

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Delegation for relations with the People's Republic of China

D-CN_PV(2007)0124

MINUTES

of the meeting of 24 January 2007, from 16.15 to 17.15
BRUSSELS

1. Adoption of draft agenda (PE 383.635)
2. Approval of minutes of the meeting of 14 November 2006 (PE 381.142)
3. Chairman's announcements
4. Presentation of the 2007 programme of delegation activities
5. Presentation by the Commission
6. Any other business
7. Date and place of next meeting

The meeting opened at 16.15 on Wednesday, 24 January 2007, with Dirk Sterckx (Chairman) presiding.

1. Adoption of draft agenda (PE 383.635)

Mr Bushill-Matthews noted that the timings on the agenda were incorrect. Mr Sterckx replied that the meeting's timing had been rearranged and that the dossier included the previous agenda.

The agenda was subsequently adopted.

2. Approval of minutes of the meeting of 14 November 2006 (PE 381.142)

The minutes were adopted

3. Chairman's announcements

Mr Sterckx welcomed Mr Franz Jessen, recently appointed Head of the China Unit at the Commission.

4. Presentation of the 2007 programme of delegation activities

Mr Sterckx informed members of the 2007 programme. He noted that there had been no confirmation from the Chinese side regarding the exact dates of the visit to China in June or the visit by the Chinese to Strasbourg/Athens in September. He asked the Chinese diplomats present if they ask their authorities to reply as soon as possible.

Mr Sterckx also announced that he had requested authorisation for a Bureau visit to Hong Kong/Macao in the week of 5 March 2007. The reply was awaited.

5. Presentation by the Commission

Mr Jessen gave an update on the visit by Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner to China in the previous week. He outlined her programme of meetings, including the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC), Mr Wu Bangguo. Mr Jessen noted that the purpose of the visit was to launch negotiations for a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) between the EU and China. The PCA would enhance cooperation in political matters and would update the existing 1985 Trade and Cooperation Agreement. Three financing agreements had been signed, which created an EU-China School of Law; stepped up EU-China cooperation on Protection of Intellectual Property; and launched an EU-China Business Management Training Project.

Sir Robert Atkins asked about developments in Shanghai following the removal of the local governing authorities. He also raised the issue of river pollution and the loss of species that had been the subject of concern by environmental organisations. Finally he referred to the Chinese attitude to emissions and global warming, noting that the Chinese appeared to be

PV\650039ENPE 383.671v01-00

drawing attention to the US contribution to this phenomenon.

Mr Watson raised concerns over the apparent non-respect by Chinese businesses for Intellectual Property Rights and the action by the authorities to clamp down on abuses. He also referred to human rights and the more blatant instances of abuses in individual cases. Finally he drew attention to the development of missiles technology by the Chinese and how this was affected by EU-China cooperation through Galileo. He was concerned that the EU might be giving the Chinese access to sophisticated guidance systems that enabled the development of such missiles.

Mrs Truepel welcomed the indication from Mrs Ferrero-Waldner that the Commission would maintain a firm line on human rights and that the EU arms embargo would continue until China met the EU's conditions for its removal. She underlined the need to continue pushing the Chinese side on the human rights issue and referred to her own meetings with human rights defenders. She also raised her concerns about the environmental situation - particularly in Beijing.

Mr Jessen noted that there had been no discussions on the situation in Shanghai. There was continuous discussion of biodiversity issues and there was a major EU-China project to support biodiversity in China, which was a matter of concern to both sides. The subject of global warming had been on the agenda of every meeting of the Commissioner and the Chinese had set up a high-level group to examine the issue, as it was recognised that much more needed to be done.

He reminded members that IPR was not solely an issue affecting foreign partners and that 95% of cases that were the subject of litigation involved Chinese companies on both sides. There was much awareness of the problem at central government level in China and the European Commission had seconded an expert for three months to assist the Chinese authorities (SIPO). The Chinese legislation was good on paper but its implementation was inadequate - particularly at lower levels and far from the centre of the country. He noted too that the Ministry of Commerce had opened a number of IPR complaints offices. The rapid growth of the Chinese economy had raised the importance of the subject.

Mr Jessen stressed that human rights were on the agenda at all meetings. It was not the appropriate forum to go into individual cases but these were sometimes discussed in meetings with the Chinese leaders. He noted as well that the arms embargo was discussed and that Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner had been very clear about it. The recent legislation on the work of foreign journalists that had been passed in advance of the Olympics appeared to have improved the situation.

