

ELIOT L. ENGEL, NEW YORK
CHAIRMAN

JASON STEINBAUM
STAFF DIRECTOR



MICHAEL T. MCCAUL, TEXAS
RANKING REPUBLICAN MEMBER

BRENDAN P. SHIELDS
REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR

One Hundred Sixteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Foreign Affairs
2170 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
www.foreignaffairs.house.gov

October 15, 2020

European Leadership Network
Attention: Sahil Shah
8 St James's Square
London, UK, SE1Y 4JU
Companies House Number: 07521896

Dear Colleagues:

Thank you for your October 13 letter expressing strong support for an extension of the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty (New START). As you may know, I have been committed during my time as Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee to pushing for the extension of New START and for continued engagement with Russia, and China, on nuclear and conventional arms control.

Since the end of World War II, the United States has relied on a safe, secure, and effective nuclear deterrent to provide for our national defense and to bolster the security of our allies. Coupled with this, it has been imperative for the United States and Russia to collaborate on maintaining strategic stability as well as working together on nuclear nonproliferation and arms control initiatives. Arms control has always been an area of dialogue, even during the lowest points in U.S.-Russia relations. As signatories to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, both countries need to remain committed to reducing our nuclear arsenals. If New START is allowed to expire, we will be faced with an unconstrained Russian nuclear arsenal for the first time since the 1970s. We will also be discarding decades of progress building mutual deterrence at a much lower level of strategic nuclear arsenals, from which the United States, Europe, and NATO have all benefited.

I strongly share your views about the importance of not letting New START lapse. For nearly a decade, this Treaty has constrained Russia's nuclear forces, provided strong and detailed verification measures to ensure Russia adheres to its commitments, and allowed the United States the flexibility to modernize its nuclear deterrent. Data exchanges and on-site inspections

European Leadership Network
October 15, 2020
Page Two

have provided the United States and its allies with unique insights into Russia's nuclear forces, which may soon be lost. The Treaty also ensures transparency and serves as the only remaining confidence-building arms control agreement between the two largest nuclear weapons states. A lapse in the Treaty risks exacerbating further misunderstandings and mutual fears.

Though my time in Congress is coming to an end, I am committed to continuing to push the Trump Administration to extend New START to give the United States, in consultation with our allies, the time and space needed to pursue a broader, more comprehensive arms control agenda with Russia and China that addresses new technologies. I will continue to look for opportunities to reinvigorate the historically bipartisan approach to arms control in Washington so that we might avoid an uncontrolled strategic arms race, fueled by uncertainty, that places all of our countries at risk.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, for your service to our broader transatlantic community, and for your commitment to improving U.S. and European security by calling on all of us to maintain and improve the arms control pillar of our mutual security.

Sincerely,



ELIOT L. ENGEL
Chairman