

Good evening,
Ambassador Kennard
Ladies and gentlemen

Let me begin by saying that I am honoured to have been asked to speak before you.

This evening, I should like to stress the potential benefits of trans-Atlantic cooperation in the energy domain and to briefly outline some recommendations as to how we, on both sides of the Atlantic, can best further cleaner, more affordable and more readily available energy.

Concerning the potential benefits of our enhanced cooperation: as EPP shadow rapporteur for external energy policy, the report covered a whole range of subjects. From the point of view of EU-US relations in the field of energy; there are three elements that are particularly worthy of attention.

* We should actively seek to promote technological research and industrial cooperation in such areas as smart grids, renewables and energy efficiency.

* Secondly, we are also keen to facilitate trade and foster a more efficient passage from research to market.

* And finally, we would urge the setting *common standards* for renewable energy technologies concerning such things as electric cars, nuclear safety and safety in offshore drilling and so on.

Turning now to the subject of our meeting this evening, I particularly liked the book title: Transatlantic Energy Futures. Not only does it bring to the fore the need for more cooperation on both sides of the Atlantic but also, for me, this title invokes the idea of multiple possibilities, including possibilities that we have not discovered yet.

In particular, Americans and Europeans need to make more rapid progress with regard to clean, affordable and more readily available energy.

To this end, there are three key recommendations that I should like to make.

* We require appropriate *legislation*. However we are making steps in the right direction. Here in Europe, only last week, the European Parliament voted in the revision of the Energy Efficiency Directive.

* Secondly, we also require *more funding* - from both private and public sources - if we are to build up and renew our energy infrastructure in Europe. We also need to devote more investment to research and innovation in the areas of clean energy, clean transport and climate change.

* Thirdly, one possible direction that we could move in would be to foster greater US involvement in H2020. H2020 is the single largest research and

innovation in the world and Europe can certainly benefit from the *excellent input that American universities and institutes* can supply. All of us, however, will benefit from fostering a more dynamic two-way interaction.

Conclusion

Ambassdor Kennard

Ladies and Gentlemen

By way of conclusion, let me finish on an optimistic note. With the right investment, more technological research and development and a willingness to embark on joint partnership, I am sure that we can make real progress in dealing with the societal challenges that both continents are currently faced with.

Having been recently appointed the rapporteur for the specific programme implementing H2020, I can ensure that I shall do my utmost to further this

cooperation, something I am very much looking forward to.

Thank you very much.