

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 27, 2025

H.E. Roberta Metsola
President
European Parliament
Rue Wiertz 60,
1047 Brussels
Belgium

CC:

H.E. Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission
H.E. Kaja Kallas; High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
H.E. Magnus Brunner, Commissioner for Internal Affairs and Migration
H.E. Antonio Costa, President of European Council

Dear Madam President:

We write to urge you to support the designation of Hezbollah in its entirety as a terrorist organization. The significant weakening of Hezbollah over the last year, leading to the emergence of a new Lebanese government, presents an opportunity for a more stable and prosperous Lebanon. However, this future cannot be achieved so long as Hezbollah serves as an Iranian terror proxy and retains its military capabilities. Designating Hezbollah's political wing, alongside its military, as a terrorist organization will send an important message of solidarity to President Aoun in his efforts to restore Lebanese sovereignty.

Hezbollah has threatened both American and European security, as well as individual civilians, for decades. Just a few examples follow. U.S. and European law enforcement conducted a joint operation in 2016 to arrest top Hezbollah leaders across seven European countries on charges of drug trafficking, money laundering and procuring weapons for Hezbollah's use against the Syrian people. Just last year, Germany closed the Islamic Center in Hamburg for promoting Hezbollah and Iranian interests, as well as antisemitism. France took similar steps in 2020, closing one of the largest Hezbollah propaganda centers in Europe—the Zahra Center France—as well as several affiliate organizations that supported Hezbollah's terror activities. We also note the tragic loss of life in the 2012 bus bombing in Burgas, Bulgaria perpetrated by Hezbollah terrorists who plotted their attack on European soil.

Though the EU has taken the important step of designating Hezbollah's military wing, it should now fully designate Hezbollah as a terrorist organization. We applaud Germany, the Netherlands, and several other EU member states for designating both Hezbollah's military and political wings. Furthermore, we praise the European Parliament itself – under your leadership – for repeatedly urging the full terror designation of Hezbollah as well as that of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC), Hezbollah's Iranian patron organization.

Today, we urge you to work with your colleagues in the European Union to go further and finally designate Hezbollah's political wing as a terrorist organization. We believe American and European

cooperation and alignment on this issue is critical to protecting our shared security interests and providing the Lebanese people with the hope they need in this tenuous historical moment.

We stand ready to work together on this issue and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Bradley Scott Schneider
Member of Congress



Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress



Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress



Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress




Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



Jake Auchincloss
Member of Congress



Don Bacon
Member of Congress



Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress