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2009

Delegation for relations with the People's Republic of China

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MINUTES
of the meeting 23 January 2008, 10h15-11h15

BRUSSELS

	<u>Page</u>
1. Adoption of draft agenda (PE 399.307)	2
2. Approval of minutes of the meeting of 21 November 2007 (PE 397.117)	2
3. Chairman's announcements	2
4. 2008 Calendar of activities	3
5. Briefing of the commission after EU-China Summit of November 2007	4
6. Any other business	5
7. Date and place of next meeting	5

Mr STERCKX opened the meeting at 10h15 on Wednesday, 23 January 2008.

1. Adoption of draft agenda (PE 399.307)

Mr STERCKX noted that, in the light of last week's urgency resolution on the case of the arrested human rights activist Mr HU JIA, he wanted to discuss the matter in the meeting.

2. Approval of minutes of the meeting of 21 November 2007 (PE 397.117)

The minutes were adopted without amendment.

3. Chairman's announcements

Mr STERCKX welcomed Mr ZHONG, the representative of the Chinese embassy. He noted that it was not the usual practice of the delegation to discuss specific human rights cases but on this occasion he - with the support of the delegation - considered it to be appropriate, particularly as Mr HU JIA had spoken by telephone to a recent meeting of the Human Rights Sub Committee.

Mr ZHONG stated that he would give an explanation of the case of Mr HU JIA, who had been arrested by the Beijing public security office on 27 September 2007 on suspicion of violating Chinese law. Judgement was still awaited so it was difficult to give details, however he wanted to stress that China was governed by the rule of law and the rights of expression were protected. Everyone was equal before the law and those who transgressed would be subject to legal proceedings.

Mr STERCKX thanked Mr ZHONG and asked what law exactly Mr HU was alleged to have breached.

Mr MCMILLIAN SCOTT stated that last week's resolution also referred to GAO ZHISHENG and followed another resolution in December 2007 which expressed "serious concern" about human rights in China in advance of the Olympics. He noted that he had held meeting with the representatives of the Chinese authorities concerning the cases of a number of activists whom he had met and who had subsequently been arrested and in some cases tortured. He stressed that the European Parliament should maintain particular vigilance in Olympic year and referred to an open meeting on human rights between the Belgian government and the Chinese ambassador. He thanked Mr STERCKX for organising the meeting and wanted this approach to be continued.

Mr WATSON stated that he had been pleased that the award of the Olympic Games to China had given it the opportunity to appear as a modern country. He wondered if Beijing might regret the decision to hold the Games as it would throw a spotlight on China's lack

of respect for human rights, particularly in respect of the Olympic Charter and the host city contract that was signed with the International Olympic Committee (IOC). He pointed to a global outcry over the non-respect for human rights if the Games went ahead.

Mrs TRUEPEL noted that China had committed itself to an improvement in the human rights situation in the run-up to the Olympic Games. However, she argued, what had happened to HU JIA was the opposite. Mr HU was seeking to improve the situation of people in China and the authorities' response was very regrettable.

Mrs DOYLE noted that she had requested that the subject should be on the agenda of today's meeting. She wanted to understand exactly what law HU JIA had broken and why exactly he was deemed to have broken that law. It was not even known where he was being detained. She noted that the delegation was made up of friends of China who wished it well but this action sent out a very bad signal to the international community. It appeared that China was cracking down further on human rights in the country.

Mr MAVROMMATIS referred to reports six months ago in the world press that China had agreed that there would be no prohibition on athletes practicing their own religion or wearing religious symbols. He wanted to know if there would be places of worship for athletes. He referred to reports of the deaths of ten people while the stadium was being constructed and wanted to have more details about the current situation.

Mr ZHONG considered that members appeared to have more information about the case of Mr HU JIA than he did. He noted that Mr HU was accused of breaking Chinese law and undermining the safety and stability of the country. He had no other information to give. Athletes were allowed to practice their religious beliefs at the Olympic Games and a mosque had been built in the Olympic village. The Chinese side was fully respecting the host city contract with the IOC and it was possible to verify this with the Committee. The construction for the Games was running to schedule.

Mr STEVENSON underlined the seriousness of the matter and asked for a special meeting to address the issues raised and to get a full answer from the Chinese authorities.

Mr STERCKX noted that members had put specific questions that had not received an answer. He would prepare a letter to the embassy on these specific points. He would also look into the possibility of a further meeting. He stressed that members of the delegation wanted to strengthen the ties with the National People's Congress and the current case was disturbing these relations. He thanked Mr ZHONG for attending the meeting.

