

November 19, 2018

## **Franklin Center & Ripon Society Hold Policy Conference in Paris Examining U.S.-French Relations**

WASHINGTON, DC – The Franklin Center and The Ripon Society held a policy conference in Paris from November 9-13 looking at some of the key issues impacting the relationship between the United States and France.

Called the TransAtlantic Capital to Capital Exchange, the conference coincided with the 100th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice which ended World War I in 1918.

The conference included panel discussions examining such policy topics as the importance of trade, energy, denuclearization, Syria, technology and privacy, health care, pharmaceuticals, infrastructure, climate change, taxation, NATO and militarization, and more.

“France is America’s oldest ally,” stated Jim Conzelman, the President & CEO of the Franklin Center and Ripon Society. “The French people have stood with us during times of war, and they have stood with us during times of peace. We have now entered a period of great uncertainty around the world. Populism is on the rise, and democratic institutions are increasingly under attack. During this time of uncertainty, it is critical that the relationship between the United States and France remain strong. The goal of this conference was to look at some of the key challenges facing this relationship.

“With major transitions occurring in terms of energy in France and taxation in the U.S., this is clearly a pivotal time for the United States and France. And while domestic policies are clearly important, the continuing efforts of our two nations to defend and secure freedom around the world are just as if not more important – a fact that was reinforced during our visit to Suresnes American Cemetery to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice during World War I.”

According to Conzelman, participants in the TransAtlantic Capital to Capital Exchange included representatives from France’s public and private sectors, and 30 Members of the United States Congress. The Members included U.S. Representatives Tom Reed (R-NY), Susan Brooks (R-IN) and

Kathleen Rice (D-NY), who served as Co-Chairs of the policy conference. Also participating were U.S. Representatives Larry Bucshon (R-IN), Carlos Curbelo (R-FL), Rodney Davis (R-IL), Jeff Denham (R-CA), Mike Doyle (D-PA), Sean Duffy (R-WI), Bill Flores (R-TX), Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ), Jim Himes (D-CT), David Joyce (R-OH), Mike Kelly (R-PA), Darin LaHood (R-IL), John Larson (D-CT), Billy Long (R-MO), Frank Lucas (R-OK), Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY), Stephanie Murphy (D-FL), Dan Newhouse (R-WA), Bill Pascrell (D-NJ), Jim Renacci (R-OH), Bill Shuster (R-PA), Mac Thornberry (R-TX), Fred Upton (R-MI), David Valadao (R-CA), Greg Walden (R-OR), Peter Welch (D-VT), 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.

In addition to the panel discussions, Conzelman noted that the conference held a ceremony at

Suresnes Military Cemetery to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armistice and to honor all U.S. servicemembers and veterans. The Members of Congress all participated in a wreath laying for a fallen soldier from their home state whose final resting place is Suresnes.

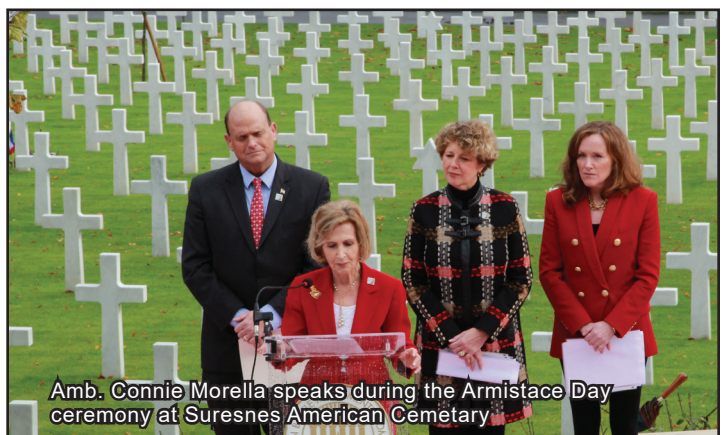
Speaking at the ceremony were Reps. Brooks, Reed and Rice, while three Representatives who served in the military, Reps. Bucshon, Denham and Pascrell presented and raised a flag which was flown over the U.S. Capitol by Speaker of the House Paul Ryan last Veterans Day. Superintendent of the cemetery Keith Stadler also presented historical background information about the American Battle Monuments Commission and Suresnes to the group during the conference.

