructure, international tax reform, and more.

“This is clearly a pivotal time in the relationship between the United States and Germany,” stated Jim Conzelman, the President & CEO of the Franklin Center and The Ripon Society. “At home, both countries are facing a profound set of economic and security-related challenges. Abroad, the U.S.-German alliance is being tested in ways it has never been tested before. Being in Berlin puts these challenges and tests into perspective. Indeed, with all the talk of walls being built in the United States, it was sobering to be reminded about the wall which once divided this great city, keeping liberty and opportunity away from the people of East Berlin and East Germany. In the almost 30 years since the Berlin

Wall has fallen, the city’s growth and development has been truly inspirational. It not only illustrates the importance of unity, but reminds us of the role that America plays as both a beacon and instrument of freedom around the world.”

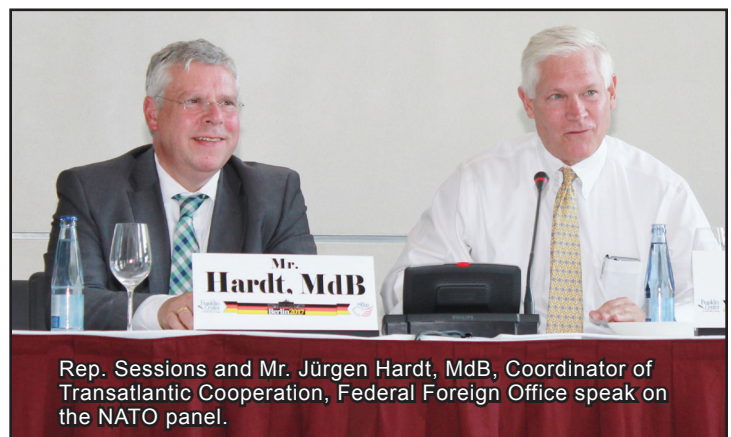
According to Conzelman, participants in the TransAtlantic Capital to Capital Exchange included representatives from Germany’s public and private sectors, and Members of the United States Congress. The Members included U.S. Representatives Jim Renacci (R-OH) and Kathleen Rice (D-NY), who served as Co-Chairs of the policy conference. Also participating were U.S. Representatives Larry Bucshon (R-IN), Michael Capuano (D-MA), Carlos Curbelo (R-FL), Rodney Davis (R-IL), Jeff Denham (R-CA), Charlie Dent (R-PA), Tom Emmer (R-MN), Mike Kelly (R-PA), Frank Lucas (R-OK), Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY), Pat Meehan (R-PA), Tim Murphy (R-PA), Tom Reed (R-NY), Bill Pascrell (D-NJ), Pete Sessions (R-TX), Pat Tiberi (R-OH), and Kevin Yoder (R-KS).

Also attending and participating were former Ambassador and Representative Connie Morella (R-MD), who serves as Chair Emeritus of the Franklin Center, former Representative Dave Camp (R-MI) who serves as Chair of the Franklin Center, and the

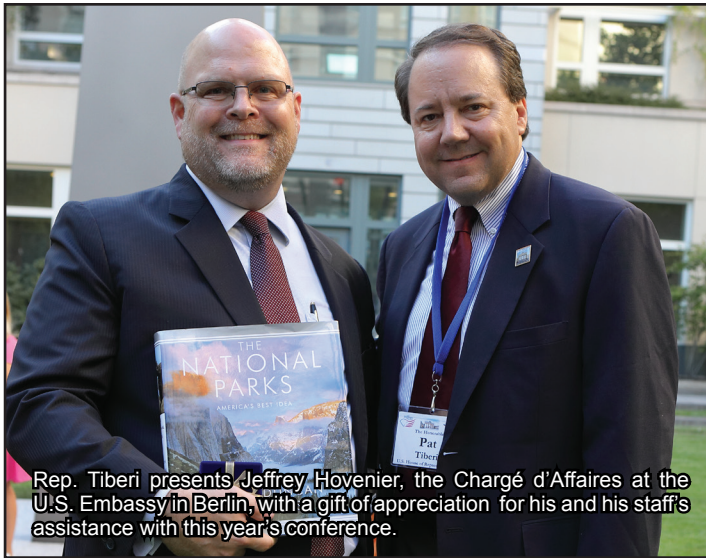
“In the almost 30 years since the Berlin Wall has fallen, the city’s growth and development has been truly inspirational. It not only illustrates the importance of unity, but reminds us of the role that America plays as both a beacon and instrument of freedom around the world.”



