Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 9, 2016

Mr. David O'Sullivan
Ambassador of the European Union to the United States of America
2175 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Ambassador O'Sullivan:

On Wednesday, March 2, 2016, the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries labeled Hezbollah a terrorist organization. This recognition was long overdue, and indicates a growing understanding of Hezbollah's 30 years of terror around the globe. We urge the European Union to follow suit and designate Hezbollah as a terrorist organization in its entirety.

While the 2013 EU designation of Hezbollah's military wing was a step in the right direction, distinguishing between Hezbollah's military and political arms is a distinction without a difference. Hezbollah can easily transfer money within its organization, rendering EU attempts to effectively sanction its terrorist activities meaningless. The entire organization is implicated in Hezbollah's nefarious activities.

Since its founding, Hezbollah, funded in part by Iran, has been responsible for thousands of deaths in terrorist attacks in Lebanon, Turkey, Bulgaria, Argentina, Saudi Arabia, and many more. There is no indication that Hezbollah has slowed its terrorist activities. In recent years, Hezbollah has been implicated in plots in Cyprus, Thailand, Nigeria, Uruguay, the United States, and more.

Hezbollah remains deeply committed to working with Iran to prop up the murderous Assad regime in Syria. Hezbollah is also in possession of approximately 150,000 rockets and missiles, some of which are capable of precision targeting nearly anywhere in Israel. In February, Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah declared his intention to target an ammonia plant in Haifa and boasted that such an action "will lead to the death of tens of thousands of inhabitants." This type of declaration goes against international law, all recognized norms of armed conflict, and basic morality. We are inching closer to another Hezbollah-initiated war against Israel that would be disastrous for all involved.

The time to act is now. The United States has listed Hezbollah as a terrorist organization since 1997. The U.S. House of Representatives and Senate recently overwhelmingly passed the Hezbollah International Financing Prevention Act designed to cut off Hezbollah's access to the international financial system. The European Union is a vital partner to the United States in addressing global issues. Given our collective importance to the global financial system, a unified approach to countering terrorist financing would be a formidable obstacle for terrorist

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

organizations like Hezbollah. We urge the European Union to immediately designate Hezbollah as a terrorist organization and work to oppose their global terrorist ambitions.

Respectfully,

Grace Meng
Member of Congress

Peter Roskam
Member of Congress