The conference kicked off with an in-country briefing by senior staff at the U.S. Embassy in Paris. The senior staff members included: Brian Aggeler,

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Reps. Walden and Welch listen on as Ms. Schwarz speaks about nuclear energy in France



Amb. Connie Morella speaks during the Armistice Day ceremony at Suresnes American Cemetery





The Transportation panel was moderated by Rep. Duffy and featured Reps. Shuster and Davis and Mr. Garat



Col. Chapman speaks during the in-country briefing while his U.S Embassy colleagues and Chairman Camp listen on

who serves as Minister-Counselor for Political Affairs, Kristina A. Kvien, who is Minister-Counselor for Economic Affairs, Stephen E. Alley, who is Regional Senior Commercial Officer for Western and Southern Europe with the International Trade Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, and, Colonel David K. Chapman, who is the Embassy’s Defense and Army Attaché.

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

**“Energy Production and Nuclear Power”** – which involved a discussion on all facets of energy: exploration, generation, storage, consumption, waste, and production byproduct storage. The conversation also compared and contrasted U.S., French and European energy and focused on contrasting coal, clean power, and nuclear forms of energy.

Participating in the panel were Rep. Upton, Rep. Welch, Rep. Flores, Ms. Virginie Schwarz, who is Director for Energy at the French Ministry for Ecological and Inclusive Transition, and Mr. Dominique Minière, who is Group Senior Executive Vice President of Nuclear and Thermal at Electricité de France S.A. (EDF). The panel was moderated by Rep. Walden, who serves as chairman of the Energy & Commerce Committee.

**“Economic Growth and Taxation”** – which discussed the new United States’ Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, its implementation, and how this new lower corporate tax rate and territorial system in the U.S. will affect the world economy and multinational corporations as well as whether other countries may quickly follow suit with their own rate reduction. Also discussed were the OECD BEPS recommendations and the attempts by EU nations to more aggressively tax digital commerce also took place.

Appearing on the tax panel were Rep. Pascrell, Rep. Reed, Rep. Renacci, and Mr. Andrew Haviland, who serves as the Chargé d’Affaires at the U.S. Mission to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), which is located in Paris. Moderating the discussion was The Honorable Dave Camp, who previously was chairman of the Ways & Means Committee.

**“The Future of Transportation”** – given rapid technological changes occurring in the field of transportation, the panel focused on what the future will resemble and how the various traditional modes of transportation may integrate with AI to increase safety and efficiency, as well as reduce pollution and emissions. A discussion about funding of infrastructure also occurred. The panel also discussed the Mayor of Paris’s proposal to ban cars in the City of Lights and whether this trend be replicated elsewhere.

The panelists were Rep. Shuster, Rep. Davis and Mr. Jose Ignacio Garat, who is the Senior Vice President for Operations France & Benelux for FedEx Express. Rep. Duffy moderated the conversation.

**“Agenda of the 116th Congress”** – with French President Macron leading a centrist coalition, the panel featured leaders of three centrist factions in the House discussed advancing responsible governance and centrism in the U.S., as well as the results of the 2018 elections and its impact on the new 116th Congress which will convene in January 2019.

On the panel were Rep. Reed and Rep. Gottheimer, who serve as co-chairs of the Problem Solvers Caucus, Rep. Himes, who serves as chair of the New Democrats Coalition, and Rep. Davis, who is chair of the Republican Main Street Caucus. Chairman Camp moderated the discussion.

