

August 19, 2019

Franklin Center & Ripon Society Hold Policy Conference in Copenhagen Examining U.S.-Denmark Relations

WASHINGTON, DC – The Franklin Center and The Ripon Society held a policy conference in Copenhagen from August 5-9 looking at some of the key issues impacting the relationship between the United States and Denmark.

Called the TransAtlantic Capital to Capital Exchange, the conference included panel discussions examining such policy topics as the importance of trade, energy and climate change, tax, privacy, health care, pharmaceuticals, infrastructure, financial services, workforce development, the future of NATO, and more.

“Denmark is one of the oldest and strongest allies that we have,” said Jim Conzelman, President & CEO of the Franklin Center and The Ripon Society. “Our relationship dates back to 1801. Over the years, the Danes and Americans have been at each other’s side in both good times and bad. We were there for them during the liberation of Europe in World War II. And they were there for us following the dark days of September 11th in 2001. Today, our countries stand shoulder-to-shoulder in the fight to bring prosperity to the poor and freedom to the oppressed.

“Economically, America is Denmark’s largest trading partner outside of Europe. Last year alone, the total two-way trade of goods and services between our two nations was over \$17 billion. This economic cooperation has in turn helped create just over 123,000 jobs in the U.S. and 100,000 jobs here in Denmark. The Danes are also at our side when it comes to national security. In fact, Denmark has been part of every major military operation the United States has launched over the past 20 years. And on a per capita basis, they have committed as many if not more troops to these operations than just about any other country in NATO. In other words, they have punched above their weight when it comes to boots on the ground.

“The purpose of this policy conference was to discuss these and other challenges the United States and Denmark face. From ensuring our privacy online to developing new sources of energy to making sure people have the skills and training they need to find a job, policymakers face a number of critical decisions in the next few years. Our goal was to make sure they have the insight and information needed to not only make these decisions, but make sure the United States remains prosperous and secure as we move forward in the 21st century.”

According to Conzelman, participants in the TransAtlantic Capital to Capital Exchange included representatives from Denmark’s public and private sectors, and 28 Members of the United States Congress. The Members included U.S. Representatives Greg Walden (R-OR), Tom Reed (R-NY), and Kathleen Rice (D-NY), who served as Co-Chairs of the policy conference. Also participating were U.S. Representatives Joyce Beatty (D-OH), Ami Bera (D-CA), Larry Bucshon (R-IN), Judy Chu (D-CA), Paul Cook (R-CA), Diana DeGette (D-CO), Tom Emmer (R-MN), Ron Estes (R-KS), Bill Flores (R-TX), Brian Higgins (D-NY), Bill Huizenga (R-MI), Bill Johnson (R-OH), Dave Joyce (R-OH), Mike Kelly (R-PA), Dan Kildee (D-MI), Darin LaHood (R-IL), Rick Larsen (D-WA), Billy Long (R-MO), Frank Lucas (R-OK), Sean Patrick Maloney (D-NY), Paul Mitchell (R-MI), Stephanie Murphy (D-FL), Dan Newhouse (R-WA), Tom Rice (R-SC), and Fred Upton (R-MI).

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.

The conference kicked off with an in-country briefing led by U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Denmark Carla Sands and her senior staff at the U.S. Embassy in Denmark. The senior staff members included: Steven Bitner who is Political-Economic Counselor, Daniel Ernst who is Public Affairs Counselor,

Bjarke Frederiksen who is Foreign Commercial Service Head and Colonel Christopher Cruise, USAF, who is Chief of the Office of Defense Cooperation.

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

“**Personal and Corporate Taxation**” – which was a discussion about progressive taxation, both on the individual and corporate side, in the United States and Denmark and what the U.S. may do to follow up on the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 as well as the potential for an EU or OECD “digital tax.” The conversation also discussed the high taxation of Denmark.

Participating in the panel were Rep. Kelly, Rep. Chu, Rep. Tom Rice and Rep. Estes, along with two Danes: Nina Legaard Kristensen who is Head of Department for International Affairs at the Ministry of Taxation, and Jacob Ravn who is Head of Tax for the Danish Chamber of Commerce. Moderating

“Over the years, the Danes and Americans have been at each other’s side in both good times and bad. We were there for them during the liberation of Europe in World War II. And they were there for us following the dark days of September 11th in 2001.”



