

**Statement of Brendan Hanrahan**  
**Nominee to be Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs**  
**Senate Foreign Relations Committee**  
**June 18, 2026**

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, distinguished Members of the Committee, I am honored to join you as the nominee for the position of Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs. I appreciate the trust that President Trump and Secretary Rubio have placed in me by nominating me for this role. If confirmed, I commit to working closely with you and members of your staff, including through regular briefings, as I work to implement our foreign policy.

I want to start by thanking the many teachers, mentors, and colleagues that have shaped the educational and professional experiences that I will bring to this role. In particular, the teachers and coaches at Roxbury Latin in Boston, who fundamentally instilled in me the call to public service.

My foremost thanks I extend to my family for their love and support. To my grandparents, who have led through example of public service in our military, and who have exemplified humility and hard work. To my three siblings, Mary Aidan, Grace, and Eamon, who have been my foundational support throughout my life. To my parents, Drs. Lynn and John Hanrahan, who have given me my faith in God and taught me the imperative of personal integrity and service to others. And finally, my greatest thanks and love to my wife Lauren, who is here with me today, and our newborn son James. I would not be here without their support.

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The United States stands at a critical moment in our relationship with our oldest and strongest continent of Allies. I think it is important to underscore that core framing to our relationship with Europe – it is an alliance, forged in a shared history and civilizational heritage. As Secretary Rubio underscored in his Munich speech earlier this year, we want Europe to be strong, and we want our relationship with Europe to be strong. A safer, stronger, and more prosperous United States in the 21<sup>st</sup> century requires a reinvigorated relationship with Europe that can better advance our shared prosperity. Leading this work requires a seriousness of purpose and candid diplomacy. Should I be confirmed, I will bring both to our efforts.

In practical terms, should I be confirmed for this position, I will focus on four guiding objectives.

First, keeping American citizens safe by working closely with our ambassadors and missions abroad. This is our highest and most essential goal.

Second, rebalancing our relationship with Europe to better advance our core interests – the security and prosperity of American citizens. In the domain of security, this means advocating for transferring primary responsibility for conventional European defense to our Allies, while

simultaneously expanding the U.S. defense industrial base and co-production opportunities with NATO partners. We must press our allies to fulfill the defense investment commitments they made in The Hague last year; we are charting a better course, but more work remains to be done. Rebalancing also means enforcing a reciprocal trade and regulatory environment, especially with the European Union, that permits a level playing field for American businesses and workers. If confirmed, I will work closely with the Pentagon, USTR, and the broader interagency on both issues.

Third, if confirmed, I will focus on promoting a peaceful, stable Europe that unlocks the economic potential of the region. I will support President Trump's efforts to secure a durable peace in the Russia-Ukraine war. I will work to solidify the significant gains from President Trump's historical Peace deal between Armenia and Azerbaijan. And I will work to further deescalate other regional tensions by empowering local actors to forge local solutions. One of the key tools to advancing this peace and stability is commercial: ensuring Europe and Eurasian countries partner with the United States for their technology and energy. The United States has already supplanted Russia as the LNG supplier of choice, and by pushing for large scale energy infrastructure projects to transport U.S. gas across the continent, we can further secure Europe's energy sector and support the American worker.

Fourth and finally, if confirmed, I will work with European counterparts to guard against emerging and future threats to U.S. interests. This will entail enhancing law enforcement cooperation to combat terrorist networks, organized crime, and other bad actors that have exploited unfettered mass migration flows to smuggle fentanyl into the United States. It will also require protecting supply chains by mitigating our collective dependence on adversaries and rivals. If confirmed, I will focus on countering China's abuse of the global trading system by advocating for commercial partnerships between trusted U.S. and European firms to reinforce a secure U.S.-Europe economic partnership.

I thank the Chairman, Ranking Member, and Committee for your time, and the opportunity to appear before you. I look forward to your questions.