**“Financial Services and Banking Regulations”** – which explored the impact France and the U.S. are having on global financial services and enacting rules and regulations which are pro-growth as well as pro-consumer protection.

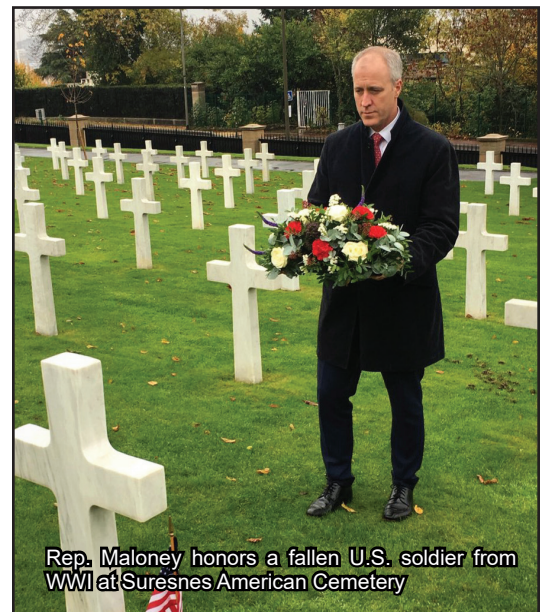
On the panel were House Financial Services Committee members Rep. Lucas, Rep. Duffy, and Rep. Gottheimer. Fellow committee member Rep. Himes moderated the panel.

**“Homeland and Border Security & Counter Terrorism”** – the panel consisted of a conversation about the threats posed by foreign and domestic terrorists in the U.S. and France and what measures are being taken by each country’s governments to protect their citizens, critical infrastructure, and democratic institutions.

The panelists were Rep. Yoder, Rep. Brooks and Rep. Rice. Rep.



The tax panel of Rep. Renacci, Pascrell Reed and Mr. Haviland enjoys a spirited discussion



Rep. Maloney honors a fallen U.S. soldier from WWI at Suresnes American Cemetery





On the technology panel, Mr. Frank makes a point to Reps. Doyle and Reed



Rep. Murphy and Valadao share a laugh on the NATO panel

Thornberry moderated the Homeland Security panel.

**“Health Care Delivery and Patient Accessibility”** – the panel focused on what the U.S. can learn from France and the EU about improving patient outcomes, managing costs, and increasing the effectiveness of care.

On the panel were Rep. Larson, Rep. Bucshon, Rep. Kelly, and Rep. Long. Moderating the panel discussion was Rep. Renacci.

**“Pharmaceutical Innovation and Pricing”** – with many Americans expressing concern about rising costs and the Trump Administration declaring their intention to take action in this regard, this discussion focused on whether pharmaceutical prices are too high and what, if anything, governments in the U.S., France and the EU should do to address this. Also discussed were ways to encourage more innovation and breakthroughs.

Serving as panelists were Rep. Walden, Rep. Welch and Dr. Eric Baseilhac, who is Director for Economic, International and Public Affairs at LEEM (Les Entreprises du Médicament). Rep. Upton moderated the discussion.

**“The Digital Revolution – Innovation, Regulation, and Privacy”** – as the world rapidly innovates and becomes interconnected, this panel discussed the role that government plays in encouraging this advancement and what the U.S. and the French and Europeans can learn from each other in that regard. The panel also discussed recent EU actions affecting the digital ecosystem, including the implementation of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Participants on the panel were Rep. Doyle and Mr. John Frank, who is Vice President for European Union Governmental Affairs at the Microsoft Corporation. Rep. Tom Reed moderated the panel discussion.

**“The Future of Global Trade”** – this panel focused on U.S. and European trade policy and whether the U.S. is now guided by a 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 including lowering tariffs and other trade barriers, and how future bilateral agreements such as TTIP can benefit the U.S. and European economies.

