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Delegation for relations with the People's Republic of China

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MINUTES
of the meeting of 8 May 2007, 17.30 – 18.30
BRUSSELS

	<u>Page</u>
1. Adoption of draft agenda (PE 388.071)	2
2. Approval of minutes of the meeting of 27 March 2007 (PE 385.603)	2
3. Chairman's announcements	2
4. Preparations for 24th EU-China IPM in Beijing and Tibet 23 - 29 June 2007	2
5. Any other business	5
6. Date and place of next meeting	5

The meeting opened at 17.30 on Tuesday, 8 May 2007, with Dirk Sterckx (Chairman) presiding.

1. Adoption of draft agenda (PE 388.071)

The agenda was adopted without amendment.

2. Approval of minutes of the meeting of 27 March 2007 (PE 385.603)

The minutes were adopted without amendment.

3. Chairman's announcements

Mr STERCKX welcomed Mr Franz Jessen, Head of Unit at the Commission, and his colleagues to the meeting. He noted that they would take questions.

4. Preparations for 24th EU-China IPM in Beijing and Tibet 23 - 29 June 2007

Mr STERCKX referred to the draft programme that had been distributed and announced that the timetable had been revised. The delegation would now travel first to Tibet and then to Beijing. He expressed regret that the train journey to Tibet had been cancelled. He asked which issues should be raised in Tibet and what should be on the agenda in Beijing. He wanted to restrict the agenda in Beijing to four topics and outlined his proposals.

Mrs TRUEPEL was going to Tibet for the first time and wanted to get a general impression of what was going on. She referred to the policy of sending Han Chinese settlers to the region and was concerned about the effect of this on Tibetan culture. She looked forward to receiving detailed information on conditions in prisons in Tibet and had specific information on people whom she would like to meet in prisons. She also wanted to talk to cultural organisations and learn about the situation of women and children.

Regarding the IPM in Beijing she was particularly interested in the foreign policy elements and relations with of the agenda of the IPM in Beijing and also wanted to address the issue of the Falun Gong.

Mr H P MARTIN requested details about the programme in Tibet and asked whether he could attend just the meeting in Beijing, if there was no programme. Mr STERCKX said that he preferred the delegation to stay together and that a programme was being prepared for Tibet. He stressed that he wanted to hear from members what they wanted to do in Tibet. He suggested that it could start with a light programme on Saturday.

Mr CALABUIG agreed that the subjects on the Beijing agenda were the most appropriate. He wanted to see all angles on the Tibet situation and see close up the economic and social development of the region and specifically the issue of political autonomy and the cultural

changes.

Mrs BATZELI was please with the way that the programme had been organised and wanted to learn about economic development and human rights in Tibet. In Beijing she believed that social and economic reform had been covered quite thoroughly during the previous IPM and that there would be little new to add. She wanted to address climate change and transport on the agenda. She was also interested in the opening of the banking sector and monetary policy.

Mr HOPPENSTEDT wanted the IPM to look at the world financial markets. He referred to the stock market crash in China. He was also keen to address the undervaluing of the euro as developments in China depended on the value of money. He would have liked to have taken the train some of the way to Lhasa. In Tibet he wanted to know about environmental policy and global warming and the loss of glaciers in the Himalayas. Water resources that emanated from Tibet and were transferred to the rest of China were another issue.

Mr ROUCEK also stressed the need to look at economic and social developments in Tibet. The delegation should also look at human and cultural rights and environmental issues, particularly climate change. In the Beijing IPM he looked forward to discussing cooperation between Central Asia and China and the competition for energy resources.

Mr MANDERS wanted to discuss environmental legislation in China. He also thought that visiting a prison might be a good idea. He too was disappointed that the delegation would not be travelling by train.

Mr GOLIK announced that it was his first time in the delegation. He wanted to know about the relations of Tibet with countries that ordered it such as Nepal. He referred to the significant investment in China and the need to address the government's tax policy. Referring to the EU-China Strategic partnership he noted that China was spending more on research and development than the EU and that this item should also be brought up. He agreed that financial markets were another important issue. Agricultural reform was a further point and the possibilities of rural discontent.

