

**Statement of Charles Kushner**  
**Nominee to be U.S. Ambassador to France and Monaco**  
**Senate Foreign Relations Committee**  
**May 1, 2025**

Senator Booker, thank you for your very kind and gracious introduction. More importantly, thank you for your special and close friendship for over 25 years. It is a distinct pleasure for me personally to see how you have become such a great Senator from New Jersey, a State near and dear to my heart.

Chairman Risch, Ranking Member Shaheen, and Members of the Committee, I am grateful to appear before you as I am truly humbled and honored for the opportunity to represent America in France and Monaco under the leadership of President Trump. Now, more than ever since World War Two, Europe needs strong American leadership to advance President Trump's agenda. I want to acknowledge my family, especially my wife, Seryl, and our children, Dara & David, Jared & Ivanka, Nicole & Joseph, Josh and Karlie, and each of my 14 grandchildren. They are the pillars of my strength, the foundation of my life and the love of my heart.

I am a child of Holocaust survivors who came to America in 1949 as poor immigrants without any means and education. I never knew my grandmothers, and most of my family, who were executed by the Nazis and thrown into a pit with 18,000 other Jews. I have visited that site in present-day Belarus several times, with children and grandchildren, to recite the Jewish memorial prayer. My parents loved and appreciated our great Country, the land of opportunity, just as I do.

I have spent my entire career defining challenging goals and working hard to achieve those goals. As the founder of Kushner Companies over 40 years ago, I have spent decades building and managing a diverse portfolio of assets. My experiences have taught me a deep understanding of complex negotiations, strategic planning, and how to cultivate strong relationships – essential skills in the diplomatic realm.

My heritage is deeply rooted in the partnership between the United States and Europe. If confirmed, I am dedicated to building an even stronger relationship between the United States and our oldest ally, France – a relationship that was forged in the birth of the United States and cemented by an unwavering commitment to end the horrors of both World Wars.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day, a day that symbolized the triumph of freedom over tyranny and oppression. For the United States, it represented the culmination of immense sacrifices made by American soldiers and citizens. For France, it signified liberation and the restoration of its freedom and sovereignty.

Our shared history is a testament to the strength of our alliance and the values we hold dear – life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for Americans; liberty, equality, and fraternity for the French. These principles guide our bilateral relationship and our efforts to safeguard national security. If confirmed, I would work tirelessly to strengthen this vital relationship, focusing on three key priorities.

First, I will ensure that trade between our two nations revitalizes American industry and drives economic growth. France is our fifth-largest foreign investor with over \$360 billion invested in the United States. However, President Trump has made clear the importance of having fair and reciprocal trade. I will work closely with France to bring greater balance to our important economic relationship and combat harmful regulations that target American companies and unfairly tax American innovation. Through joint action, the United States and France can create even more opportunities for innovation and prosperity on both sides of the Atlantic.

Second, I plan to strengthen the U.S.-France defense relationship to better address common threats and ensure the safety of our citizens. France is a key NATO ally, and our collaboration on counterterrorism, cybersecurity, and military operations both in Europe and farther afield is crucial to make America more secure. France still spends far too little on its own defense, especially when the war in Ukraine is on the doorstep of Europe. I will urge France to invest more in its defense capabilities, as well as lead the EU to align with the U.S. vision of increased European commitments to security, and to do so without unfairly excluding American companies and preventing European partners from having the best equipment available.

Third, I will be an advocate for accurate Holocaust education and will promote efforts to counter antisemitism more broadly. I will seek to ensure the safety and security of the Jewish Community. In France, recent reports reveal that 46 percent of young adults have not heard of the Holocaust.

These findings are disturbing and underscore the urgent need for comprehensive education to ensure that past atrocities are not forgotten.

In closing, I am committed to serving the United States with dedication and integrity. If confirmed, I will prioritize the wellbeing and safety of American citizens living and traveling in France. I believe that by fostering a more balanced trade relationship, pressing for more French defense investment and spending, and promoting historical education, we can create a more secure and prosperous future for both our nations.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to your questions.