The panel on the future of foreign aid featured Reps. Dent, Maloney and Davis, Mr. Thomas Silberhorn, MdB, Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, and Dr. Almut Wieland-Karimi, Director, ZIF and moderator Amb. Morella.



Rep. Sessions and Mr. Jürgen Hardt, MdB, Coordinator of Transatlantic Cooperation, Federal Foreign Office speak on the NATO panel.



Rep. Tiberi presents Jeffrey Hovenier, the Chargé d'Affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Berlin, with a gift of appreciation for his and his staff's assistance with this year's conference.

Honorable Mike Dubke who was Assistant to the President for Communications for President Donald Trump.

In addition to the panel discussions, Conzelman noted that the conference spent a day in Potsdam, where it visited Schloss Cecilienhof, the location of the 1945 Potsdam Conference, which resulted in a divided Berlin and Germany after World War II. To the extent that America's global alliances are being reassessed today, the purpose of the visit to this historical site was to illustrate the importance of cooperative decision-making among nations, and how the decisions made by one generation can shape the world for years to come.

The conference featured three lunch presentations. The first being "The Future of the EU Post-Brexit" delivered by Dr. Daniela Schwarzer, Director of the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP). Television reporter and political observer Ms. Tina Hassel, Head and TV Editor-in-Chief of ARD-Hauptstadtstudio Berlin, gave a preview of the upcoming German elections. On the last day, Mr. Thomas Kleine-Brockhoff, Vice President, Director Europe Program, German Marshall Fund, shared his long-range view of the future of U.S.-German relations.

The conference kicked off with an in-country briefing at the Allianz Forum on Pariser Platz, the location of the Brandenburg Gate and the U.S. Embassy. The briefing was led by Mr. Jeffrey M. Hovenier, who is the Chargé d'Affaires at the U.S. Embassy in Berlin. He was joined by his colleagues, Mr. Mike Reinert, Minister-Counselor for Public Affairs, Ms. Evyenia Sidreas, Acting Minister-Counselor for Political Affairs, Ms. Laura Malenas, Acting Minister-Counselor for Economic Affairs, Ms. Diane Holcombe-Geddens, Acting Minister-Counselor for Consular Affairs, and Colonel Terry Anderson, U.S. Army, Senior Defense Official/Defense Attaché.

The briefing was followed by eight panel discussions over the next three days which focused on a number of key areas, including:

"The Importance of International Trade" – which examined the premise that President Trump's electoral victory was arguably fueled by the denouncement of free trade and globalization, and that the Trump Administration appears to be pivoting U.S. trade policy towards a more protectionist and "fair trade"-focused philosophy guided by the principle of "America First." This panel discussed this apparent policy shift, the important aspects of free trade, and how future bilateral agreements such as TTIP

can benefit the U.S. and European economies. Given its strength in the EU, the talk also discussed the role Germany may play in accomplishing the lofty goal of a Free Trade Agreement between the U.S. and EU, as well as what trade and trade agreements, whether free or fair, should resemble in order to achieve maximum benefits for all stakeholders.

Participating in this panel were Rep. Lucas, Rep. Pascrell, Rep. Reed, Rep. Meehan, Rep. Yoder, and two Germans, Dr. Heinz Hetmeier, Director-General for Political Staff and Policy Planning, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, and Mr. Martin Biesel, Secretary General of the Westerwelle Foundation, former State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The panel was moderated by Rep. Tiberi, who previously served as Chairman of the Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee.

"Controlling Health Care Costs" – which focused on what the U.S. can learn from Germany and the EU about improving patient outcomes, controlling costs, and increasing effectiveness of care as the U.S. Congress works to once again overhaul our nation's health care system. The conversation also discussed rising concerns about the cost of prescription drugs and the role government could play in addressing regulation and the approval processes to potentially deliver savings to consumers.

