

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Delegation for relations with Japan

D-JP_PV(2007)1107

MINUTES

of the meeting of 7 November 2007, from 14.30 to 16.00

BRUSSELS

The meeting opened at 14.35 on Wednesday, 7 November 2007, under the joint chairmanship of Georg Jarzembowski (Chairman) and Taro Nakayama, head of the Japanese delegation.

1. Meeting with the Imperial Diet of Japan co-chaired by Dr Georg Jarzembowski and Dr Taro Nakayama

Institutional evolution of the EU

with the participation of Mr Jo Leinen, MEP, Chairman of the Committee on Constitutional Affairs

The Japanese Diet was represented by Dr Taro Nakayama and Mr Kosuke Hori.

1. Schedule of interparliamentary meetings

The first item of business was to discuss and set the date for the next IPM. It was decided that the Japanese Diet delegation would come to the EP in Brussels, where it would stay from 3 to 5 June 2008, and might in addition visit another European capital city; the bureau of the EP delegation would go to Japan in autumn 2008.

2. Political situation in Japan

Addressing the meeting, Mr Hori said that the July 2007 elections had transformed the political climate. The ruling Liberal-Democratic Party (LDP) had lost its majority in the Upper House of the Japanese Diet, and the position of the leading opposition party, the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ), had consequently been strengthened. The LDP's proposal to form a coalition government had been rejected by the DPJ. Japanese politics were currently going through unstable and stormy times. Dissolution of the Lower House was a very distinct possibility and was highly likely to happen when the budget was debated in March 2008.

3. Institutional evolution of the EU

The discussions on the institutional evolution of the EU were opened by Mr Leinen, Chairman of the EP Committee on Constitutional Affairs, who reviewed the state of play.

Mr Leinen made the following points:

- just as it was not easy to alter the Japanese Constitution, so was it difficult to amend the European Treaties, which served as a constitution within the EU;
- there had been two major treaties in the EU's history: the Treaty of Rome and the Maastricht Treaty. The Treaty of Lisbon, which was to be signed in December by the Heads of State or Government of the EU Member States, would be Europe's third major treaty;
- the 2000 Treaty of Nice did not provide the EU with the wherewithal to operate now that the number of Member States had risen to 27. Nor did it satisfy the growing calls from European citizens for greater democracy and transparency in the European institutions. The Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe, drawn up by the 2003 Convention chaired by Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, was intended to meet the Union's imminent needs, but had not come into being, on account of the 'no' votes in the 2005 French and Dutch referendums. The period of reflection in the wake of that rejection had recently ended after an IGC had produced a new treaty, now called the Reform Treaty.

The Reform Treaty had preserved the 'essence' of the Constitutional Treaty and, if ratified by the Member States, would do much to improve the workings of the European institutions.

Mr Leinen outlined the main advances secured in the new Treaty and pointed out in particular that the European Parliament had emerged as the principal beneficiary: the EP would have more budgetary power; the codecision procedure would cover 80% of the cases in which the EU was competent to legislate; the EP would have greater powers in the external policy sphere; the EP would be consulted about the election of the Council president; and European citizens would be able to influence European policies by exercising the right of petition provided for in the Treaty.

The questions that Dr Nakayama put to Mr Leinen related to the following subjects:

- the framework established by the new Treaty for relations between the EP and the national parliaments;
- regulation of the role of national courts.

Dr Nakayama asked for more details about the right of petition to be granted to European citizens.

He also requested the members of the EP delegation to give their views on the projected reform of the Japanese education system.

The Japanese Government was seeking to introduce patriotism into the education system. It wished to ensure that children would learn to love their country, but was at the same time anxious to avoid dwelling too much on history. The two aims were contradictory and hence difficult to reconcile. Japanese experts had chosen the terms 'culture and traditions' as the watchword of the reform, which was designed to bring Japanese culture and traditions within the scope of the education system.

Replying to the question about relations between the national parliaments and the EP, Mr Leinen outlined the early warning system, whereby draft Commission legislation was sent to both at the same time. National parliaments were entitled to intervene within eight weeks of receiving a proposal; whenever a proposal had failed to secure the approval of half of the national parliaments, the Commission was obliged to reconsider it.

Mr Leinen explained in addition how COSAC operated and said that, rather than remaining confined to Brussels, the conference might in future hold its twice-yearly meetings in other European cities.

Responding to the request for an opinion about the reform of the Japanese education system, Mr Leinen summarised the European experience in the education field. The EU had no competence as regards education and culture, sectors which were developed through intergovernmental cooperation. He referred to the Bologna process centring on university education and to the concept of lifelong learning.

The meeting closed at 15.40.