Mrs DOYLE also welcomed discussions on climate change and economic growth. She stressed that the delegation should raise these issues in a diplomatic manner, noting that the West was the original cause of climate change. She recognised that there had to be a more level playing field and referred particularly to carbon capture and storage and sequestration and what was being done in China in this respect. She referred in particular to the importance of clean coal technology for the Chinese. She noted that the Chinese were very active at a recent Global Legislators' Congress in Washington which she attended and they signed up to the resolution that should be taken to China. She was concerned too about the urban-rural issue and the problems caused by the massive rural migration to urban areas. She wanted an Olympics update and also agreed with those who wanted to examine the banking and services sector and trade issues. Finally she wanted to examine animal welfare in a Chinese context. She wanted background briefing on the situation in Tibet.

Mr STEVENSON also wanted to address the issue of animal welfare while the delegation was

in Beijing. He referred to the ban on cat and dog fur and the cruelty in the fur trade and the horrific conditions under which cats and dogs were reared and killed. He mentioned too in this context that China was a member of the WTO. He was concerned that the delegation would only hold official meetings and he stressed the need to travel to more remote villages and see how - if at all - local democracy was working and how issues such as women's rights, healthcare and education were being addressed. He was pleased that Tibet was now the first part of the programme. He warned against having anything on the programme on the Saturday. Mr STERCKX stated that there would only be a short social programme on the Saturday.

Mr H P MARTIN also wanted to cover financial markets. He looked forward to hearing from the Chinese side about what had happened and how the country had developed. He pointed to the large number of migrants from rural China and wanted to be present at the station in Lhasa when these Chinese migrants arrived and to have the opportunity to talk to them. He also wanted to meet political or economic leaders in Tibet and to hear about those who were experiencing the settlement.

Mr MAVROMATIS stressed the importance of the Olympic Games and the importance of horse racing. He also referred to the Hong Kong transfer and the teams from North and South Korea that would be participating in the Olympics and the desirability of them competing under a single flag.

Mr TURMES argued for limited topics on the agenda. He wanted climate change to be on the agenda and to build on the Legislators' Dialogue in Washington. The next meeting would be in Berlin in a few weeks time. He preferred to replace the term "sustainable development" with "energy efficiency" and he referred specifically to building construction and the possibilities for EU-china cooperation in this field.

Mr STERCKX concluded by stating that agriculture had been covered to a certain extent on the previous visit. He stressed the need to keep Foreign Policy, human rights and minority rights on the agenda. He would add the Olympic Games to the agenda, although he considered that the welfare of horses had been adequately covered. He looked forward to an overview from the member state ambassadors on recent developments in areas such as the Strategic Partnership.

He proposed that discussions on animal welfare could take place on the Thursday afternoon in a bilateral meeting outside the NPC. The issue of financial markets could be added to the subject of social and economic reforms. He welcomed the addition of "energy efficiency".

He pointed too the limited options for travelling to Lhasa and the shortage of time. He stressed the need to get to Beijing as quickly as possible and with a full delegation.

Regarding Tibet he recognised the importance of addressing the economic and social impact that the large scale Chinese migration had made on the region and to get an idea of what was happening at present. He also wanted to visit the rural areas and to examine the cultural aspect. It was important to look at environmental issues and energy efficiency.

Mr STERCKX stressed the rules governing delegation, and the need to ensure that only those

authorised to travel should go. He underlined that the European Parliament's insurance did not cover non-authorised persons. He wanted to limit the number of languages as much as possible. Finally he noted that on 13 June there would be a meeting organised by NGOS.

Mrs LICHTENBERGER underlined the need to ensure that people were fit and had done sufficient training to avoid altitude sickness.

Mrs GEBHARDT referred to a meeting that morning with Commissioner Kuneva who spoke on product safety and the many complaints about faulty products - 50% of which came from China. She wasted this matter raised while in Beijing.

5. Any other business

There was no other business.

6. Date and place of next meeting

Mr STERCKX announced that the next ordinary meeting would take place in Strasbourg on Thursday 21 June between 09.45 and 10.45hrs.

