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DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

PE/III/DELE-XXI/PV/02-06

MINUTES of the meeting of Wednesday 3 May 2006

BRUSSELS

CONTENTS

	Page
1. Adoption of draft agenda (PE 372.930)	2
2. Approval of minutes of meeting of 22 February 2006 (PE 370.592)	2
3. Chairman's announcements	2
4. Discussion with Mr WANG Zaixi, Vice-Minister of the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council, and other representatives	2
5. Report back from the Bureau visit to China on 17-24 April 2006	2
6. Preparations for the 23rd IPM EP/China, foreseen for November 2006	5
7. Any other business	5
8. Date and place of next meeting	5

Annexe: Record of attendance

The Chairman, Mr STERCKX, opened the meeting at 16.20 hours.

1. Adoption of draft agenda (PE 372.930)

The draft agenda was adopted without amendment.

2. Approval of minutes of meetings of 22 February 2006 (PE 370.592)

The minutes of the meeting of 22 February 2006 were adopted without amendment.

3. Chairman's announcements

Mr STERCKX welcomed Mr WANG, Vice-Minister of the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council and other representatives of his accompanying delegation. He then invited Mr WANG to speak.

4. Discussion with Mr WANG Zaixi, Vice-Minister of the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council, and other representatives

Mr WANG briefly outlined Taiwan's history and stressed that historic facts and the present reality demonstrated that Taiwan had never been a sovereign country, but a part of China. He said that this fact was widely acknowledged by the international community. He noted that since 1979 the Chinese government had adopted a policy of peaceful reunification and "one-country - two systems" as its basic principle.

He then pointed to some important developments, such as an increasing number of visits from Taiwan to the mainland (4.12 million in 2005); an increasing trade volume between the two sides, which had reached \$91.2 billion in 2005; and the importance of the Chinese market for Taiwan's exports (37.8 percent of the island's total exports). He stressed that Taiwan had a \$58 billion trade surplus with the mainland in 2005; over 68,000 Taiwan companies had invested in the mainland; more than 10,000 students from Taiwan had received or were receiving education in the mainland; and about 700,000 people from Taiwan were residing in the mainland on a permanent basis (3 percent of Taiwan's total population).

Mr WANG said that the Taiwan pro-independence forces were promoting secessionist activities, which had resulted in increasing tensions between the two sides. He noted that, on the one hand, people were looking forward to expanding exchanges and strengthening cooperation, peace, stability and common prosperity, and on the other hand, the Taiwanese authorities were restricting exchanges and taking provocative actions against the mainland. He stressed that the Chinese government would not give up its efforts to achieve peaceful reunification and it would never compromise in the face of secessionist activities. During his meeting with Mr Lin Chan, President Jintao had said that peaceful development should become the theme of the growth of relations and the common objective of the compatriots on both sides. Firstly, China would bring together fellow Chinese on both sides by opposing secessionist activities and maintaining the status quo.

Mr WANG recalled that since 1979 China has promoted direct mail and commercial air links between the two sides. Secondly, the economic exchanges and cooperation based on mutual benefits would promote peaceful and stable development. Thirdly, China was promoting mutual understanding and advancing common interests. Mr WANG noted that the Chinese government had adopted several measures to promote exchanges and cooperation, such as charter passenger flights between the two sides; exemption from customs duties of fruits, vegetables and fish from Taiwan; providing more employment opportunities for people from Taiwan; acknowledging academic degrees and diplomas issued in Taiwan; expanding cooperation in the field of agriculture and health. Fourthly, China was conducting equal consultations and promoting dialogue and communication. As long as Taiwan recognised the 1992 Consensus on the "one China" principle, Beijing would be willing to discuss all kind of issues brought to the table.

Mr WANG also pointed out some problems, such as Taiwan's constitutional revision. He stressed once again that China would never compromise on its sovereignty and territorial integrity. He praised the dialogue between the EU and China and said that he appreciated the EU's support for the one China principle. Finally, he expressed the hope that the efforts of the Chinese government and Chinese people to defend peace and stability and safeguarding the sovereignty and territorial integrity would be appreciated and supported by the international community. He thanked everybody for their attention.

Mr MITCHELL thanked Mr WANG for the presentation. He pointed to Mr Wang's military background and asked how this had influenced him. He also raised the issue of the high number of executions carried out annually in China.

Mr WANG noted that his strategy was to take a cautious approach and to avoid military confrontation. He spoke about the military deployment along the south-eastern coast of China as a necessary measure. He said that the Taiwanese authorities had exaggerated the threats and pressure from mainland China in order in order to push through a greater military budget in the Taiwanese parliament and to buy weapons from the US. He expressed his hope that the Taiwanese forces would stop their provocative actions of splitting China.

Mr PIKS thanked Mr WANG. He asked if Taiwanese entrepreneurs were investing money in mainland China, and if there was a possibility of a partnership dialogue with the Taiwanese authorities.