**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 SAŪAŠAS/JELENLÉTI ÍV/
REĢISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŠCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/LISTÁ DE PREZENÇÁ/
PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA**

Бюро/Mesa/Předsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/Biuras/Elnökség/ Prezidium/Birou/Predsednictvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
Georg Jarzembowski (P), Jaroslav Zvěřina (VP)
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselők/ Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Hiltrud Breyer, Sylvia-Yvonne Kaufmann, Janusz Lewandowski, Margarita Starkevičiūtė, Kyösti Virrankoski
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Supplenti/ Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantys nariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanti/Náhradníci/Namestniki/ Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
Carlo Fatuzzo, Vladko Todorov Panayotov

178 (2)
Jo Leinen
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/Darbotvarkės 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/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaatlejad/Παρατηρητές/Observers/Observateurs/Osservatori/ Novērotāji/Stebėtojai/Megfigyelők/Osservatori/Waarnemers/Obserwatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelia/Opazovalci/ Tarkkailijat/Observatörer

<p>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/Pēc priekšsēdētāja uzaicinājuma/Pirmininkui pakvietus/Az elnök meghívására/Fuq stedina taç-'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</p>

<p>Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nðukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/Conseil/Consiglio/Padome/Taryba/Tanács/Kunsill/Raad/Conselho/Consiliu/Svet/Neuvosto/Rådet (*)</p>
<p>Комисия/Comisión/Komise/Kommissionen/Kommission/Euroopa Komisjon/Επιτροπή/Commission/Commissione/Komisija/Bizottság/Kummissjoni/Commissie/Komisja/Comissão/Comisie/Komisja/Komissio/Kommissionen (*)</p>
<p>Gerhard Lohan</p>
<p>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/Istituzzjonijiet oħra/Andere instellingen/Inne instytucje/Outras Instituições/Alte instituții/Iné inštitúcie/Druge institucije/Muut toimielimet/Andra institutioner/organ</p>

<p>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</p>	
<p>Taro Nakayama, Kosuke Hori</p>	
<p>Секретариат на политическите групи/Secretaría de los Grupos políticos/Sekretariát politických skupin/Gruppernes sekretariat/Sekretariat der Fraktionen/Fraksioonide sekretariaat/Γραμματεία των Πολιτικών Ομάδων/Sekretariats of political groups/Secrétariat des groupes politiques/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko grupu sekretariāts/Fracijų sekretoriai/Képviseletcsoportok titkársága/Sekretarjat gruppi politici/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secr. dos grupos políticos/Sekretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupin/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristö/Gruppernas sekretariat</p>	
<p>PPE-DE PSE ALDE Verts/ALE GUE/NGL IND/DEM UEN ITS NI</p>	<p>Philipp Schulmeister</p>

Кабинет на председателя/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/Cabinet Președinte/Kancelária predsedu/Urad predsednika/Puhemiehen kabinetti/Talmannens kansli	
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	
Генерална дирекция/Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/Directorate-General/Direction générale/Direzione generale/Generāldirektorāts/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/Direttorat Ġenerali/Direktoraten-generaal/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direcții Generale/Generálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni direktorat/Pääosasto/Generaldirektorat	
DG PRES DG IPOL DG EXPO DG INFO DG PERS DG IFIN DG TRED DG FINS	Stefan Schulz
Правна служба/Servicio Jurídico/Právní služba/Juridisk Tjeneste/Juristischer Dienst/Öigusteenistus/Νομική Υπηρεσία/Legal Service/Service juridique/Servizio giuridico/Juridiskais dienests/Teisės tarnyba/Jogi szolgálat/Servizz legali/Juridische Dienst/Wydział prawny/Serviço Jurídico/Serviciu Juridic/Právny servis/Pravna služba/Oikeudellinen yksikkö/Rättstjänsten	
Секретариат на комисията/Secretaría de la comisión/Sekretariat výboru/Udvalgssekretariatet/Ausschusseksretariat/Komisjoni sekretariaat/Γραμματεία επιτροπής/Committee secretariat/Secrétariat de la commission/Segreteria della commissione/Komitejas sekretariāts/Komitato sekretoriatas/A bizottság titkársága/Sekretarjat tal-kumitat/Commissiesecretariaat/Sekretariat komisji/Sekretariado da comissão/Sekretariat comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottssekretariatet	
Jean-Lous Berton	
Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Paġis/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asystent/Pomočnik/Avustaja/Assistenten	
Germana Carnazza	

* (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Président/Priekšsēdētājs/Pirmininkas/Elnök/Chairman/Voorzitter/Przewodniczący/Președinte/Předseda/Predsednik/Puheenjohtaja/Ordförande
(VP) = Заместник-председател/Vicepresidente/Mistopředseda/Næstformand/Stellvertretender Vorsitzender/Aseesimees/Αντιπρόεδρος/Vice-Chair(wo)man/Vice-Président/Priekšsēdētāja vietnieks/Pirmininko pavaduotojas/Alelnök/Víci 'Chairman'/Ondervoorzitter/Wiceprzewodniczący/Vice-Présidente/Vicepreședinte/Podpredseda/Podpredsednik/Varapuheenjohtaja/Vice ordförande
(M) = Член/Miembro/Člen/Medlem./Mitglied/Parlamendiliige/Μέλος/Member/Membre/Membro/Deputāts/Narys/Képviselő/Membri/Lid/Członek/Membro/Membri/Člen/Poslanec/Jäsen/Ledamot
(F) = Длъжностно лице/Funcionario/Úředník/Tjenestemand/Beamter/Ametnik/Υπάλληλος/Official/Fonctionnaire/Funzionario/