Mr Bushill-Matthews asked about discussion with the Chinese of the situation of human rights in the rest of the world - such as Africa. He referred in particular to China's energy needs in this region.

Mrs Kauppi asked about the high level dialogue on Tibet between representatives of the Tibetan government-in-exile and the Chinese government and the pause in the last year. She referred in particular to the possibility of the Dalai Lama visiting Tibet. She also wanted more concrete information on the Law School programme. Finally she asked about EU-China

managers' training programme that had been in existence since 2004 with a second phase starting on 15 August 2006. She was concerned by reports that the programme had been halted.

Mrs Lichtenberger raised the issues of Tibet; human rights and press freedom; and the Olympic Games. She was concerned by reports that - despite the new legal framework - it was even more difficult to obtain accurate information and the situation of journalists had deteriorated. She was particularly concerned about the situation regarding Tibet and that access to information had become more difficult.

Mr Jessen noted that Africa was discussed in some detail in the meetings and that the Commissioner was pushing for an EU-China dialogue on the matter. The Chinese Foreign Minister had just returned from a tour of African countries and wanted a "normal diplomatic interaction" with them. It was clear that there was some lack of understanding about what the Chinese objectives should be in this area. The Development Commissioner was going to China to discuss the matter with his Chinese counterparts and the subject should be part of the regular exchange at official level.

Mr Jessen referred to the work of the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade and the language and business training for young European executives in China. The first stage of this programme was Europeans travelling to China and the second stage was a two-way exchange with Chinese coming to Europe. Work was underway to ensure that this programme could progress as originally planned.

Regarding the Law School he noted that the financing agreement had been signed and that there would be a call for proposals from individual universities in China. The Commission was looking for consortia of European universities working together with Chinese universities to create synergy. Details would follow in when the best proposal had been selected.

Referring to the issue of the high level dialogue between the Chinese authorities and the representatives of the Dalai Lama, he noted that he had met recently with the representatives of the Dalai Lama and they had not raised the matter on that occasion.

Regarding freedom for journalists, he noted that China was a very large country and there were various tendencies. The important issue was to establish the dominant tendency. His impression was that overall things were getting better and he hoped that the new regulation on freedom for foreign journalists would improve the situation. He considered that there were now issues which foreign journalists could address that they could not in previous years.

In response to a question by Mr Sterckx, Mr Jessen then outlined the structures for negotiating the PCA. It was hoped to have the first meeting of the supervisory structure that oversaw the negotiation process - which would probably be at vice minister level - in the next couple of months. There would be two negotiating groups - one covering political, scientific and other issues and one that dealt with trade and investment matters. Below that there would be other meetings - for example on energy. He anticipated that the next EU-China summit would take place in November 2007 and the supervisory structure would report at this stage. The Commission would be happy to brief the delegation before June on progress in these talks. He was not sure how long the negotiations on the PCA would last but thought it was likely that it

would be two years.

Mr Sterckx thanked Mr Jessen for briefing the delegation and looked forward to further meetings with the Commission so that the Delegation could play an active role in the process.

6. Any other business

Mr Manders announced that he wanted to host a meeting in the European Parliament of the European Federation of Chinese Organisations. He hoped that the hemicycle could be made available. Mr Sterckx agreed to look into the possibilities of such a meeting taking place.

Mrs Doyle noted that there were over one million dogs in Beijing and that there was a EUR100 licence fee for dogs. She raised the issue of the restrictions on pet dog ownership introduced by the Beijing authorities with the imposition of a maximum height of 35 centimetres. She considered that compulsory rabies vaccination was the answer rather than arbitrary culling. She was also concerned at reports of the beating to death of 50,000 dogs - many with hammers - in a south west province of Yunan after three cases of deaths by rabies. She urged Mr Sterckx to make representations to the Chinese embassy on the matter based on information that she could provide.

Mr Jessen recognised that 60,000 people in China had signed a petition against the policy, in a campaign that had started in August last year. There had also been a demonstration in Beijing. Apparently the Chinese President, having read some of the petitioners' letters, had concluded that the implementation of the policy had not been correct and the campaign had ended. The restrictions on the height of dogs had been in place for many years. The change in 2006 was that there had been a campaign by the authorities to enforce the rule.

Mrs Doyle also wanted to know about the policy of "one dog" per household and stressed the need to follow up the matter to determine what the current situation was. Mr Sterckx agreed that he would write to the Chinese ambassador on the matter when he received this information from Mrs Doyle.

