



USEU SNAPSHOTS

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First U.S.-EU Seminar on Preventing Violent Extremism Gathered in Brussels on June 16-17



U.S.-EU SEMINAR ON PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN BRUSSELS, JUNE 16-17 - (PHOTO: USEU/PA)

USEU and the European Commission jointly organized the first ever Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) conference and workshop in Brussels on June 16-17. The conference drew participants from multiple European and American agencies and Departments as well as representatives of civil society and European counterparts representing a number of member states. Participants exchanged views on EU and U.S. approaches to preventing and countering violent extremism as well as radicalization and recruitment to terrorism, with a focus on internal policies, the internal-external link, the relationship between development aid and counterterrorism and initiatives in third countries. Action group will follow up on the possible areas for cooperation between the EU and the U.S. in the specific aspects of preventing violent extremism such as: terrorist travel; partnering with immigrant/Diaspora communities to address issues of countering violent extremism; challenging violent extremist narratives; countering terrorist online activities; conflict prevention/resolution in third countries; developing benchmarks for CVE initiatives; and de-radicalization programs in prisons. The U.S. and EU hope to organize a follow-on seminar in 2011.

Ambassador Kennard: “We Must Approach Extremism with New and Different Solutions”



AMBASSADOR KENNARD GIVES REMARKS DURING THE FIRST U.S.-EU SEMINAR ON COUNTER VIOLENT EXTREMISM, BRUSSELS, JUNE 16, 2010 - (PHOTO: USEU/PA)

“I suspect that much of the discussion at this conference will involve a type of violence that I did not know as a child – acts of terrorism motivated by extreme political or religious views. It has produced heinous crimes, many made famous by the names of the places they occurred: Oklahoma City, Fort Hood, Madrid and London, the Taj Mahal Hotel in Mumbai.” said Ambassador Kennard in his remarks on June 16. “These acts of terrorism are quite different from the violence of my youth. They are certainly more random and unpredictable. As such, I find them more chilling and senseless in the way that they target innocents. But fundamentally, they share a common heritage. (...)

In today’s world we find different marginalized groups who present different challenges. We, in turn, must be ready to approach these challenges with new and different solutions. That, of course, is what brings us all together today.” See a [video excerpt](#) of Ambassador Kennard’s opening remarks. [Click to read the full remarks.](#)

Transitions in Global Terrorism: What Kind of Threats Do We Face Today?

Brian Jenkins, Senior Advisor to the president of the [RAND Corp.](#) and an authority on terrorism was in Brussels to address where we are in reducing al Qaeda’s operational capabilities, how al Qaeda would view its own situation and how its strategy is evolving. He also discussed the threats posed by so-called home-grown terrorists and the issue of nuclear terrorism. See a [video excerpt](#).



BRIAN JENKINS, SENIOR ADVISOR TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE RAND CORPORATION PARTICIPATE TO A CONFERENCE IN BRUSSELS ON JUNE 17 - (PHOTO: USEU/PA)



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European and American Interns Discuss Global Responsibility



Fifty European and American interns from 27 different nations came all the way to the U.S. Mission in Brussels to participate in "Transatlantic Cooperation: U.S.-EU Partnerships in Global Responsibility" on June 23. This full-day conference brought U.S.-EU stagiaires and U.S. government officials around the same table for open and frank discussions of the transatlantic relationship. Participants came from different backgrounds and internships at the European Commission, the European Parliament, the European Council, UNICEF, local think tanks and other representations to the EU. Following the welcome by Ambassador Kennard, they engaged in a lively U.S.-EU panel discussion with senior officials before splitting

into smaller roundtables with U.S. mission subject matter experts on foreign aid and disasters, innovation and global security. The morning was followed by an intriguing afternoon with Dr. Jack A. Goldstone, Professor at the George Mason School of Public Policy, author of "The New Population Bomb: The Four Megatrends that will Change the World.", who led a discussion of his predicted critical world changes due to changing distribution of population, important issues the interns will all deal with in the years to come. See more picture of this event on the [USEU Intern Blog](#) page on Facebook.



INTERNS FROM THE EU AND THE U.S. PARTICIPATING TO THE ONE DAY BRIEFING "TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION: U.S.-EU PARTNERSHIPS IN GLOBAL RESPONSIBILITY" ORGANIZED BY THE U.S. MISSION ON JUNE 23 - (PHOTOS: USEU/PA)

Fighting Trafficking in the Modern Era: Amb. CdeBaca

On July 22, USEU organized a roundtable with Ambassador-at-Large for the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking In Persons Luis CdeBaca and human rights and migration NGOs engaged in anti-trafficking efforts. The event provided an open discussion on the global fight against contemporary forms of slavery and emphasized the U.S. effort to work in partnership with NGO and government leaders in anti-trafficking movements around the world. Brussels-based human rights and migration activists engaged with Ambassador CdeBaca on a broad variety of related subjects such as the role of civil society and its cooperation with government, asylum policies, labor laws, migration management, NGO responses on the ground, and return of victims of trafficking to countries of origin, among others.