The panel's participants were Rep. Tiberi, Rep. Pascrell, Rep. Murphy, Rep. Bucshon, Mr. Franz Knieps, Chairman, BKK Dachverband, and Dr. Gerd Kräh, Senior Director Government Affairs, Lilly Deutschland GmbH, and the panel was moderated by Rep. Rice.

The panel sessions on Wednesday occurred in Potsdam and the theme of the legacy of the Potsdam Conference and Marshall Plan were evident in the two panels.

"21st Century Global Engagement and Foreign Aid" – which examined the legacy of the Potsdam Conference which led to a divided Germany and Berlin and the Marshall Plan on the occasion of its 70th anniversary. The conversation also discussed the effectiveness of foreign aid and soft power today in the age of budget constraints and trending isolationism.

Ambassador Morella moderated the panel, which consisted of Rep. Dent, Rep. Maloney, Rep. Davis, Mr. Thomas Silberhorn, MdB, Parliamentary State Secretary, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, and Dr. Almut Wieland-Karimi, Director, ZIF - Center for International Peace Operations.

"Immigration & Refugees: Global Crises, Domestic Opportunities" – which was a conversation on the mass migration of people around the world including refugees; legal and illegal immigration; and visas and how the U.S., the EU, and Germany



Rep. Pascrell delivers remarks during the panel discussion on health care. The panel was moderated by Rep. Rice.



Mr. Jochen Flasbarth, State Secretary, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building & Nuclear Safety speaks on the energy and climate change panel with Rep. Reed.



Rep. Yoder (thanks Dr. Daniela Schwarz, Director of the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP), who addressed the future of the EU Post-Brexit.

should approach these challenges and opportunities. The panel also discussed protecting its citizens at home from terrorism which may have originated in other countries.

The panelists were Rep. Denham, Rep. Capuano, Rep. Curbelo, Rep. Emmer, Ms. Dagmar Freitag, MdB, Chairwoman of the German-US Parliamentary Friendship Group, and Ms. Astrid Ziebarth, Migration Fellow, Europe Program, German Marshall Fund, with Rep. Sessions moderating the panel.

Thursday, the final day of panels during the conference, was held at the Reichstag Building, which is home of the Bundestag, the German Parliament. The panel conversations here directly examined some of the areas most pertinent to the U.S.-German relationship going forward.

“Global Energy, Nuclear, Clean Power and Climate Change” – which was a discussion on all facets of energy including U.S. and German – as well as global – production and consumption, with a focus on contrasting coal, clean power, and nuclear. The panel also discussed Germany’s experience and transitions from different power sources and its impact on the consumer marketplace, climate change, and the economy as a whole. The topic of the future of U.S. engagement in the Paris Agreement also occurred.

Participants included: Rep. Murphy, Rep. Reed, Rep. Maloney, Rep. Curbelo, Mr. Jochen Flasbarth, State Secretary, Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building & Nuclear Safety and Dr. Camilla Bausch, Director, Ecologic Institute, Europe. The panel was moderated by Rep. Bueshon.

“Transportation & Infrastructure: Moving People, Energy, Data, and Goods Safely and Efficiently” – with infrastructure investment being a large priority of the Trump Administration and both parties in the U.S., this panel discussed what the U.S. can learn about the famously-efficient German infrastructure such as the Autobahn and high-speed rail, while both countries are attempting to maintain the safety and effectiveness of their structures. The panel also discussed putting in place proper regulation to encourage safety and economic growth, as well as necessary future maintenance investment.

The panelists were Rep. Denham, Rep. Capuano, Rep. Kelly, Rep. Davis, Rep. Emmer, Mr. Eckart von Klaeden, Vice President for External Affairs, Daimler AG, and a former Member of the German Bundestag, and Mr. Dieter Michell-Auli – Chief Sales Officer, DB Engineering & Consulting (Deutsche Bahn), with Rep. Lucas moderating the discussion.

