



**Statement of Ranking Member Kinzinger (R-IL)
Subcommittee on Europe, Eurasia, Energy, and the Environment
House Committee on Foreign Affairs**

“Historic American Alliance with Europe”
March 26, 2019

Remarks as Prepared

Thank you Chairman Keating and thank you to the panel for joining us today.

I want to also welcome the panel to this subcommittee’s first hearing, and I could not think of a better topic to discuss.

Since the end of the second World War, American and European resolve has formed the cornerstone of national security policy for the postwar order.

Through our partnership with European nations, we have successfully defeated communism, halted genocide in the Balkans, countered threats from terrorism, defended human rights around the world, and maintained cohesion with our like-minded democratic partners.

While we no longer face the same existential threat posed by the Soviet Union, western resolve and stability has helped maintain peace in a world drowning with strongmen.

One of my growing concerns is our European allies continue to be reliant on oil and gas from Russian strongman Vladimir Putin, who is using energy security as a weapon against them.



That is why I introduced with Chairman Keating H.R. 1616, the European Energy Security and Diversification Act, which last night passed the house with overwhelming bipartisan support.

We know that the Russians are using energy as a weapon against our allies, and this bill reassures Europe and shows American wiliness to help our transatlantic partners grow.

I look forward to hearing from our witnesses today as we examine the strengths and weaknesses of some of our historic alliances, as well as how we can foster alliances with other nations in the region.

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