

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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*DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA*

PE/III/DELE-XXI/PV/03-06

## **MINUTES of the meeting of Wednesday 12 July 2006**

**BRUSSELS**

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Annexe: Record of attendance

The Chairman, Mr STERCKX, opened the meeting at 11.35 hours.

**1. Adoption of draft agenda, PE 374.785**

The draft agenda was adopted without amendment.

**2. Approval of minutes of the meeting of 3 May 2006, PE 374.758**

The minutes were adopted without amendment.

**3. Chairman's announcements**

Mr STERCKX welcomed Mr Willy FAUTRÉ of Human Rights without Frontiers (HRWF) and Mr David KILGOUR, a former Canadian parliamentarian who had prepared a report on harvesting of human organs of Falun Gong practitioners. He also welcomed the Commission's representative, Mr David MC FARLANE.

**4. Exchange of views with NGOs on human rights situation in China**

Mr STERCKX gave the floor to Mr FAUTRÉ.

Mr FAUTRÉ recalled that the government of China recognised five religions: Protestantism, Catholicism, Buddhism, Taoism and Islam. He noted that only state-sanctioned groups were afforded protection under China's religious freedom rules. He said that the registration of particular religious groups was a prerogative of the state, and that the groups had to accept strict government supervision. He added that all religious groups had to register with the appropriate religious organisation to be allowed to carry out their activities legally.

Mr FAUTRÉ then briefly described the "instrumentalisation" of the national religious leaderships. He noted that the Council's State Administration for Religious Activities was responsible for monitoring and judging the legitimacy of religious activity. He said that using the national religious leaderships as the advocates of the government's religious policy was one of the missions of the state control agencies. He then gave some concrete examples of violations of religious freedom in China, such as the arrests of Chinese and foreign citizens from Protestant congregations in March 2006; the deadlock in relations between the Dalai Lama and the Chinese authorities; the forcing of bishops and priests to participate in illegitimate ordinations; the arrest of three children from the Uyghur Muslim community, and the prosecution of Falun Gong prisoners.

Mr FAUTRÉ recalled that the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion, Asma Jahangir, had been refused an invitation from the Chinese government to carry out a fact-finding mission. He welcomed the interest manifested by the European Parliament in violations of religious freedom in China, and thanked the MEPs for hosting conferences

on human rights and religious freedom in China. He finally called upon members to use the EU-China dialogue to address numerous issues of human rights violations.

Mr STERCKX passed the floor to Mr KILGOUR.

Mr KILGOUR began by presenting his report on allegations of organ harvesting of Falun Gong practitioners. He said that the government of China and its agencies such as hospitals, detention centres and the courts had even put to death a large number of Falun Gong prisoners. He noted that the government of China had adopted a new law on 1 July 2006 which bans the sale of organs and requires donors to indicate clearly their willingness. He stressed that there was a huge gap between the legislation and its implementation. He said that there were about 70 million Falun Gong practitioners in China, and that the movement was seen as a threat to the monopoly of the ideological power of the Chinese elite. He said that three different strategies were adopted by the Chinese government towards the Falun Gong; i.e. violence; brainwashing the practitioners to abandon the Falun Gong, and media campaigns against the Falun Gong. Mr KILGOUR then called upon all foreign governments to ban the entry of Chinese doctors seeking training in organ transplantation, and all Chinese doctors involved in illegal removal of organs on a permanent basis. He also called upon foreign governments to deny or revoke the passports of nationals who were travelling to China for organ transplants.

Mr STERCKX thanked Mr KILGOUR and gave the floor to Mr MC FARLANE.

Mr MC FARLANE said that religious freedom was a central issue in the EU-China human rights dialogue in recent years. He stressed that there was a linkage between religious freedom and specific minority groups' issues in China. He said that the Commission had raised its concerns with the Chinese government. He underlined that some information remained unclear and was not always trustworthy. He stressed that the Chinese acknowledged the problem, especially with Chinese prisoners. He concluded by reiterating that the issue was very high on the Commission's agenda.

Mr STERCKX asked members for comments. He asked the speakers to explain the difference in treatment between the Falun Gong and other religions in China.

Mr FAUTRÉ said that the Falun Gong movement was seen by the Chinese authorities as representing a political threat to the state. He said that the movement refused to be controlled by the authorities, and thereby challenged the political system. He noted that Judaism was also not recognised by the Chinese authorities but was not prosecuted as the number of practitioners was very small..

Mr KILGOUR pointed out that the Falun Gong movement was not political and aimed to promote truth, peace and comprehension.

Mr STEVENSON recognised that the treatment of the Falun Gong by the Chinese government was horrendous. He underlined the need for the EU to be clear regarding its policy towards a country of 1.2 billion people, in which about 700 million people lived in the countryside with inadequate education or health support. Nonetheless, he said that it was important to understand the reality in China and that the central authorities, which

were responsible for governing a huge country, were likely to respond if they felt threatened by a large scale movement.

Mr KILGOUR stressed that the report was very clear and all allegations had been checked.

Mr FAUTRÉ said that the access to Catholic religious services was forbidden to Chinese citizens. He also said that agents were checking people attending the meetings.

