

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Delegation for relations with the Korean Peninsula

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MINUTES
of the meeting of 20 March 2007, from 15.00 to 17.15
BRUSSELS

The meeting opened at 15.20 on Tuesday, 20 March 2007, with Hubert Pirker (Chairman) in the chair.

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1. Adoption of draft agenda (PE 383.697)

The draft agenda was adopted without modification.

2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 30 January 2007 (PE 383.649)

The minutes were adopted.

3. Communications by the Chair

The Chairman informed the delegation that, after the six-party talks held in Beijing from 8 to 12 February have resulted in a seemingly positive outcome, (in particular the North Koreans have committed to stopping activity at the nuclear reactor of Yongbon within two months and to accept supervision by the International Agency for Atomic Energy), an EU Council troika early March had used this opportunity to extend its visit to North Korea.

The content of the talks during this short visit was basically the following:

- the North Koreans expressed very clearly their intention to abide by the agreement reached in Peking; they expect that it can result in discussions towards decreasing the military tension and denuclearising the whole Korean peninsula. They did not appear to be very interested in general approaches to security in North-East Asia for the moment, as they felt that there is enough to do at the Korean peninsula level.
- They appear very interested in development cooperation from the EU, in particular in the field of "food security" which is the closest one to the humanitarian aid prevailing until now. The message of the presidency was that the EU was willing to increase its cooperation beyond humanitarian assistance, as it was doing already, but that significant developments were dependent on political circumstances and North Korea willingness to cooperate with the international community.
- The question of human rights was raised, with little effect for the moment, but without leading to blunt rejections as may have been the case in the past.

The Chairman informed the Delegation of his intention of organising a bureau or working group to North Korea in June. He also mentioned his planned participation in the ceremonies for the fiftieth anniversary of the Rome Treaties in Seoul on 27 March.

4. Presentation of the report "Failure to Protect: A Call for the UN Security Council to Act in North Korea" in presence of Mr. Kjell Magne Bondevik, former Prime Minister of Norway

The Chairman introduced Mr BONDEVIK and praised him for his commitment, truly motivated by ethical grounds as was his long and successful political career, which culminated in being twice the Prime Minister of Norway (1997-2000 and 2001-2005).

After Mr Bondevik retreated from direct involvement in political life, he was appointed by the UN Secretary-General as Special Humanitarian Envoy for the Horn of Africa. His most recent endeavour is the creation of the Oslo Center for peace and human rights at the beginning of this year.

The report he commissioned is in line with this ethical involvement. It raises questions on the humanitarian situation in North Korea, the Human rights in both the political and the social sense of this term.

Mr BONDEVİK introduced his report. Currently the focus is on the nuclear issue and the recent six-party talks but one should not forget the internal situation in North Korea regarding human rights and the humanitarian situation. The situation is a disaster. When security questions are cleared there will be space for progress. Hence this report started on a common initiative with Elie Wiesel and Vaclav Havel. The title of the report is "Responsibility to protect". This is a concept that goes beyond the principle of sovereignty: there is a responsibility for the international community. Mr BONDEVİK detailed a number of disturbing evidence included in the report.

Mr GENSER from DLA Piper, legal expert involved in the report, presented the legal instruments available under UN Charter and the evolution of the inclusion of humanitarian principles in public international law (threat to peace, genocide, crimes against humanity, International Criminal Court). He considered that there was sufficient legal legitimacy for the international community to act in the North Korean case.

Mr HELMER expressed sympathy. He said that he had no doubts about the criminal behaviour of the North Korean regime. The question is what can be done: stopping aid is bad only for the population, the elite doesn't care. China would oppose any attempt at causing internal collapse, not to mention unilateral action. Mr BONDEVİK replied that even if chances were limited there was no other option to try and have some influence than an engagement using both "stick and carrot".

The six-party talks and the subsequent mechanisms offer a window of opportunity in the practical issues to be addressed in sub-commissions.

Mr GENSER mentioned that it could be possible to pressure China and South Korea so that they do not give unconditional aid, especially as aid can be diverted for military purposes. Mr PIRKER reminded that at least EU aid was monitored. He drew the attention to the distinction between the international public law concept of threat to peace and the more recent perceptions on non-conventional threats, as well as the prevalence of the non-interference principle, which many countries uphold very firmly, in particular China. Mr SZENT-IVÁNYI congratulated Mr BONDEVİK for the quality of the report. He made clear that rather than expressing wishes it offered a whole range of legal options. EU could and should be an active player in cooperation with the United States. EU should not let the North Koreans play us out against the United States. Mr BONDEVİK and other participants clarified some of the legal concepts and insisted that the democracies should not exert self-censorship or postpone action because of a particular situation or "sensitive moment". Mr PIRKER thanked all participants. He admitted that not doing anything would in any case be the worst possible solution. The six-party talks open a possibility. The number of areas of contacts should be increased so as to raise the perception in North Korea of the advantages of joining the international community rather than seeing it only as an external threat.

5. Any other business

None.

6. Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting will take place in Brussels on 15 March 2007 from 17:30 to 18:30.

The meeting closed at 16.30.