Atop Amager Bakke/CopenHill, the Members of Congress overlook the offshore wind energy of Copenhagen



The trade panel with Rep. Larsen, Rep. Higgins, Rep. Rice, Rep. LaHood, and Ambassador Kelstrup



The privacy panel with Rep. Flores, Rep. DeGette and Rep. Walden



Dr. Dunsire, Dr. Senderovitz and Rep. Murphy speak on the pharmaceuticals panel

the panel was Dave Camp, the former Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee.

“An American GDPR? – The Future of Privacy Law in the U.S.” – this discussion focused on what the U.S. can learn from the EU and Danish companies about the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and its implementation as the U.S. potentially crafts its own federal privacy and data protection legislation. In addition to discussing the pros and cons of the GDPR framework and other privacy principles and ideas, the panel debated whether preemption by Congress is appropriate in this area in order to avert a patchwork of state-level privacy laws.

Appearing on the panel were Rep. Walden, Rep. DeGette, Rep. Flores, Rep. Long and Kim Haggren, who is Vice President, Chief Compliance Officer & Data Protection Officer at the Confederation of Danish Industry (DI).

“Global Financial Services” – which was a discussion about the challenges and opportunities being faced by banking, insurance and other financial services industries globally. The conversation also discussed the potential for regulatory harmonization and how Brexit may affect the future of global financial services.

On the financial services panel were Rep. Lucas, Rep. Huizenga, Rep. Beatty, Rep. Emmer, and Ulrik Nødgaard, who is the CEO of Finance Denmark. Rep. Kildee moderated the discussion.

“Improving U.S. Governing by Increasing Bipartisanship” – this was a discussion on the progress of the 116th Congress in forging a constructive agenda during this age of divided government. The conversation also touched on effect the media and social media has on governing.

Appearing on the panel were leaders of centrist factions in the House. Rep. Upton, co-chair of the Tuesday Group, Rep. Murphy, chair of the Blue Dogs, Rep. Reed, co-chair of the Problem Solvers, and Rep. Bera, a member of the New Dems leadership team. Rep. Kathleen Rice moderated the panel.

“The Green Revolution and the Future of Energy Production” – this panel discussed how renewables have transformed the energy sector in Scandinavia and what this could mean for climate change and the global economy. A conversation about the future of energy production also occurred.

The panel consisted of Rep. Upton, Rep. DeGette, Rep. Johnson, Rep.

Maloney, Morten Bæk, who is the Permanent Secretary of State for the Ministry of Energy, Utilities, and Climate, and Claus Madsen, who is the Managing Director of ABB Denmark A/S and the Chairman of the Danish Energy Industries Federation. Rep. Emmer served as the moderator.

“A Bigger, Better Workforce – Jobs Training and Immigration” – this was discussion about what the U.S. can learn from the Danes about filling the record number of open jobs in the U.S. – more than 7 million – through jobs training as well as a dialogue about how a more effective immigration system can be used to fill these openings.

Rep. Joyce, Rep. Kildee, Rep. Newhouse, and Minister Peter Hummelgaard, the Danish Minister for Employment, appeared on the panel, which was moderated by Rep. Beatty.

“Balancing Pharmaceutical Innovation and Affordability” – the panel discussed the robust pharmaceutical industries of the U.S. and Denmark and how to ensure pharmaceutical innovation and R&D continues. Additionally, with the Trump Administration prioritizing the lowering of drug prices, the panel explored some of these options as lawmakers learn how the Danes and Europeans approach this contentious issue.

On the panel were Rep. Walden, Rep. Chu, Rep. Kelly, Rep. Murphy, Dr. Thomas Senderovitz, who is Director General of the Danish Medicines Agency and Dr. Deborah Dunsire who is President & CEO of Lundbeck. Rep. Bucshon served as the moderator.

