

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

DELEGATION TO THE EU-KAZAKHSTAN, EU-KYRGYZSTAN AND EU- UZBEKISTAN PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION COMMITTEES, AND FOR RELATIONS WITH TAJIKISTAN, TURKMENISTAN AND MONGOLIA

DCAS 8/05

MEETING of

**Wednesday, 28 September 2005
in Strasbourg**

DRAFT MINUTES

1.	Adoption of draft agenda (PE 362.405 rev)	2
2.	Approval of minutes of meeting of 7 September 2005 (PE 362.402).....	2
3.	Chairman's announcements	2
4.	Political situation in Kazakhstan - Meeting with the representatives of the opposition	2-3
5.	Other business.....	3
6.	Date and place of next meeting.....	3

Brussels, 3 November 2005
TB/mp

The Delegation Chair, Mrs Ona JUKNEVICIENE, opened the meeting at 16h20 and welcomed the guests.

1. **Adoption of draft agenda** (PE 362.405 rev)

The draft agenda was adopted without amendment.

2. **Approval of minutes of 7 September 2005** (PE 362.402)

The minutes were adopted without amendment.

3. **Chairman's announcements**

Mrs JUKNEVICIENE noted that it had proved necessary to postpone the meeting with the Uzbek parliament that had been scheduled to take place the following week. Members were reminded of the background to this decision, notably the difficulties in agreeing on a programme.

Mr CALLANAN expressed his support for Mrs Jukneviene's decision, He argued that it would be unrealistic to go to Uzbekistan without going to Andijan where the killings had taken place.

Mr CIRINO POMICINO raised the issue of political prisoners in Kazakhstan and the court proceedings in New York involving an American businessman, James Giffen, who is suspected on bribing Kazakh officials

4. **Political situation in Kazakhstan**
- Meeting with the Kazakh opposition

Mrs JUKNEVICIENE then gave the floor to representatives of the Kazakh opposition.

Mr Oraz JANDOSOV, Chairman of the Ak Zhol opposition party noted that his party's presidential candidate Mr Zharmakhon Tuyakbai had been unable to leave the country. The electoral Law had not been amended in line with OSCE recommendations and that only technical details had changed. The opposition did not have access to the TV, which was controlled by the government. The opposition also had problems printing newspapers and it had been falsely accused of terrorism.

Mr Assylbek KOZHAHMETOV, Chair of the Democratic Choice of Kazakhstan (DVK), expressed his support for Kazakhstan's bid to chair the OSCE. He referred to the attempts made to register his party and stressed that tangible steps were needed to ensure free and fair elections.

Mrs Irina PETRUSHOVA, noted that six weeks previously she had lost the right to edit "Respublika Weekly" and she could now only sit on the editorial board. Attempts had also been made to close down the newspaper and in her view the situation was deteriorating.

Mr Muratbek KETEBAYEV referred to a "monopolistic economy" and considered that Kazakhstan was in danger of turning into a "banana republic".

H.E. Mr Konstantin ZHIGALOV, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to the EU, stressed that the opposition was not unified and he disagreed with the description of them as the "democratic opposition". He believed that if a newspaper were closed down it should be done by a court. "Respublika" had been closed down because it had published an interview with the Kazakh-born Russian politician Vladimir Zhirinovskiy which had raised questions about Kazakhstan's right to statehood and the Kazakh language. The ambassador that he wanted observers to be present at the forthcoming presidential elections

Mr MAAT asked about press freedom. Mr MONTALDO asked about Kazakh copper. Mr CHIESA asked about TV broadcasting freedoms. Mr CALLANAN stressed that people needed to have full information to make a decision in elections and underlined the need for fair and impartial access to TV channels. Mrs HASSI emphasised that liberty and democracy were not merely theoretical concepts and that party registrations should not be refused.

Mr JANKOSOV noted that, among the opposition parties, only the Communist Party had its own newspaper. Public gatherings had been banned for over a year and people were forced to meet in private. He noted that some copper companies had not been privatised in the correct manner.

Mr ZHIGALOV promised to reply in writing to a number of questions. He noted that he did not have information on Kazakh copper. In response to Mr MAAT he stressed that there were certain articles in the law on publishing that prevented incitement to hatred. Replying to Mr CALLANAN he accepted that there were imperfections in the Kazakh political system as it was in a state of transition on its path to full democracy.

5. Any other business

There was not other business.

6. Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting was scheduled to take place in Strasbourg on 16 November 2005 at 16h15. This would be a preparatory meeting for the IPM with the parliament of Tajikistan on 28-29 November in Brussels.

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The meeting closed at 17h25.

**DELTAGERLISTE/ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KATAΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/LITE RECORD
OF ATTENDANCE/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/LISTE DE PRESENCE/ELENCO DEI
PRESENTI/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA**

Til stede	Formandskabet/Vorstand/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Ufficio di Presidenza/Mesa/Puhemiehistö/J.L. Presidium: (*) JUKNEVICIENE (P) ; MAAT (1VP),
Anwesend	Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Μέλη/Members/Diputados/Députés/Deputati/Leden/Deputados/Jäsenet/Ledamöter: BLOKLAND, CIRINO POMICINO, HASSI, OLAJOS
Παρόντες	Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suplentes/Suppléants/ Membri supplenti/Plaatsvervangers/Membros suplentes/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter:
Present	CALLANAN, CHIESA, FERREIRA, DIDZIOKAS,
Presentes	
Présents	
Presenti	
Aanwezig	
Lasna	
Närvarande	
Art. 178,2	
Art. 183,3	ATTARD MONTALTO, MATHIEU, TANNOCK
Endv. Deltog/Weitere Teiln./ Συμμετείχαν επίσης/Also present Participaron igualmente/ Participaient également/ Hanno partecipato altresì/ Andere deelnemers/ Outros participantes/ Muut osallistujat/ Dessutom deltog	
(Dagsorden/Tagesordnung Pkt/Ημερήσια Διάταξη Σημεί/Point OJ/Punto OG/Agenda Punt/Ordem do dia Punto/punto orden del dia/Esityslist Kohta/ Föredragningslista punkt):	

- * (P) = Formand/Vorsitzender/Πρόεδρος/Chairman/Président/Presidente/Voorzitter/Presidente/Puhemies/Ordförande
(VP) = Næstform./Stellv. Vorsitz./Αντιπρόεδρος/Vice-Chairman/Vice-Président/Vicepresidente/Varapuhemies/Ondervoorz./
Vice-Pres./Vicepres/Vice ordförande.

