



News from

Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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Kind to Explore New Partnerships with EU Countries on Security and International Trade

CODEL Will Focus on Economic Relations and National Security

Washington, DC – Congressman Ron Kind (D-WI) will spend part of the President's Day work period on a bipartisan Congressional delegation visit (CODEL) to London, England and Brussels, Belgium, focusing on United States-European Union economic relations and security matters. He leaves today and returns Saturday, February 24.

"In our world economy, it is increasingly important for the United States to build partnerships with countries that face similar challenges," Rep. Kind said. "From energy to national security to trade, the European Union confronts the same trials as we do – competing with China for jobs and energy, addressing the issue of global climate change, and keeping its people safe from terrorist threats. The goal of this trip is to find new ways to work together for the betterment of our economies, and our citizens."

While in London, Congressman Kind and the rest of the delegation will meet with British government officials that lead the governing political parties, as well as those overseeing its trade policies and foreign affairs. Congressman Kind will also make a stop at his alma mater, the London School of Economics, where he will address students and faculty who participate in the Grimshaw International Relations Club.

In Brussels, Congressman Kind will meet with Eastern European NATO officials to discuss the relationship between national security and economic growth. He will also chair a discussion entitled, "Global Challenges for Transatlantic Partnership: Energy and Environment – a Case Study for Joint Action," which will include the President and CEO of GE International, as well as European government officials, and business and energy executives.

"The energy and environmental policies we employ have global consequences," Rep. Kind said. "We must continue to innovate to find new, renewable energy sources, while promoting the best stewardship of our natural resources. This is an area that the EU has shown leadership, and it's an area with great potential for partnership. This discussion will open the doors to that."

Congressman Kind is a member of the House Committee on Ways and Means, which oversees the country's tax and trade policy. Kind has also been a strong advocate for reform in America's farm policy. The Healthy Farms Bill, which Kind plans to introduce again, proposes modernizing government farm programs to serve more farmers through expanded conservation payments and green incentives to encourage the growth of more energy-producing crops. Focusing government programs on conservation and farm-based renewable energy will help bring U.S. agriculture policy more in line with international trade law and allow for progress in the World Trade Organization's (WTO) agricultural trade negotiations.