

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Delegation for relations with the Korean Peninsula

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MINUTES
of the
10th EP/Republic of Korea Interparliamentary Meeting
20 and 21 June 2007
Strasbourg

After introducing the members present, the Chairman Hubert Pirker commented on his participation in the ceremonies for the 50th Anniversary of the Treaty of Rome in Seoul and highlighted the interest Korea shows for the process of European integration compared to the continuing tensions in Northeast Asia. The European integration is however still very much in the making: as participants know, we are just at the eve of the Summit when we hope to see the way forward to the enhanced institutional functioning of the Union that was expected from the EU Constitution.

The Chairman reminded of the principle of EP's permanent delegations and of the creation of the Korea Delegation in 2004, which boosted mutual contacts - both with South and North. He mentioned the visit to North Korea planned on the following week, and the subsequent visit to Seoul on 26-27 July.

Mr LEE Sang-Deuk, Chairman of the Korean delegation, welcomed the EU as a partner and a supporter of the six-party talks. He highlighted the positive image EU enjoyed with North Korea, giving it leverage to push for a non-nuclear North Korea and the implementation of the 13th February action plan. He described the EU/Korea relations as very constructive ones, which deserve deepening and more visibility.

South Korean presidential race

Mrs CHUN Yu-Ok presented the political situation ahead of the presidential election of 19 December. She gave an overview of presidential powers in RoK, which she interpreted as quite strong, especially through setting of the political agenda, and the appointment of judges and key administrative posts.

The opposition GNP candidates have over 70% of intentions in the polls (in first place Mr Lee Myeon-bak, who has a strong image of a successful business leader and whose actuation as mayor of Seoul, in particular the rehabilitation of Cheonggyecheon river), while the many

candidates stemming from the government party, now totally derelict, total less than 10%.

Mr Jarzembowski asked what the possible future political landscape will look after the implosion of the ruling Uri party, and whether the voters would make their choices basing on personality, political themes or regional representativeness. He also asked which were the main policy issues of concern to voters.

Mr Szent-Iványi asked what were the policy differences regarding inter-Korean relations.

Mrs Chun explained that the former Uri party members were divided between supporters of Mr Roh-Moo-Hyeon and the Democratic Party. Voters were mostly interested by issues regarding their personal lives (real estate, social security, situation of young people and women). The situation of human rights in North Korea is a major issue. The current government was playing this theme down, while the GNP wants to address it.

Mr Nicholson asked whether the comments and menaces by the North on the parties and candidates could influence the voters. Mr Jarzembowski compared the North's menaces to the situation in Taiwan, where hostility from the mainland actually favoured the Liberal Party candidate.

Mrs Chun said that the GNP took menaces seriously but that they did not have an electoral effect. With a view to eventual re-unification, a "new nationalism" would be needed to reconcile the diverging values of society in North and South.

On policy issues, she insisted on a liberal, deregulatory programme.

EU-ROK Free Trade Agreement

Mr KIM Suk-Joon declared himself very satisfied with first round of negotiations, and optimistic about an early conclusion of the agreement. At the same time, he emphasised that Korea remained committed to a successful conclusion of the WTO Doha Round.

He explained that Korea expects to position itself as an "FTA hub" for East Asia, thus the FTA would provide the EU with a strong foothold in the whole region. Politically, the partnership should go beyond a simple FTA.

Parliaments of both parties should explore ways to contribute to and get more involved in the negotiations, as well as support the eventual ratification.

He concluded with a specific request for products of the shared Kaesong Industrial Complex to be recognised as "Made in Korea".

Mrs Chun expressed concern at the social disorder on the streets against the Korea/US FTA, which obscured the real issues at stake for most of the population.

As speaker for the EP side on the FTA, David **MARTIN** was careful to announce that he could present a personal view only at this stage, as no debate had yet taken place within INTA committee. He emphasised that success of the Doha Round remained the priority, but that the EU must not fall behind if others increasingly moved to bilateral FTAs.

In terms of EU expectations, he listed access for EU suppliers of services, an opening-up of public procurement, and a more flexible exchange of workers. He accepted the need for the EU to open its market to Korean manufactured wares and possibly processed foods.

