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**Press Declaration of Andreas Schwarz, President of the Steering Committee of
the Parliamentary Intelligence Security Forum**

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Andreas Schwarz, the President of the Steering Committee of the Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum lauds the Hezbollah ban of the German government. "The decision is more than welcome! We would like to thank the Government of Chancellor Angela Merkel, and express particular appreciation for the leadership role of Interior Minister Horst Seehofer as well as the important support of Foreign Minister Heiko Maas, in advancing the landmark decision", declared Andreas Schwarz.

Congressman Robert Pittenger and the Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum advocated for this ban in Germany at our Security Forums in Berlin in 2015 and 2018, which played a strategic role in building support for Hezbollah designation. Two other European countries – the Netherlands and the United Kingdom - have designated Hezbollah in its entirety as a terrorist organization, as have, among others, the United States, Canada, Argentina and Paraguay. "We now hope that other European nations will take a close look at Germany's decision and reach the same conclusion about the true nature of Hezbollah. The 2013 EU decision was an important step forward, but inadequate.", presumed Andreas Schwarz. "To think otherwise is self-delusion. Permitting its 'political' wing to operate on European soil allows for active recruitment, fundraising, and the poisonous spread of antisemitism, not to mention sending a European message of hesitation and indecisiveness." Attached is a letter from an Argentine official conveying the significant role of these fora in their designation of Hezbollah

The Parliamentary Intelligence Security Forum (www.pi-sf.com) is a paramount international platform - founded by Congressman Robert Pittenger - providing expertise and collaboration among Parliamentarians and government officials to increase the understanding of the global threats of radical Islamic terrorism and adversarial nation states, while creating actionable solutions that counter these menaces. To date, the Parliamentary Intelligence-Security Forum has hosted 17 fora with over 1,300 Parliamentarians and government officials in attendance representing more than 100 countries.