AMBASSADOR CDEBACA AND NGO REPRESENTATIVES EXCHANGES BEST PRACTICES AND COMPARED THE U.S. AND EU SYSTEMS WHILE PAVING THE WAY FOR FURTHER TRANSATLANTIC COOPERATION ON THE GLOBAL FIGHT AGAINST CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY ON JULY 22 - (PHOTO: USEU/PA)

Safeguarding Travel: DHS Assistant Secretary Heyman

"We have a shared responsibility and a common interest to safeguard the security of international passengers," David Heyman, Assistant Secretary for Policy, Department of Homeland Security, told reporters during a June 3 roundtable in Brussels. Mr. Heyman, who was in Brussels for talks with EU officials on cooperation on a range of security and terrorism issues, answered questions about the U.S. 100% scanning law, information-sharing, improving tools that law enforcement can use, and the role and deployment of new technologies. He "called for better information sharing with the EU. Click to see [video excerpts](#).

Data Privacy and Consumer Protection: Transatlantic Views



DISCUSSION WITH DAVID VLADECK (LEFT), DIRECTOR OF THE US FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION (FTC), BUREAU OF CONSUMER PROTECTION, JULY 13, 2010 - (PHOTO: USEU/PA)

David Vladeck, Director of the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC), Bureau of Consumer Protection, and Monique Goyens, Director of the European Consumers Associations network (BEUC), engaged in a roundtable was organized at [The Centre](#), a "think-do" tank, with the support of the U.S. Mission to the EU. The event brought together representatives from industry, civil society, the media and the EU institutions. "Americans and Europeans have the same goals but different approaches" David Vladeck said, highlighting the new challenges both regions confront in a global digital world. The lively and interesting discussion pointed out the need of a common approach on both sides of the Atlantic.



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DAVID HEYMAN, ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR POLICY AT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY AND AN EXPERT ON TERRORISM MEETS REPORTERS DURING A ROUNDTABLE IN BRUSSELS ON JUNE 3 - (PHOTO: USEU/PA)

The U.S. Mission Reaches Out to Paris-based Think Tank “Nouvelle Europe”



U.S. POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC OFFICERS BRIEF A GROUP OF YOUNG PROFESSIONALS MEMBERS OF PARIS-BASED “NOUVELLE EUROPE” ON JUNE 24, 2010 - (PHOTO: USEU/PA)

In June, the U.S. Mission to the EU welcomed a group of members from “**Nouvelle Europe**”, based in Paris, that is composed of young professionals from more than 10 EU countries who are working in the public sector in European institutions, Member State administrations, foundations, web media and the academic field. Officers Lou Bono and Emily Katkar, briefed the group on U.S. views on EU enlargement, energy security crises and other priority issues.

Setting Wheels in Motion: NGO Activity Combats Climate Change

Joey Feinstein, Founder and Executive Director of “Climate Cycle”, shared his experience of how U.S. actors at the local level address climate change with a variety of audiences during his June 3 trip to Brussels. Mr. Feinstein addressed an international group of high school students, young European professionals and fellow NGO representatives to share his experience with “Climate Cycle”, an NGO dedicated to promoting sustainable environmental education in public schools and installing solar panels to help schools curb increasing electricity bills. Joey Feinstein shared the story



JOEY FEINSTEIN (STANDING) ADDRESSES AN INTERNATIONAL GROUP OF HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN BRUSSELS ON JUNE 3 - (PHOTO: USEU/PA)

of his personal inspiration and drive to contribute to bettering the world around him and demonstrated that Americans and Europeans share common aspirations for environmental sustainability.



ROUNDTABLE WITH CLIMATE CYCLE FOUNDER, JOEY FEINSTEIN AND BRUSSELS BASED NGOs, JUNE 3 - (PHOTO: USEU/PA)

Green Banking: a Renewable Technologies Sector Booster?

A lunchtime meeting in Brussels on June 12 brought together between Reed Hundt, Chairman of the Coalition for Green Bank, and representatives from the media, climate change/energy NGOs, think tanks, academics and European Commission, to discuss the challenges that green technologies are facing and examine how governments can boost the renewable technologies sector on both sides of the Atlantic.

Georgian Policy Makers Focus on U.S.-EU Relations



USEU hosted Georgian policy makers from the Ministry of Justice, Ministry for Re-Integration, and Public Defender’s (Ombudsman’s) Office, and from an independent radio-television broadcasting company and an NGO on peace and democracy who were visiting Brussels in August. Mission officials briefed them on U.S.-EU relations and on the EU’s Common Security and Defense Policy. They reiterated U.S. support for Georgia’s sovereignty and independence, and provided a context for the recent “reset” of U.S.-Russian relations. The Georgian visitors also expressed interest in U.S. views on the potential entry of Georgia into NATO and the EU, and how U.S. and EU collaborate in their region and around the world.



USEU POLITICAL UNIT CHIEF DON SHEEHAN (CENTER) BRIEFES GEORGIAN PARTICIPANTS IN THE U.S. NATO-SPONSORED TOUR IN BRUSSELS ON AUGUST 2 - (PHOTO: USEU/PA)