He saw no great problems in the agricultural sector, but expected concern to be expressed by EU car making industry and possibly pharmaceutical companies. He also reported that Belgium had requested an exemption for its public utilities (to be explored), and raised the possibility that the Polish shipbuilding industry might seek safeguards.

On Kaesong, he personally tended towards including its products, on the condition however that the enclave's growth be capped at some point - an issue also raised by Jim Nicholson. Co-chairman Hubert Pirker summarized the prospects of the FTA as a win-win situation.

Istvan SZENT-IVANYI asked about possible opposition from within Korea?

In reply, Mr Kim welcomed the overall convergence of views. He explained that in contrast to the Korea-US FTA, no opposition was expected from Korean farmers, and supplied detailed figures about the status and plans in Kaesong: the enclave (of 20 sq km) currently holds 23 companies, of which 5 are engaged in construction. The workforce consists of 15.000 North Korean workers and some 700 South Korean managers. It is planned to grow up to 75.000 workers.

Conclusion

Co-chairman LEE expressed his appreciation of the two days' exchanges. He emphasised the high importance of the imminent EP delegation visit to North Korea, and also reiterated Korea's great expectations for the bilateral FTA.

Co-chairman PIRKER in his closing remarks emphasised the importance of the partnership. He declared himself optimistic about the FTA, and expressed the hope of a speedy implementation of the February six-party agreement now that the financial aspects had been resolved.

The meeting closed with the signing of a joint communiqué (see attachment).



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Joint Communiqué of the 10th EP/Korea Interparliamentary Meeting

Strasbourg, 21 June 2007

The Delegation for Relations with the Korean Peninsula of the European Parliament, headed by MEP Hubert Pirker, and the Korea-EU Interparliamentary Council, headed by Rep. Lee Sang-deuk of the National Assembly of Korea, held the 10th EP/Korea Interparliamentary Meeting in Strasbourg on 20 and 21 June 2007.

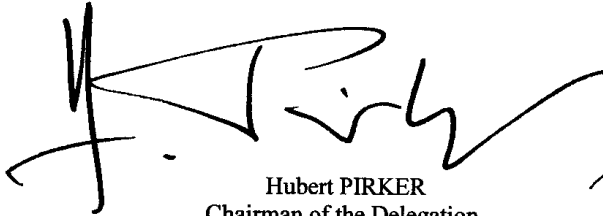
This meeting confirmed the excellent relations that exist between the EU and the Republic of Korea, and particularly between their respective parliaments.

At the meeting both sides agreed on the following:

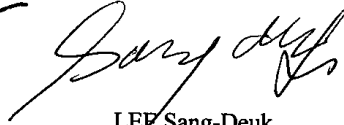
- 1) The participants express their satisfaction at the successful outcome of the Six Party Talks in Beijing on 13 February 2007, of which they expect a smooth implementation. Reiterating that the stopping of all nuclear activities at the Yongbyon is the premise of the agreement, the participants call for a fast and fair implementation of all relevant bilateral and multilateral commitments agreed. The participants want to make clear that the dismantling of the North Korean nuclear menace is but a first step towards North Korea's increased involvement with the international community. They hope that the conditions for further cooperation and assistance to this country's development will progress in the near future.
- 2) The participants consider positively efforts towards regional dialogue and cooperation in North-East Asia, to promote understanding and mutual prosperity. They would like to foster a common approach to history and increased people-to-people exchanges. Noting that history provides insights and lessons, the participants invite North East Asian countries, which have an unfortunate history, to take various and practical measures including writing a joint history textbook to open a new chapter in their relations.
- 3) The participants welcome the start of negotiations for an EU/Korea Free Trade Agreement and the good climate in which the negotiations have started. They wish that the agreement will be comprehensive and mutually beneficial, and that it will address not only the trade in goods but also in services and regulatory issues, covering, inter alia, intellectual property rights, provision of financial services, health regulations, competition policy and government procurement.

4) The participants welcome the recently signed Science and Technology Agreement between EU and Korea. They express the hope that it will lead to a significant increase in cooperation between European and Korean research bodies, and to the exchange of researchers. They commit themselves to follow this question regularly in the future.