Mr WANG noted that there was a huge investment of \$42 billion made by the Taiwanese people in mainland China. He added that Taiwan had a trade surplus of \$59 with China, and that there were 69,000 projects in which Taiwanese businesspeople had invested. He underlined that after reunification, Taiwan would be allowed to maintain its political system, to elect its leaders, and to have an independent judicial system. He also pointed out the fact that - unlike Hong Kong and Macao - Taiwan could have its own military and police forces. He added that Chinese government would recruit people from Taiwan to work in the central government.

Mr WATSON said that EU welcomed the fact that relations between the two sides were improving. He also welcomed the fact that the Chinese government had made contact with one of the political parties in Taiwan and had invited its representatives to Beijing.

He asked if it could be more difficult for China to have a dialogue with Taiwan if the Kuomintang were to come to power. He also asked him to comment on two elements; i.e. the Taiwan anti-secession act adopted by the National People's Congress last year and the build-up of missiles on the southern coast of China.

Mr WANG noted that in the case that the Kuomintang were to come to power, China would continue dialogue. He stressed that Mr Ma Ying-jeou, the Kuomintang president, had said that he was willing to resume dialogue on the basis of the 1992 consensus. Mr WANG said that the anti-secession law was a reflection of the aspiration of Chinese people to resolve the problem of Taiwan in a peaceful manner, as well as the Chinese people's refusal to accept Taiwan independence. He stressed that the situation was moving towards relaxation.

Mrs GEBHARDT thanked Mr WANG. However she pointed to a certain contradiction in his statement by noting that China was preparing to respond to provocation from Taiwan and she asked about the meaning of such preparations.

Mr WANG insisted that the Chinese government was willing to work for peace and stability. However it was ready to resort other measures in case of provocation in order to ensure Beijing's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Mr MAVROMMATIS welcomed the delegation from China. He recalled that the EU had been always in favour of a peaceful resolution of the dispute. He asked if there were some countries opposing China's control over Taiwan. He also raised the issue of counterfeit goods that were labelled 'made in China' but produced in Taiwan. He then asked if Taiwan's and China's teams would have the same flag during the next Olympic Games. Finally he asked about the role that the EU could play in order improve relations between Taiwan and China.

Mr WANG said that the Chinese government was aware of the problem with counterfeit products but said that it was working to protect intellectual property rights. He noted that the delegation from Taiwan and the mainland would use the same flag during the Olympic Games in 2009. He welcomed the positive role of the EU in resolving the problem of Taiwan. He said that it was a question of China's internal policy but China appreciated the support from the international community for its peaceful reunification.

Mr CALABUIG asked Mr Wang's opinion on the role of the US.

Mr WANG recalled that during his visit to the US, President Hu Jintao had held productive talks with President Bush. He said that the question of Taiwan was on the agenda and that US government supported the "one China" principle. He added that China and the US had a mutual understanding and good cooperation on the issue.

Mr WANG thanked the members of parliament for the exchanges and invited them to visit China.

5. Report back from the Bureau visit to China on 17-24 April 2006

Mr STERCKX noted that he was drafting a report on the Bureau visit to China. He briefly shared his impressions from the visit, including trips to the rural area and gave some examples of the sustainable development in China. He thanked the European Commission for its help in providing information.

6. Preparations for the 23rd IPM EP/China, foreseen for November 2006

Mr STERCKX outlined the proposed programme for the November visit. He informed members that the Chinese side had stated that they could not accommodate the delegation splitting into small groups because of interpretation and other organisational problems. He noted that the suggestion to go to Harbin and the north of China to examine environmental problems would probably not be practical because of the very cold temperature and some logistical problems.

He proposed to have a briefing session with the Commission Delegation on the Monday morning and to hold two half days of formal discussions in Beijing. Time in the capital would also include a visit to the Olympic site and an examination of the land rights issues that this development had raised.

Following the time in Beijing he proposed that the delegation should travel to the Three Gorges Dam, which would give it the opportunity to examine issues of energy and water resources, as well as the environmental effects of the Dam and the overall situation in a province of "la Chine profonde". The delegation visit would conclude on the Friday evening. He would talk to the ambassador on the issues involved in the visit.

Ms LAPERROUZE wanted the meetings with the Chinese counterparts to include discussion on energy and global warming and climate change and how China was dealing with these issues. She also proposed to discuss the urbanisation problem.

Mr PIKS proposed to discuss the energy issue with the sales of Russian energy to China. It was also important to examine the ecological situation with the growth in car ownership. He also raised the issue of the land ownership rights and religious freedom.

Mr STERCKX said that member could send any further proposals in via e-mail. He drew the conclusion that the delegation had agreed on the visit covering Beijing and the Three Gorges Dam. It would also examine the land use issue and the transfer of land rights. He asked if there was any other business. He recalled that a delegation from Tibet was going to visit Brussels in September and would meet with the European Parliament delegation.