**ПРИСЪСТВЕН ЛИСТ/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/
ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/KATAΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/
LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU REĢISTRŠ/DALYVIŲ SAŪŠAS/JELENLÉTI ÍV/
REGISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŠCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/LISTĂ DE PREZENȚĂ/
PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA**

Бюро/Mesa/Předsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatuš/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/Biuras/Elnökség/ Prezydium/Birou/Předsednictvo/Předsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
Hubert Pirker (P), István Szent-Iványi (VP)
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képvisezők/ Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Roger Helmer
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Supplenti/ Aizstājēji/Pavadojantys nariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/Namestniki/ Varajäsenet/Suppleanter

178 (2)
183 (3)
46 (6) (Точка от дневния ред/Punto del orden del día/Bod pořadu jednání (OJ)/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/Punct de pe ordinea de zi/Bod programu schôdze/ Točka UL/Esityslistan kohta/Föredragningslista punkt)

Наблюдатели/Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatörer/Beobachter/Vaatlejad/Παρατηρητές/Observers/Observateurs/Osservatori/ Novērotāji/Stebėtojai/Megfigyelők/Osservatori/Waarnemers/Observatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelia/Opazovalci/ Tarkkailijat/Observatörer

По покана на председателя/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/Рѣс прієксѣдѣтѣя узаісінѣжума/Pirmininkui pakvietus/Az elnök meghívására/Fuq stedina tač-'Chairman'/Op uitnodiging van de voorzitter/Na zaproszenie Przewodniczącego/A convite do Presidente/La invitația președintelui/Na pozwanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan

Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nõukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/Conseil/Consiglio/Padome/Taryba/Tanács/Kunsill/Raad/Conselho/Consiliu/Svet/Neuvosto/Rådet (*)

Комисия/Comisión/Komise/Kommissionen/Kommission/Euroopa Komisjon/Επιτροπή/Commission/Commissione/Komisija/Bizottság/Kummissjoni/Commissie/Komisja/Comissão/Comisie/Komisia/Komissio/Kommissionen (*)

Други институции/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/Istituzjonijiet oħra/Andere instellingen/Inne instytucje/Outras Instituições/Alte instituții/Iné inštitúcie/Druge institucije/Muut toimielimet/Andra institutioner/organ

Други учасници/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/Alți participanți/Iní účastníci/Dруги udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare

John Bjerneby, Kjell Magne Bondevik, Jared Genser, Jeroen Jansen, Jack Rendler

Секретариат на политическите групи/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/Fraczijų sekretoriai/Képviseletcsoportok titkársága/Secretarjat gruppi politici/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secr. dos grupos políticos/Sekretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupin/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristöt/Gruppernas sekretariat

PPE-DE	Romain Strasser
PSE	Jean-Francois Vallin
ALDE	
Verts/ALE	
GUE/NGL	
IND/DEM	
UEN	
ITS	
NI	

<p>Кабинет на председателя/Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelář předsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinett des Präsidenten/Presidendi kantslei/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/Cabinet Preşedinte/Kancelária predsedu/Urad predsednika/Puhemiehen kabinetti/Talmannens kansli</p>	
<p>Кабинет на генералния секретар/Gabinete del Secretario General/Kancelář generálního tajemníka/Generalsekretærens Kabinet/Kabinett des Generalsekretärs/Peasekretäri büroo/Γραφείο Γενικού Γραμματέα/Secretary-General's Office/Cabinet du Secrétaire général/Gabinetto del Segretario generale/Generalsekretära kabinets/Generalinio sekretoriaus kabinetas/Főtitkári hivatal/Kabinett tas-Segretarju Ġenerali/Kabinet van de secretaris-generaal/Gabinet Sekretarza Generalnego/Gabinete do Secretário-Geral/Cabinet Secretar General/Kancelária generálneho tajomníka/Urad generalnega sekretarja/Pääsihteerin kabinetti/Generalsekreterarens kansli</p>	
<p>Генерална дирекция/Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/Directorate-General/Dirección générale/Direzione generale/Generäldirektoräts/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/Direktorat Ġenerali/Direktoraten-generaal/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direcții Generale/Generálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni direktorat/Pääosasto/Generaldirektorat</p>	
<p>DG PRES DG IPOL DG EXPO DG INFO DG PERS DG IFIN DG TRED DG FINS</p>	
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<p>Секретариат на комисията/Secretaría de la comisión/Sekretariat 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 comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottssekretariatet</p>	
<p>Carlo Chicco</p>	
<p>Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asystent/Pomočnik/Avustaja/Assistenten</p>	
<p>Kathleen Huygen</p>	

- * (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Président/Priekšsēdētājs/Pirmininkas/Elnök/Chairman/Voorzitter/Przewodniczący/Preşedinte/Predseda/Predsednik/Puheenjohtaja/Ordförande
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- (M) = Член/Miembro/Člen/Medlem./Mitglied/Parlamendiliige/Μέλος/Member/Membre/Membro/Deputāts/Narys/Képviselő/Membri/Lid/Członek/Membro/Membri/Člen/Poslanec/Jäsen/Ledamot
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