5) The participants reaffirm their common values to the defence of human rights, both internally and worldwide without consideration of political systems or development levels. They commit themselves to foster this aspect in their exchanges as well as in multilateral fora, in particular in the framework of the Asia Europe Parliamentary Partnership.



Hubert PIRKER
Chairman of the Delegation
for Relations with the Korean Peninsula



LEE Sang-Deuk
President of the Korea-EU
Interparliamentary Council

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH THE KOREAN PENINSULA

10th EP/RoK Interparliamentary Meeting

19-21 June 2007 in Strasbourg

List of RoK Participants

Members

Mr LEE Sang-Deuk, President of the Council, Grand National Party (GNP)
Mr RIM In-Bae, GNP
Mr PARK Sung-Vum, Independent
Mr LEE Hahn-Koo, GNP
Mr KIM Suk-Joon, GNP
Mrs CHUN Yu-Ok, GNP

Staff

Mr KIM Kwang-Mook, Vice Director General of Inter-Parliamentary Affairs
Mr SEOG Young-Hwan, Counsellor for Parliamentary Affairs
Mr JEONG So-Young, Protocol Officer (Interpreter)
Mr WOO Jee-Hyun, Programme Officer (Coordinator)

Embassy

H.E. CHONG Woo Seong, Ambassador, the Korean Mission to the EU (Brussels)
Mr HUH Chul, Minister-Counsellor, the Korean Mission to the EU (Brussels)
Mr KEUM Chang Rok, First Secretary, the Korean Mission to the EU (Brussels)
Mr SEOK Young Hwan, Attache, the Korean Embassy (Paris)
Ms KOH Eun Kyung, Interpreter (Paris)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH THE KOREAN PENINSULA

10th EP/RoK Interparliamentary Meeting

19-21 June 2007 in Strasbourg

PROGRAMME

Tuesday, 19 June

17:35 Arrival of Korean Delegation with KE 905 in Frankfurt and Transfer to
Hotel Mercur
Schutterwälder Strasse 1a
77656 Offenburg - Germany
Tel : +49 781/5050 - Fax : +49 781/505513

Wednesday, 20 June

08:30 Transfer to Parliament
Entrance Louise Weiss

09:15 Welcome in the Parliament by the Chairman of the Delegation for relations
with Korean Pensinsula, Mr Hubert Pirker

09:30-09:45 Courtesy call on Mr Hans-Gert Pöttering, President of the European
Parliament

09:50-10:15 Meeting with Commissioner Mrs. Benita Ferrero-Waldner
Room LOW S4.5
Building Louise Weiss

10:30-11:30 Visit to Ecole Nationale d'Administration (ENA)

11:30-12:40 City tour ("Petite France", Cathedral)

13:00-14:30 Lunch in honour of the Korean Delegation offered by Mr Hans-Gert
Pöttering, President of the European Parliament, hosted by Vice-President
Mr Edward McMillan-Scott
Private Salon at the Members Restaurant
Building Louise Weiss

14:30-14:50 Press Conference by Mr. Pirker and Mr. Lee Sang-Deuk
Room LOW N -1.201
Building Louise Weiss

- 15.00-18.00 First Working Session
Room SDM S5
Building Salvador de Madariaga
Tel. +33 388172507
- 18:00-19:30 Rest at hotel
- 20.00 Dinner offered by Mr Hubert Pirker, Chairman of the Delegation for relations with Korean Pensinsula
Hôtel Régent Petite France
5, rue des Moulins - 67000 Strasbourg
Tel. +33 3 88 76 43 46
- 22.00 Return to hotel

Thursday, 21 June

- 08.45 Transfer to Parliament
Entrance Winston Churchill
- 09.30-11.30 Second Working Session and/or meeting with representatives of political groups
Room SDM S5
Building Salvador de Madariaga
Tel. +33 388172507
- 11:45-12:15 Attend Plenary Session of the European Parliament (diplomatic gallery)
Welcome by the President

Korean Delegation only

- 12:30-13:30 Lunch hosted by the Korean Ambassador
Restaurant Douri
12, Rue Ernest Munch,
67000 Strasbourg
Tel : +33 3 88 35 71 42
- 14:00-15:00 Boat trip on Strasbourg's waterways
- 15:00 Departure of the Korean delegation to Berne, Switzerland by bus