



## **MINUTES OF THE JOINT MEETING**

**U.S. – SPAIN COUNCIL AND FUNDACIÓN CONSEJO ESPAÑA EE-UU**

**WASHINGTON DC, FEBRUARY, 2002**

Senator Christopher J. Dodd called the meeting to order at 10:15 am.

Senator Dodd announced that Ambassador Diego Asencio had resigned as Executive Director of the U.S.-Spain Council and that he will continue to be on the Board of Directors as a paying member. Senator Dodd presented Bill Harman as the new President of the U.S.-Spain Council. Mr. Antonio Garrigues Walker thanked the U.S.-Spain Council for an excellent Forum.

Bill Harman asked for the collaboration of the Spanish Embassy in Washington in inviting the Council Directors to meet with Cabinet Ministers whenever they visit Washington DC.

Senator Dodd proposed that the VIII Forum be one of the last two weekends of February 2003 in Sevilla, Madrid or Santiago de Compostela. The Consejo and the Council will work on the dates and will notify the Directors.

Senator Dodd introduced Julianne Smith, from the German Marshall Fund, and Amy Medearis, participant of the first trip of the Young Leaders Program. Julianne Smith explained the program briefly and Amy Medearis reported on her impressions of the program and her impressions of Spain.

Amy Medearis considered the meeting with the Prince of Asturias, Felipe de Borbón, the highlight of their trip. The Young Leaders were able to speak with the Prince for over an hour on a host of political, economic, and cultural subjects. He was very accommodating and made all feel very comfortable with him. Other highlights of the trip were visits to Telefónica, a small venture capital firm called Latin Rim, a high tech corridor of Barcelona called District 22 and the BBVA Bank. The theme: "The New Economy in Spain" was, according to Mrs. Medearis, very appropriate and the small number of participants (10), was perfect number for them to develop a close relationship.

It was the first visit to Spain for Amy Medearis and she was very impressed with the economy and foreign policy of Spain. She saw Spain as a country member of the European Union with strong connections with Latin America.

The Young Leaders were able to observe how complex regionalism was in Spain and how it goes far beyond the issue of terrorism. They also enjoyed the cultural visits. Complaints of the visit were focused primarily on the late night meals and the early wake up calls!

As a result of her participation in the program Amy Medearis now writes and reads more about Spain. The alumni keep in touch through the German Marshall Fund.

Both the Council and the Consejo Directors were extremely pleased with Amy Medearis and her presentation and everybody agreed that it was a very good and useful program. Mr. Antonio Garrigues Walker informed the council about the importance of the Consejo's Young Hispanic Leaders Program.

It was agreed that the participants in the Young Leaders Program should write reports on their trip and Ambassador Richard Gardner proposed that the reports be distributed among the Directors.

As there was no further business, Senator Christopher J. Dodd adjourned the meeting at 11:15am.