“Improving Transportation Investment and Regulation” – this panel was about how waterways, roads, trains, sidewalks and bridges affect commerce and daily life and what governments should do with infrastructure to best meet the needs of its citizenry. The conversation also discussed the funding of infrastructure projects and what the U.S. can learn from the Danes with regards to their infrastructure planning, financing and regulatory processes and how they successfully utilize public-private partnerships.

The panelists were Rep. Maloney, Rep. Mitchell and Mr. Kent Harnisch, who is the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Finance. Rep. LaHood moderated the panel.

“Health Care Delivery and Patient Accessibility” – as U.S. lawmakers continue to examine their health care laws, this panel sought to enlighten them



Rep. Reed, Rep. Bucshon and Rep. Bera listen to Ms. Lauritsen on the health care panel



U.S. Ambassador Sands leads the in-country briefing with her team from the U.S. Embassy in Copenhagen



Dr. Lidegaard discusses the geopolitical importance in Copenhagen of the Arctic



Rep. Reed and Rep. Bera discuss bipartisanship



Minister Hummelgaard and Rep. Newhouse speak on the workforce and immigration panel

to the pros and cons of Denmark's almost entirely single payer, decentralized health care system which is managed through administrative regions and municipalities. The panel discussed how both countries are working to improve their health care delivery, patient out-comes and effectiveness of care.

Appearing on the panel were Rep. Higgins, Rep. Reed, Rep. Bucshon, Rep. Bera and Annemarie Lauritsen, who is the Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health. Serving as the moderator was Rep. Upton.

"U.S.-EU Trade" – this was a discussion about the potential for a revival of the TTIP negotiations and the future of bilateral and multilateral trade deals during this age of increased skepticism of globalization. The conversation also discussed the pros and cons of the current Section 232 steel and aluminum tariffs. Additionally, the panel also talked about the potential for disruptive 232 tariffs on automobile and parts and the retaliatory actions the EU would likely take to counter them. The trade war with China was also a major theme of the panel.

On the trade panel were Rep. Larsen, Rep. Higgins, Rep. Tom Rice, Rep. LaHood, Ambassador Søren Kelstrup, who is the Ambassador for Trade Policy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Morten Dyrholm, who serves as Group Senior Vice President, Marketing, Communications and Public Affairs for Vestas Wind Systems A/S. Rep. Lucas moderated the conversation.

"The Future of NATO" – this panel was a discussion about strengthening NATO while Russia continues its aggression in Europe physically and through cyberspace. The panel also discussed the geopolitical challenges and opportunities of the Arctic. Questions about whether NATO should increasingly focus on China also occurred.

The panelists were Rep. Larsen, Rep. Cook, Rep. Kathleen Rice, Rep. Mitchell and Thomas Ahrenkiel, who is the Permanent Secretary of State for the Danish Ministry of Defense. Moderating the conversation was Rep. Newhouse.

In addition to the panel sessions, the conference featured a number of other Danish speakers including:

Welcoming remarks by the Permanent Secretary of State for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Lars Gert Lose, who was Denmark's former Ambassador to the U.S. After his remarks, Amb. Morella presented Amb. Lose and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with an American Flag which was flown over the U.S. Capitol Building on June 5 in honor of the Denmark's Constitution Day.

A presentation and explanation of the Danish Model and Flexicurity and Denmark's unique labor market and the relationship between the private sector and unions. The audience heard about how guiding philosophies like "Flexicurity" and "the Danish Model" as well as their robust social safety net play a large role in this country's economy and Denmark's renowned worker

efficiency and wellbeing.

The presenters were Christoffer Skov, who is a Director at the Confederation of Danish Industry, and Henrik Jensen, who is General Secretary of CO-industri. Rep. Flores introduced the topic and panelists.

A discussion about the geopolitical challenges and opportunities of the Arctic. In addition to discussing why the Arctic will play an important role in future trade, transportation and scientific discovery, the speaker expressed his thoughts on the international security concerns related to the region, particularly with regards to Russia and China. The topic of climate change and why those from the Arctic region believe this should be a priority for the United States and the global community was also discussed.