Mrs LICHTENBERGER pointed out the importance of the Tibet issue. She suggested to invite the members of the Tibet inter group to meet with the delegation.

7. Any other business

The Commission representative noted that the Commission was working on a new communication on China to replace the 2003 Communication. The new communication would be presented in November.

Mr STERCKX reminded members of the deadline for amendments to the Belder report on China and that it would be voted in Committee on 21 June. There was no other business.

8. Date and place of next meeting

Mr STERCKX noted that the next ordinary meeting of the delegation was scheduled to take place in Brussels on 20 June 2006.

The meeting closed at 18.36 hours.

ANNEXE/ALLEGATO/BIJLAGE/ANEXO/BILAGA
DELTAGERLISTE/ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KATAΣTACTH ΠAΠONTΩN/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/Puhemichistö/J.L. Presidium: (*) STERCKX (P), ROURE (2VP)
Anwesend	Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Μέλη/Members/Diputados/Députés/Deputati/Leden/Deputados/Jäsenet/Ledamöter:

Παρόντες	BATZELI, CALABUIG RULL, GEBHARDT, LAPERROUZE, MAVROMMATIS, PIKS, REUL,
Present	Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suplentes/Suppléants/ Membri supplenti/Plaatsvervangers/Membros suplentes/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter:
Presentes	AYALA SENDER, BUITENWEG, BUSHILL-MATTHEWS, DIAZ DE MERA , LAVARRA, LICHTENBERGER, LOCATELLI, MITCHELL, WATSON,
Présents	
Presenti	
Aanwezig	
Lasna	
Närvarande	

Art. 178,2	
Art. 183,3	
Endv. Deltog/Weitere Teiln./ Συμμετείχαν επίσης/Also present Participaron igualmente/ Participaient également/ Hanno partecipato altresì/ Andere deelnemers/ Outros participantes/ Muut osallistujat/ Dessutom deltog	
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- * (P) = Formand/Vorsitzender/Πρόεδρος/Chairman/Président/Presidente/Voorzitter/Presidente/Puhemies/Ordförande
 (VP) = Næstform./Stellv.Vorsitz./Αντιπρόεδρος/Vice-Chairman/Vice-Président/Vicepresidente/VarapuhemiesOndervoorz./
 Vice-Pres./Vicepres/Vice ordförande.

Til stede den/Anwesend am/Παρόν στις/Present on/Présent le/Presente il/Aanwezig op/Presente em/Presenteel/Läsna/Närvarande den.

Efter indbydelse fra formanden/Auf Einladung d. Vorsitzenden/Με πρόσκληση του Προέδρου/At the invitation of the Chairman/Por invitación del presidente/Sur l'invitation du président/Su invito del presidente/Op uitnodiging van de voorzitter/A convite do presidente/Puhemiehen kutsusta/ På ordförandens inbjudan:
Rådet/Rat/Συμβούλιο/Council/Consejo/Conseil/Consiglio/Raad/Conselho/Neuvosto/Rådet: (*) CORREA DA SILVA
Kommissionen/Kommission/Επιτροπή/Commission/Comisión/Commissione/Commissie/Comissão/Komissio/Kommissionen: (*) BLANKERT
Cour des comptes: C.E.S.:
Andre deltagere/Andere Teilnehmer Επίσης Παρόντες/Also present Outros participantes/Autres participants/Altri partecipanti

Andere aanwezigen/Outros participantes Muut osallistajat/Övriga deltagare		
Gruppernes sekretariat Sekretariat der Fraktionen Γραμματεία των Πολ. Ομάδων Secretariat political groups Secr. De los grupos políticos Secr. Groupes politiques Segr. Dei gruppi politici Secr. Van de fracties Secr. Dos grupos políticos Puolueryhmien sihteeristö Gruppernas sekretariat	PPE-DE PSE ALDE Verts/ALE GUE/NGL IND/DEM UEN NI	MAZZA KAMMITSI
Cab. Du Président		
Cab. Du Secrétaire Général		
Generaldirektorat Generaldirektion Γενική Διεύθυνση Directorate-General Dirección general Direction générale Direzione generale Directoraat-generaal Direcção general Contrôle financier Service juridique Pääosasto Generaldirektorat	I II III IV V VI VII VIII	
Udvalgssekretariatet Ausschubsekretariat Γραμματεία επιτροπής Committee secretariat Secretaria de la comisión Secrétariat de la commission Segretariato della commissione Commissiesecretariaat Secretaria de comissão Valiokunnan sihteeristö Utskottssekretariatet Assist./Βοηθός		BODEN DONALDSON

- * (P) = Formand/Pres./Πρόεδρος/Chairman/Président/Voorzitter/Puhemies/Ordförande
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(F) = Tjenestemand/Beamter/Υπάλληλος/Official/Funcionario/Fonctionnaire/Funzionario/Ambtenaar/Functionário/Virkamies/Tjänsteman