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**TRANSATLANTIC DIALOGUE AIMS TO STRENGTHEN
COOPERATION ON DEMOCRACY SUPPORT**

WASHINGTON, DC – Former Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright, European Parliament President Jerzy Buzek and former U.S. Representative Vin Weber, R-Minn., will lead a discussion on strengthening democracy and human rights globally at the National Press Club next Tuesday, June 29 at 2:30 pm. Maria Leissner, Sweden’s ambassador for democracy, and Ana Palacio, former foreign minister of Spain, will also participate in the discussion. Katty Kay, Washington correspondent for BBC World News America, will moderate.

The event is part of a transatlantic dialogue program involving a broad array of policymakers from the United States, Europe and Canada who are working to develop recommendations for bolstering cooperation on democracy support between the European Union, the United States and the broader transatlantic community. Participants in the dialogue will meet June 28 and 29 in Washington and again in early 2011 to develop the policy recommendations.

The dialogue is being organized by the National Democratic Institute (NDI) with primary support from the EU Delegation to the United States. Co-chairs are Albright, Buzek, Weber and Javier Solana, former EU high representative for the common foreign and security policy.

Through a series of conferences and working groups, the dialogue will engage senior U.S. and European policymakers who are knowledgeable on democracy support, including current and former members of Congress and the European Parliament, EU and U.S. administration officials, as well as experts from think tanks, academia, and the broader democracy support and transatlantic policy communities.

The dialogue receives additional support from the National Endowment for Democracy and the German Marshall Fund of the United States. Other organizations engaged in the dialogue include the Atlantic Council, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, the Centre for European Policy Studies, the European Network of Political Foundations, the European Partnership for Democracy and *Fundación para las Relaciones Internacionales y el Diálogo Exterior* (FRIDE).

NDI is an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that supports democratic institutions and practices in every region of the world. Since its founding more than 25 years ago, NDI and its local partners have worked to establish and strengthen political and civic organizations, safeguard elections, promote citizen participation and improve democratic governance. More information about NDI is available at www.ndi.org.

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