Delivering remarks on the Arctic was Dr. Bo Lidegaard, a native Greenlander, former Executive Editor-in-Chief, Politiken and former Advisor on Foreign Policy to consecutive Danish Prime Ministers. Rep. Joyce introduced Dr. Lidegaard and the topic.

The Members of Congress also participated in a tour of the Danish green energy sector at Amager Bakke/CopenHill which showcased how Denmark and Copenhagen are working to achieve their aggressive greenhouse emissions reduction goals. This session also educated the U.S. policy makers about offshore wind energy as well as the technologies, laws and regulations utilized by another developed nation to tackle climate change.

Leading the first part of the tour and discussion was Jacob Simonsen, who is the CEO of ARC (Amager Resource Center). Benoît Bizet, who is a Special Advisor at the Danish Energy Agency discussed wind energy and the cooperation between the Denmark and the U.S. in offshore wind development.

Finally, the conference wrapped up with a bilateral meeting over lunch with a discussion about the future of Transatlantic Cooperation and U.S.-Denmark relations between U.S. Members of Congress & Danish Parliamentarians, Members of the Folketing.

The nine Danish Parliamentarians participating were: Mr. Alex Ahrendtsen, MF (Danish People's Party--Funen Storkreds), Mr. Christian Juhl, MF (Red-Green Alliance-Zealand), Ms. Marie Krarup, MF (Danish People's Party-South Jutland), Ms. Aki-Matilda Høegh-Dam, MF (Siumut-Greenland), Ms. Anne Sophie Callesen, MF (Social Liberal Party-East Jutland), Ms. Birgitte Bergman, MF (The Conservative Party-North Zealand), Ms. Camilla Fabricius, MF (Social Democratic Party-East Jutland), Ms. Katarina Ammitzbøll, MF (The Conservative Party-Copenhagen) and Mr. Niels Flemming Hansen, MF (The Conservative Party-South Jutland).

After welcoming remarks from Ms. Krarup, Rep. Kathleen Rice presented the Danish lawmaker and the Danish Folketing with an American Flag that was flown over the U.S. Capitol Building on June 5 in honor of the Danish elections.



Mr. Rayn and Rep. Estes listen to Ms. Kristensen speak on the tax panel



Rep. Maloney makes a point about green energy as Mr. Madsen, Mr. Bæk, Rep. Johnson and Rep. DeGette listen



Mr. Jensen on the Danish Model



Mr. Skov on the Danish Model



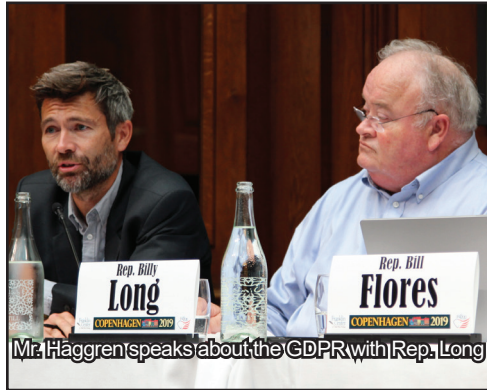
Rep. Cook speaks about NATO with Rep. Larsen and Rep. Rice



The transportation panel featured Mr. Mitchell and Rep. Mitchell



The financial services panel enjoys a lighthearted moment



Mr. Haggren speaks about the GDPR with Rep. Long



Amb. K elstrup and Mr. Dyrholm discuss trade



Rep. Kildee speaks about workforce and immigration while Rep. Joyce and Rep. Beatty listen



Rep. Lucas moderates the trade panel with Rep. Larsen



Mr. Simonsen showcases green energy in Denmark



Mr. Bizet discusses offshore wind energy



Rep. Rice and Rep. Mitchell listen to Mr. Ahrenkiel discuss NATO



Amb. Lose welcomes the group to Denmark



The panel on pharmaceuticals had Rep. Kelly, Rep. Chu and Rep. Walden as panelists



The U.S. Congressional Delegation with the Danish Folketing delegation at Christiansborg Palace



Mr. Uirik N odgaard and Rep. Emmer discuss financial services



Rep. Upton and Rep. Murphy speak about the importance of bipartisanship