The meeting closed at 18.35hrs.

**LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/
ΚΑΤΑΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU
REĢISTRŠ/DALYVIŲ SĄRAŠAS/JELENLĒTI ĪV/REGISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBEČNOŠCI/
LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA**

Mesa/Předsednictví/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/Biuras/Elnökség/Prezydium/ Predsednictvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
Dirk Sterckx (P)
Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Mέλη/Members/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselek/ Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Jāsenet/Ledamöter
Stavros Arnaoutakis, Robert Atkins, Katerina Batzeli, Joan Calabuig-Rull, Hynek Fajmon, Evelyne Gebhardt, Karsten Hoppenstedt, Toine Manders, Manolis Mavrommatis, Jan Olbrycht, Rihards Pīks, Herbert Reul, Libor Roucek, Daciana Octavia Sărbu, Helga Trüpel, Claude Turmes
Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Supplenti/Aizstājēji/ Pavadojantys nariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Náhradníci/Namestniki/Varajāsenet/ Suppleanter
Philip Bushill-Matthews, Avril Doyle, Bogdan Golik, Stephen Hughes, Wiesław Stefan Kuc, Eva Lichtenberger, Czesław Adam Siekierski, Struan Stevenson, Csaba Sándor Tabajdi

178 (2)
183 (3)
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/Darbotvarkes 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/Obserwatorzy/Observadores/Pozorovatelia/Opazovalci/Tarkkailijat/Observatörer

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

Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nõukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/Conseil/Consiglio/Padome/Taryba/Tanács/Kunsill/Raad/Conselho/ Svet/Neuvosto/Rådet (*)
M.Degen, A. Roux
Comisión/Komise/Kommissionen/Kommission/Euroopa Komisjon/Επιτροπή/Commission/Commissione/Komisija/Bizottság/ Kummissjoni/Commissie/Komisja/Comissão/Komisja/Komissio/Kommissionen (*)
F. Jessen, M. Rokas
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 ohra/ Andere instellingen/Inne instytucje/Outras Instituições/Iné inštitúcie/Druge institucije/Muut toimielimet/Andra institutioner/organ

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 ohra/Andere aanwezigen/ Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Iní účastníci/Drugi udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare	
X. Cao, M Wei, X. Gao (Mission of PR of China), W.Fautré (HRWF)	
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/Fracijų sekretoriai/Képviseletcsoportok titkársága/Segretarjat gruppi politiçi/Fractiesecretariaten/ Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secr. dos grupos políticos/Sekretariát politických skupin/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristöt/Gruppernas sekretariat	
PPE-DE	Bastiaansen
PSE	Latella
ALDE	
Verts/ALE	Bergamaschi
GUE/NGL	
IND/DEM	
UEN	
NI	

Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelář předsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinett des Präsidenten/Presidendi kantslei/Τραφείο 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/Urad predsednika/Puhemiehen kabinetti/Talmannens kansli	
Gabinete del Secretario General/Kancelář generálního tajemníka/Generalsekretærens Kabinet/Kabinett des Generalsekretärs/Peasekretäri büroo/Τραφείο Γενικού Γραμματέα/Secretary-General's Office/Cabinet du Secrétaire général/Gabinetto del Segretario generale/Ģenerālsekretāra kabinets/Generalinio sekretoriaus kabinetas/Főtitkári hivatal/Kabinett tas-Segretarju Ġenerali/Kabinet van de secretaris-generaal/Gabinet Sekretarza Generalnego/Gabinete do Secretário-Geral/Kancelária generálneho tajomníka/Urad generalnega sekretarja/Pääsihteerin kabinetti/Generalsekreterarens kansli	
Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/Directorate-General/Direction générale/Direzione generale/Ģenerāldirektorāts/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/Direttorat Ġenerali/Direktoraten-generaal/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Generálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni direktorat/Pääosasto/Generaldirektorat	
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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/Assistent/Assistente/Pallīgs/Padējējas/assizshtens/Asystent/Pomočnik/Avustaja/Assistenten	
Morag Donaldson, Tim Boden	

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