MR ZHONG agreed that if a letter was sent to the embassy they would seek more information. He noted that the members of the delegation were friends of China and that communication and dialogue was important to improve communication.

4. 2008 Calendar of activities

MR STERCKX referred to the calendar of activities of 2008. He noted that there was a possibility of a Bureau visit to China in late May. He referred to the proposed visit to

China of the full delegation in the week of 24 November and noted that one subject would be the implementation of the new labour law, as well as the social situation.

Mrs TRUEPEL wanted to raise the issue of bear farming in China and to possibly visit a bear farm.

Mr HP MARTIN wanted to address the problems of financial institutions and the activities of the financial authorities.

Mr STERCKX noted that the timetable of the visit would be drawn up at a later date. It was necessary to wait for the meeting of the new National People's Congress in March. He was aware of a bear farm in Chengdu but it might not be easy to organise a visit from Shanghai.

5. Briefing of the commission after EU-China Summit of November 2007

Mr JESSEN of the Commission gave an update on the outcomes of the 10th EU-China summit that took place on 28 November. It was a successful, but also a difficult, summit as hard issues were tackled. The final joint statement was very satisfactory and went further than before on issues such as Myanmar/Burma and human rights. There was a long discussion on the trade deficit issue and how to address it. It was agreed to establish a high level dialogue on economic and trade matters that would meet by the end of March. Mr MANDELSON was the main representative of the Commission side. A Vice Minister would be appointed on the Chinese side. Other issues in this dialogue would be the environment and market access.

Mr BARROSO had been invited to China and preparations for the visit were underway. There was also discussion of the PCA and on 24-25 February the next round of discussions would take place at working level. A new steering committee would take place a month later. Consultation was underway with the incoming French Presidency on how to progress the discussions. The strong growth in the EU.-China trade deficit was also a key issue. There was further discussion on Taiwan and things seemed to be a bit calmer with successful elections taking place on 12 January 2008.

He noted that the EU had made a "démarche" on the HU JIA case raising similar concerns to the delegation members. The reply received was similar to the explanation of Mr ZHONG. He was happy to provide any further information when it was received from the Chinese side.

Mr BUSHILL-MATTHEWS compared the EU-China summit statement on human rights and the statement of Commissioner FERRERO-WALDNER to the Parliament on 12 December 2007 who had pointed to "remarkable progress in the human rights field".

Mr WATSON asked about the apparent discrepancy between the statements on Taiwan in the summit conclusions and a recent statement by Mr SOLANA. He asked whether there was a common position between Council and Commission on Taiwan.

Mr JESSEN could not make any further statement on what Mrs FERRERO-WALDNER had said to the Parliament but stressed that the wording on human rights

was always dependent on the time period under consideration. He noted the comments made by members. Regarding Taiwan he did not see a discrepancy between Mr SOLANA's comments and those of the joint EU-China summit where the Presidency had the lead. The presentation might have different but the substance was the same.

Mr WATSON was pleased to learn that it was a difference of wording. He noted that the "Republic of China" had applied for United Nations membership since 1971 and on each occasion this had been received, debated and rejected. In 2007 it made an application under the name of Taiwan and the application was not even received. He asked whether the EU's view was that any application could be received under the name of the "Republic of China" but not under the name of "Taiwan". He asked why Taiwan did not have the right to change its name.

Mr FORD asked whether there was one country that was divided into the "People's Republic of China" and the "Republic of China". When the latter country pretended to be another country then their application to the United Nations was no longer receivable.

MR JESSEN noted that it was a decision of the legal authorities of the United Nations whether an application for membership was receivable or not. He stressed that the EU fully accepted that the Beijing government was the representative of the Government of China.

6. Any other business

There was no other business

7. Date and place of next meeting

Mr STERCKX thanked everyone for attending the meeting and announced that the next ordinary meeting would take place on Wednesday 27 February in Brussels at 16h15-17h15.

The meeting closed at 11h10hrs.

**LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE
NIMEKIRI/ KATAΣTAΣH ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/ELENCO DI
PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU REĢISTRĀS/DALYVIŲ SAŖAŠAS/JELENLĒTI ĪV/REĢISTRU 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/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)	
Dirk Sterckx (P)	Henri Weber (2VP)
Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Mέλη/Members/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képvisezők/ Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Jäsenet/Ledamöter	
Busoi, Chatzimarkakis, Fajmon, Hoppenstedt, Iacob-Ridzi, Laperrouze, Martin, Mavrommatis, Parish, Paks, Roure, Sarbu, Trüpel	
Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Supplenti/Aizstājēji/ Pavaduojantys nariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Náhradníci/Namestniki/Varajäsenet/ Suppleanter	
Borrell Fontelles, Bushill-Matthews, Diaz de Mera García Consuegra, Doyle, Golik, Kuc, Mitchell, Stevenson, Watson	

178 (2)	
Mc Millan-Scott, Ford	
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/Darbotvarkēs punktas/Napirendi pont/Punt Agenda/ Agendapunt/Punkt porządku dziennego/Ponto OD/Bod programu schůzde/Točka UL/Esityslistan kohta/Föredragningslista punkt)	

Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaatlejad/Παρατηρητές/Observers/Observateurs/Osservatori/Novērotāji/ Stebėtojai/Megfigyelők/Osservatori/Waarnemers/Obszawatorzy/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 pozwanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/ Puheenhohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan	
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Comisión/Komise/Kommissionen/Kommission/Euroopa Komisjon/Επιτροπή/Commission/Commissione/Komisija/Bizottság/ Kummissjoni/Commissie/Komisja/Comissão/Komisia/Komissio/Kommissionen (*)	
Moran, Jessen	
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	
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	
Zhang Hong(Mission of the PR of China), Trukhin (Mission of Russian Federation to EU),	
Secretaría de los Grupos políticos/Sekretariát politických skupin/Gruppenes 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 sekretariai/Képviseletcsoportok titkársága/Sekretarjat gruppi politici/Fractiesecretariaten/ Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secr. dos grupos políticos/Sekretariát politických skupin/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristö/Gruppenas sekretariat	
PPE-DE PSE ALDE Verts/ALE GUE/NGL IND/DEM UEN NI	Mazza Latella Rieu Eekman
Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelář předsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinett des Präsidenten/Presidendi kantselei/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 Generalsekretærs/Peasekretári büro/Γραφείο Γενικού Γραμματέα/Secretary-General's Office/Cabinet du Secrétaire général/Gabinetto del Segretario generale/Generalsekretära kabinets/Generalinio sekretoriaus kabinetas/Fõitkåri hivatal/Kabinett tas-Segretarju Ġenerali/Kabinet van de secretaris-generaal/Gabinet Sekretarza Generalnego/Gabinete do Secretário-Geral/Kancelária generálneho tajomníka/ Urad generalnega sekretarja/Påsihteerin kabinetti/Generalsekreterarens kansli	
Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/Directorate-General/Direction générale/Direzione generale/Generāldirektorāts/Generalinis direktoratas/Fõigazgatóság/Direttorat Ġenerali/Direktoraten-generaal/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Generálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni direktorat/Påaosasto/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	
Boden	
Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palġis/Padėjėjas/asszisztens/Asystent/Pomočnik/Avustaja/Assistenten	
Schwendenwein, Mollet, Olljum	

* (P) =
 Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Président/Priekšsēdētājs/Pirmininkas/
 Elnök/Chairman/Voorzitter/Przewodniczący/Predseda/Predsednik/Puheenjohtaja/Ordförande
 (VP) = Vicepresidente/Mistopředseda/Næstformand/Stellvertretender
 Vorsitzender/Aseesimees/Αντιπρόεδρος/Vice-Chair(wo)man/ Vice-Président/Priekšsēdētāja vietnieks/Pirmininko
 pavadotojas/Alelnök/Viçi 'Chairman'/Ondervoorzitter/ Wiceprzewodniczący/Vice-
 Presidente/Podpredseda/Podpredsednik/Varapuheenjohtaja/Vice ordförande
 (M) =
 Miembro/Člen/Medlem./Mitglied/Parlamendiliige/Μέλος/Member/Membre/Membro/Deputāts/Narys/Tag/képviselő/M
 embru/ Lid/Członek/Membro/Člen/Poslanec/Jāsen/Ledamot
 (F) =
 Funcionario/Úředník/Tjenestemand/Beamter/Ametnik/Υπάλληλος/Official/Fonctionnaire/Funzionario/Ierēdnis/
 Pareigūnas/Tisztviselő/Uffizjal/Ambtenaar/UrządNIK/Funcionário/Uradnik/Uradnik/Virkamies/Tjänsteman