Speaking on the panel were Rep. Pascrell, Rep. Davis, Rep. Newhouse and Mr. Jérémie Gallon, who is the Managing Director of AmCham France. Moderating the trade panel was Rep. Lucas.

**“Putin, Assad, and Syria”** – this discussion explored the corporation between the U.S., France and the UK with regard to the atrocities committed by Syria’s president Bashar Assad and how these allies are approaching continued Russian aggression in this troubled region and across the globe. The panel also discussed the relationship between President Vladimir Putin and the institutions and leadership of the western world and, in particular, President Donald Trump

and President Emmanuel Macron.

Appearing on the panel were Rep. Himes, Rep. Joyce, Rep. LaHood and Mrs. Alice Guitton, who is the Director General for International Relations and Strategy for the French Ministry of Armed Forces. Rep. Brooks moderated the discussion.

**“Climate Change and the Future of the Paris Agreement”** – the panel discussed the possibility of renewed engagement by the U.S. in the Paris Agreement and other national and municipal efforts to mitigate climate change.

The panelists were Rep. Curbelo and Ambassador Brigitte Collet, who serves as Ambassador in charge of Climate Change Negotiations, Renewable Energy and Prevention of Climate Risk for the French Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs. Rep. Bucshon served as the moderator.

**“Iran, North Korea, and Denuclearization”** – this discussion focused on efforts being led by the United States and the UN to try to ensure Iran and North Korea do not become nuclear powers, and the effectiveness of the work to prevent nuclear proliferation.

Participating in the panel were Rep. Kelly, Rep. Maloney and Mr. Nicolas De Riviére, who is the Director General of Political and Security Affairs for the French Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs. Moderating the conversation was Rep. Rice.

**“Defense, NATO, and Military Preparedness”** – 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 panel also discussed European Union members’ individual efforts to increase military spending, implementation of PESCO and President Macron’s European Intervention Initiative (EI2).

The panelists included Rep. Thornberry, Rep. Valadao, Rep. Murphy, Mr. Nicolas Roche, who is Director of Strategic Affairs, Security and Disarmament at the French Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs, and Dr. Alexandra de Hoop Schaffer, who serves as the Director of the Paris Office of the German Marshall Fund. Ambassador Morella moderated the final panel of the conference.

In addition to the panel sessions, the conference featured a lunch presentation by Hakim El Karoui, who is senior fellow at Institut Montaigne. Mr. El Karoui, who serves as an informal advisor to French President Emmanuel Macron on the issue of Muslim relations, spoke about immigration, cultural assimilation and integration of Muslims and Refugees in France. Also, Mr. Jean-Claude Beaujour, who is Vice President and Treasurer of France-Amériques, gave the group welcoming remarks on the final day of the conference. A breakout session on globalization & nationalism also occurred.



Dr. du Hoop Schaffer and Mr. Roche provide insights on the NATO panel



Mr. De Riviére speaks to Reps. Maloney, Kelly and Rice about the Iran deal





Mr. Beaujour delivers welcoming remarks



Mr. Minière makes a point while the rest of the energy panel listens on



Mr. Gallon discusses trade  
Rep. Dan Newhouse



Dr. Baseilhac speaks to the panel about pharmaceuticals in France



Rep. Brooks poses a question to the Syria panel



Mr. El Karoui discusses Muslims integration in France



Reps. Kelly, Bucshon and Larson listen while Rep. Long answers a question on the health care panel



Rep. Rice listens to Rep. Brooks on the Homeland Security panel



Rep. Yoder makes a point during the Homeland Security panel



The Financial Services panel featured Reps. Gottheimer, Duffy, and Lucas and was moderated by Rep. Himes



Reps. Pascrell, Denham and Bucshon raise the flag at Suresnes American Cemetery



Rep. Curbelo answers a question on climate change as Amb. Collet and Rep. Bucshon listen



Reps. Himes, Gottheimer and Reed share a lighthearted moment during the "Agenda of the 116th" panel