“Domestic and Worldwide Taxation” – Comprehensive tax reform has been a top priority for many in the United States for

years and the timing seems right for that effort to finally be fulfilled. The panel discussed these ongoing discussions, including the potential for a border adjustment tax, and how industry can assist to finally complete this herculean task. Additionally, the panel discussed balancing deficits with pro-growth policies as well as base-erosion provisions and other schemes to prevent corporate inversions.

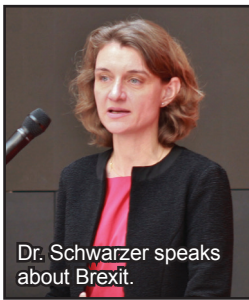
On the panel were Ways and Means Committee Members Rep. Pascrell, Rep. Renacci, Rep. Kelly, Rep. Meehan and German official, Dr. Christian Schleithoff, Head of Division, International Tax Policy, Federal Ministry of Finance. The discussion was moderated by former Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dave Camp.

“NATO and the Future of Global Military Readiness” – The panel discussed the future of NATO, its place in the world and the role the U.S. will play in it during the Trump Administration. The conversation also discussed funding of this important international organization including member countries commitments to fulfilling their defense spending per-GDP obligations. With continued concerns about Russia and its interference in Ukraine and with events like the U.S. elections, the conversation touched on NATO’s role standing up to Putin as well as the possibility of a cyber-attack triggering Article 5. Direct investment military in the U.S., Germany and the EU was also mentioned.

Participants included: Rep. Sessions, Rep. Rice, Rep. Dent and Mr. Jürgen Hardt, MdB, Coordinator of Transatlantic Cooperation, Federal Foreign Office. Moderating the discussion was the Honorable Mike Dubke.



Representative Maloney
Representative Murphy
Rep. Maloney makes a point during the panel discussion on energy and climate change.



Dr. Schwarzer speaks about Brexit.



Mr. Silberhorn, MdB, makes a point about foreign aid in the 21st Century to Reps. Dent and Maloney and Ambassador Morella.



Rep. Emmer delivers remarks during the panel discussion on immigration. Astrid Ziebarth also participated in the discussion.



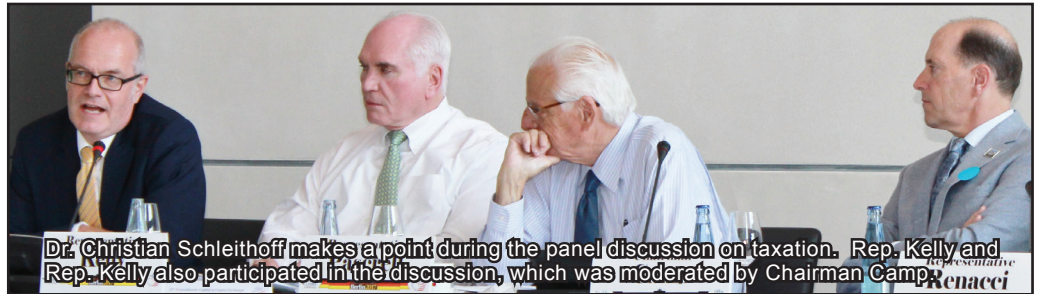
Eckart von Klaeden delivers remarks during the panel discussion on transportation. Rep. Kelly and Rep. Lucas also participated in the panel.



Rep. Capuano delivers remarks during the panel discussion on transportation and infrastructure. Rep. Davis and Rep. Denham also participated in the panel.



Tina Hassel delivers remarks about the upcoming German elections.



Dr. Christian Schleithoff makes a point during the panel discussion on taxation. Rep. Kelly and Rep. Kelly also participated in the discussion, which was moderated by Chairman Camp.



Rep. Sessions delivers opening remarks during the panel discussion on immigration. Rep. Denham and Rep. Capuano also participated in the panel.



Rep. Renacci is recognized by Rep. Tiberi and Jim Conzelman for his contributions to the Franklin Center and The Ripon Society.



Rep. Murphy delivers remarks during the panel discussion on Energy and Climate Change. Dr. Camilla Bausch, Rep. Curbelo and Rep. Maloney also participated in the panel.



Dr. Heinz Hetmeier and Rep. Meehan discuss the future of trade between the United States and Germany.



