



**Transatlantic Parliamentary Group on Counterterrorism
2013 Summit in Washington, D.C.
July 24, 2013**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Last week, Congressman Jeff Duncan (SC), U.S. Co-Chair of the Transatlantic Parliamentary Group on Counterterrorism, hosted the 2013 Summit with visiting lawmakers from the European Parliament to discuss issues of international security.

The European Co-Chair of the Transatlantic Parliamentary Group, Jamie Mayor Oreja, brought a European delegation of 12 members of the European Parliament from Spain, Germany, Portugal, Sweden, France, Estonia, and Poland. Ten Members of Congress participated in the roundtable discussions including three U.S. Senators and seven Members of the U.S. House of Representatives. Lawmakers held discussions in the U.S. Capitol on Transatlantic Global Issues, Greater Middle East and Security Issues, Energy Security, and the U.S.-EU proposed free trade agreement.

U.S. Co-Chair Rep. Jeff Duncan on the 2013 Summit – “Last week’s Summit provided an excellent opportunity for members of Congress and European Parliament to address mutual challenges and opportunities we face. I am encouraged by the deeper transatlantic cooperation we have in recognizing the threat from Islamist terrorism and in efforts to curb terrorist financing, improve aviation security, and strengthen border security controls. I congratulate the EU for their decision this week to designate the military wing of Hezbollah as a terrorist organization, and I believe that the U.S. and EU should work more closely to address Iran’s illicit nuclear program, the expanding reach of Al Qaeda after the Arab Spring Revolutions, and the growing nexus between terrorists and criminal networks. I also welcome the recent negotiations on the US-EU free trade agreement as an outstanding opportunity to deepen and affirm our critical relationship with our European allies.”

EU Co-Chair MEP Jamie Mayor Oreja on the 2013 Summit – “This fifth summit in Washington, D.C. with our U.S. colleagues provided a great and timely opportunity for members to discuss long term strategic issues as well as imminent challenges. We have been able to solidify the transatlantic ties and deepen their foundations on our mutual adherence to common values regarding our societies and our world views. Among the main subjects we addressed were the growth of the Jihadi threat worldwide, particularly in the Sahel area and the Middle East but also its activities in Western democracies; the evolution of the Arab Spring uprisings and the race between seculars and Islamists; and Iran's nuclear challenge. We also focused on the developing civil war in Syria and on the appropriate strategies to protect its civilian population while containing the Jihadi terrorists and on the latest popular revolution in Egypt which unsettled the Muslim Brotherhood regime. We agreed on encouraging the interim Government of Egypt to move the country quickly towards a

pluralist democracy. In this summit, we explored expanding the TAG activities towards engaging Latin American and Middle Eastern democratic forces. Our members also discussed critical issues for both sides of the Atlantic, including the Trade Agreement, energy and security. We are looking forward to welcoming our U.S. and North American friends in Brussels to continue our dialogue.”

NOTE: The Transatlantic Parliamentary Group on Counterterrorism was launched in 2008 by a group of U.S. and European lawmakers to focus on international security issues. Congressman Duncan became U.S. Co-chair of the Transatlantic Parliamentary Group on Counterterrorism at the beginning of the 113th Congress.