7. Date and place of next meeting

Mr Sterckx announced that the next ordinary meeting was scheduled to take place on Tuesday 27 March between 1615 and 1715hrs in Brussels.

The meeting closed at 17.15.

LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/
 ΚΑΤΑΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU
 REGISTRŠ/DALYVIŲ SĄRAŠAS/JELENLÉTI ÍV/REGISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŠCI/
 LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA

Mesa/Předsednictví/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/Biuras/Elnökség/Prezydium/ Predsednictvo/Predsedsstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
Dirk Sterckx (P), Jean-Luc Dehaene (VP), Martine Roure
Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselők/ Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Robert Atkins, Piia-Noora Kauppi, Jan Olbrycht, Rihards Pīks, Philippe Busquin, Evelyne Gebhardt, Anne Laperrouze, Toine Manders, Helga Trüpel, Dimitrios Papadimoulis,
Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Supplenti/Aizstājēji/ Pavadojantys nariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Náhradníci/Namestniki/Varajäsenet/ Suppleanter
Philip Bushill-Matthews, Avril Doyle, Cristina Gutiérrez-Cortines, Othmar Karas, Inés Ayala Sender, Csaba Sándor Tabajdi, Graham Watson, Eva Lichtenberger, Hans-Peter Martin,

178 (2)
183 (3)
John Attard-Montalto
46 (6) (Punto del orden del día/Bod pořadu jednání/Punkt på dagsordenen/Tagesordnungspunkt/Päevakorra punkt/Ημερήσια Διάταξη Σημείο/Agenda item/Point OJ/Punto all'ordine del giorno/Darba kārtības punkts/Darbotvarkés punktas/Napirendi pont/Punt Agenda/ Agendapunt/Punkt porządku dziennego/Ponto OD/Bod programu schôdze/Točka UL/Esityslistan kohta/Föredragningslista punkt)

Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaatlejad/Παρατηρητές/Observers/Observateurs/Osservatori/Novērotāji/ Stebētāji/Megfigyelők/Osservatori/Waarnemers/Observatorzy/Observadores/Pozorovatelia/Opazovalci/Tarkkailijat/Observatörer
WEI Min (Mission of China)

<p>Por invitación del presidente/Na pozvání předsedy/Efter indbydelse fra formanden/Auf Einladung des Vorsitzenden/Esimehe kutsel/ Με πρόσκληση του Προέδρου/At the invitation of the Chair(wo)man/Sur l'invitation du président/Su invito del presidente/ Pēc priekšsēdētāja uzaicinājuma/Pirmininkui pakvietus/Az elnök meghívására/Fuq stedina tač-'Chairman'/Op uitnodiging van de voorzitter/Na zaproszenie Przewodniczącego/A convite do Presidente/Na pozvanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/ Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan</p>
<p>Franz Jessen</p>

<p>Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nōukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/Conseil/Consiglio/Padome/Taryba/Tanács/Kunsill/Raad/Conselho/ Svet/Neuvosto/Rådet (*)</p>
<p>Comisión/Komise/Kommissionen/Kommission/Euroopa Komisjon/Επιτροπή/Commission/Commissione/Komisija/Bizottság/ Kummissjoni/Commissie/Komisja/Comissão/Komisia/Komissio/Kommissionen (*)</p>
<p>Franz Jessen</p>
<p>Otras instituciones/Ostatní orgány a instituce/Andre institutioner/Andere Organe/Muud institutsioonid/Άλλα θεσμικά όργανα/ Other institutions/Autres institutions/Altre istituzioni/Citas iestādes/Kitos institucijos/Más intézmények/Istituzzjonijiet oħra/ Andere instellingen/Inne instytucje/Outras Instituições/Iné inštitúcie/Druge institucije/Muut toimielimet/Andra institutioner/organ</p>
<p></p>

<p>Otros participantes/Ostatní účastníci/Endvidere deltog/Andere Teilnehmer/Muud osalejad/Επίσης Παρόντες/Other participants/ Autres participants/Altri partecipanti/Citi klātesošie/Kiti dalyviai/Más résztvevők/Partecipanti oħra/Andere aanwezigen/ Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Iní účastníci/Drugi udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare</p>
<p>Secretaría de los Grupos políticos/Sekretariát politických skupin/Gruppernes sekretariat/Sekretariat der Fraktionen/Fraktsioonide sekretariaat/Γραμματεία των Πολιτικών Ομάδων/Sekretariats of political groups/Secrétariat des groupes politiques/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko grupu sekretariāts/Frakciju sekretoriai/Képviseletcsoportok titkársága/Sekretarjat gruppi politici/Fractiesecretariaten/ Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secr. dos grupos políticos/Sekretariát politických skupin/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristö/Gruppernas sekretariat</p>
<p>PPE-DE PSE ALDE Verts/ALE GUE/NGL IND/DEM UEN NI</p>

Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelář předsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinett des Präsidenten/Presidendi kantselei/Γραφείο Προέδρου/President's Office/Cabinet du Président/Gabinetto del Presidente/Priekšsēdētāja kabinets/Pirmininko kabinetas/Elnöki hivatal/Kabinett tal-President/Kabinet van de Voorzitter/Gabinet Przewodniczącego/Gabinete do Presidente/Kancelária predsedu/Urząd preśdnika/Puhemiehen kabinetti/Talmannens kansli	
Gabinete del Secretario General/Kancelář generálního tajemníka/Generalsekretærens Kabinet/Kabinett des Generalsekretærs/Peasekretäri büroo/Γραφείο Γενικού Γραμματέα/Secretary-General's Office/Cabinet du Secrétaire général/Gabinetto del Segretario generale/Ģenerālsekretāra kabinets/Generalinio sekretoriaus kabinetas/Fõtitkari hivatal/Kabinett tas-Segretarju Ġenerali/Kabinet van de secretaris-generaal/Gabinet Sekretarza Generalnego/Gabinete do Secretário-Geral/Kancelária generálneho tajomníka/Urząd generalnega sekretarja/Pääsihteerin kabinetti/Generalsekreterarens kansli	
Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/Directorate-General/Direction générale/Direzione generale/Ģenerāldirektorāts/Generalinis direktoratas/Fõigazgatóság/Direttorat Ġenerali/Direktoraten-generaal/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Generálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni direktorat/Pääosasto/Generaldirektorat	
DG PRES DG IPOL DG EXPO DG INFO DG PERS DG IFIN DG TRED DG FINS	Dietmar Nickel
Servicio Jurídico/Právní služba/Juridisk Tjeneste/Juristischer Dienst/Õigusteenistus/Νομική Υπηρεσία/Legal Service/Service juridique/Servizio giuridico/Juridiskais dienests/Teisės tarnyba/Jogi szolgálat/Servizz legali/Juridische Dienst/Wydział prawny/Serviço Jurídico/Právny servis/Pravna služba/Oikeudellinen yksikkö/Rättstjänsten	
Secretaría de la comisión/Sekretariát výboru/Udvalgssekretariatet/Ausschusssekretariat/Komisjoni sekretariaat/Γραμματεία επιτροπής/Committee secretariat/Secrétariat de la commission/Segreteria della commissione/Komitejas sekretariāts/Komiteto sekretoriatas/A bizottság titkársága/Sekretarjat tal-kumitat/Commissiesecretariaat/Sekretariat komisji/Sekretariado da comissão/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottssekretariatet	
Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/assizstēns/Asystent/Pomočnik/Avustaja/Assistenten	
Morag Donaldson, Tim Boden	

- * (P) = Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Président/Priekšsēdētājs/Pirmininkas/Elnök/Chairman/Voorzitter/Przewodniczący/Předseda/Předsednik/Puheenjohtaja/Ordförande
- (VP) = Vicepresidente/Mistopředseda/Næstformand/Stellvertretender Vorsitzender/Aseesimees/Αντιπρόεδρος/Vice-Chair(wo)man/Vice-Président/Priekšsēdētāja vietnieks/Pirmininko pavaduotojas/Alelnök/Víci 'Chairman'/Ondervoorzitter/Wiceprzewodniczący/Vice-Presidente/Podpreśda/Podpreśdnik/Varapuheenjohtaja/Vice ordförande
- (M) = Miembro/Člen/Medlem./Mitglied/Parlamendiliige/Μέλος/Member/Membre/Membro/Deputāts/Narys/Tag/képviselő/Membru/Lid/Członek/Membro/Člen/Poslanec/Jāsen/Ledamot

PV\650039ENPE 383.671v01-00

(F) = Funcionario/Úředník/Tjenestemand/Beamter/Ametnik/Υπάλληλος/Official/Fonctionnaire/Funzionario/Ierēdnis/
Pareigūnas/Tisztviselő/Ufficial/Ambtenaar/Urzędnik/Funcionário/Úradník/Uradnik/Virkamies/Tjänsteman