Rep. Reed delivers remarks during the panel discussion on trade. Rep. Yoder and Rep. Lucas also participated in the panel.



Rep. Bueshon speaks on the health care panel as Reps. Rice and Pascrell and Dr. Gerd Kräh, Senior Director Government Affairs, Lilly Deutschland GmbH listen.



Rep. Curbelo discusses immigration and refugees with Ms. Freitag, MdB and Rep. Denham.



TRANSATLANTIC CAPITAL TO CAPITAL EXCHANGE
BERLIN, GERMANY AUGUST 7-11, 2017

AGENDA AT A GLANCE

MONDAY, AUGUST 7, 2017

- 8:00 am - 3:30 pm - Registration & check-in at hotel
4:00 pm - Depart on foot to Allianz Forum
4:30 - 4:45 pm - Welcome
4:45 - 5:45 pm - In Country Briefing with U.S. Embassy staff
5:45 - 6:30 pm - Welcome to Berlin Reception at Allianz Forum and at U.S. Embassy
6:30 - 8:30 pm - Reception and lite dinner at U.S. Embassy in Berlin
8:30 - 10:30 pm - After dinner coffee at hotel

TUESDAY, AUGUST 8, 2017

- 7:00 - 9:00 am - Breakfast at hotel
9:15 am - Depart on foot to Axica
9:30 - 11:00 am - Panel on Trade
11:00 am - 12:00 pm - Breakout Session on the Future of Globalization
12:15 - 1:00 pm - Lunch with speaker
*-Dr. Daniela Schwarzer
Director of the German Council
on Foreign Relations*
1:00 - 2:15 pm - Panel on Health Care
2:15 pm - Walk to hotel to prepare for visits
2:30 - 5:00 pm - Meet in hotel for Former Stasi HQ, Jewish Memorial & Art of East Berlin at East Side Gallery visits
5:00 pm - Return to hotel to prepare for dinner
6:45 pm - Depart via bus for dinner at the Orangery at Schloss Charlottenburg
7:00 - 9:30 pm - Dinner roundtable discussions
9:45 - 11:00 pm - After dinner coffee at hotel

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2017

- 7:00 - 9:00 am - Breakfast at hotel
8:50 am or 9:10 am - Members of Congress, their spouses/ guests and participants depart by bus to Potsdam
10:00 - 11:00 am - Historian led visit to Schloss Cecilienhof

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 2017 (CONTINUED)

- 11:00 - 11:15 am - Depart for Dorint Hotel
11:30 am - 12:30 pm - Panel on 21st Century Global Engagement & Foreign Aid
12:30 - 1:30 pm - Lunch with speaker
*- Ms. Tina Hassel
Head and TV Editor-in-Chief of
ARD-Hauptstadtstudio Berlin*
1:30 - 2:45 pm - Panel on Immigration & Refugees
3:00 - 5:00 pm - Historian led visits to Sanssouci
5:00 - 6:00pm - All return via bus to the Adlon Hotel
7:15 pm - Gather in dinner groups to depart on foot for restaurants around Berlin
7:30 - 9:30 pm - Dinner roundtable discussions
9:30 - 11:00 pm - After dinner coffee at hotel

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 2017

- 7:00 - 8:00 am - Breakfast at hotel
7:45 am - Depart on foot to the Reichstag building
8:30 - 9:45 am - Panel on Global Energy and Climate Change
9:45 - 10:45 am - Panel on Transportation & Infrastructure
11:00 am - 12:15 pm - Panel on Domestic and Worldwide Taxation
12:30 - 1:30 pm - Lunch with speaker
*- Mr. Thomas Kleine-Brockhoff
Vice President, Director Europe
Program, German Marshall Fund*
2:00 - 2:45 pm - Panel on NATO and the Future of Global Military Readiness
3:00 - 6:00 pm - Return to hotel, pack for departure, and dress for dinner
6:30 pm - Depart via bus for closing dinner at the Deutsches Historisches Museum
6:45 - 10:00 pm - Closing reception and dinner
10:00 pm - After dinner coffee at hotel

FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 2017

- 7:00 - 9:00 am - Breakfast at hotel
Morning - Departures