Mr HOPPENSTEDT said that the European Parliament needed to decide how to address the issue. He recalled the experience of the Olympic Games in Moscow, which were boycotted by most countries after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. He stressed the need for any action to have a clear outcome.

Ms TRÜPEL said that the EU had no choice but to address human rights issues in China, and to reinforce its commitment to European standards and values. She also raised the issue of other religious minorities.

Mr FAUTRÉ noted that the Jewish community was very small and did not represent any threat to the Chinese government.

Ms del CASTILLO VERA said that there was an obvious lack of religious freedom in China. She said that the Chinese government was afraid that the Falun Gong's influence could be turned into a political resistance in the future. She recalled that bishops in China were appointed without the consent of the Vatican. She said that it was important to constantly speak out on these matters with the Chinese counterparts.

Mr STERCKX noted that the European Parliament had adopted resolutions on the freedom of religion.

Mr CALABUIG RULL suggested that the EU should come forward with realistic proposals to move towards the solution of the problem. He noted that direct confrontation with the Chinese authorities on human rights did not have a positive outcome. He said that beyond declarations and statements, the EU should look at practical ways of establishing a dialogue with a gradual move towards a solution of the problem.

Ms ZIMMER shared the concerns of members about the possible theft of human organs. She also asked about Muslim minorities in China.

Mr FAUTRÉ made a brief remark about the Muslim Uyghurs who had illegally immigrated to the EU. He said that they had to be deported to Kazakhstan but they were claimed by China and the EU needed to monitor this situation.

Mr STERCKX thanked both guests for having contributed to the debate. He noted that he would be raising these issues with the Commission and the Chinese ambassador in Brussels and asking for a more detailed response.

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

Mr STERCKX made some announcements with regard to the delegation visit to China on 20 to 25 November. He asked about the Commission's communication on China and the forthcoming EU-China Summit.

**6. Any other business**

Mr MC FARLANE said that the EU-China Summit will take place on 9 September 2006 in Helsinki. He noted that the EU had intention to address some other issues such as financial agreements, climate change and energy security.

Mr STERCKX added that he had received a letter from Baron Paul De Keersmaecker, the President of Public Advice International Foundation, who had concerns about the import to the EU of certain manufactured ingredients for nutritional and pharmaceutical use and who stressed the need for the EU to preserve its manufacturing base in this area. Mr STERCKX noted that Baron De Keersmaecker's letter to Commissioner Mandelson on this subject had been distributed to the members.

**7. Date and place of next meeting**

Mr STERCKX said that the delegation next meeting would take place on 13 September in Brussels. He closed the meeting at 12.35 hours.

**DELTAGERLISTE/ANWESENHEITSLISTE/ΚΑΤΑΣΤΑΣΗ 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: (*)  STERCKX (P), ROURE (2VP)
Anwesend	Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Μέλη/Members/Diputados/Députés/Deputati/Leden/Deputados/Jäsenet/Ledamöter:  CALABUIG RULL, CORBEY, DEL CASTILLO VERA, HOPPENSTEDT, LAPERROUZE, MAVROMMATIS, REUL, TRÜPEL, ZIMMER
Παρόντες	Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suplentes/Suppléants/ Membri supplenti/Plaatsvervangers/Membros suplentes/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter:
Present	BUSHILL-MATTHEWS, DOYLE, HÄNSCH, LANGEN, STEVENSON
Presentes	
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	
(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.

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: (*)		
Kommissionen/Kommission/Επιτροπή/Commission/Comisión/Commissione/Commissie/Comissão/Komissio/Kommissionen: (*) David MC FARLANE		
Cour des comptes: C.E.S.:		
Andre deltagere/Andere Teilnehmer Επίσης Παρόντες/Also present Otros participantes/Autres participants/Altri partecipanti Andere aanwezigen/Outros participantes Muut osallistajat/Övriga deltagare		FAUTRÉ, JEVGENIYA, FREITAS BRANCO, AZMY (HRWF) KILGOUR (former Canadian MP ) MATAS (Canadian Human Rights lawyer) WATTERS (Int'l Campaign for Tibet) LIXIN YANG (CIPFG)
Gruppernes sekretariat Sekretariat der Fraktionen Γραμματεία των Πολ. Ομάδων Secretariat political groups Secr. De los grupos politicos Secr. Groupes politiques Segr. Dei gruppi politici Secr. Van de fracties Secr. Dos grupos politicos Puolueyhmién sihteeristö Gruppernas sekretariat	PPE-DE PSE ALDE Verts/ALE GUE/NGL IND/DEM UEN NI	SCHACKERT, SCHENK LATELLA DE CRAYENCOUR, KAMMITSI VANDEWALLE
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	SCHULZ
Udvalgssekretariatet Ausschubsekretariat Γραμματεία επιτροπής Committee secretariat Secretaria de la comisión Secrétariat de la commission Segretariato della commissione Commissiesecretariaat Secretaria de comissão Valiokunnan sihteeristö Utskottssekretariatet		BODEN
Assist./Βοηθός		SCHWENDENWEIN

(F) = Tjenestemand/Beamter/Υπάλληλος/Official/Funcionario/Fonctionnaire/Funzionario/Ambtenaar/Functionário/Virkamies/Tjänsteman