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EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

**Visit of the Bureau of the European Parliament Delegation for Relations with
China to Beijing and Inner Mongolia**

25 -30 May 2008

**Report by Mr Dirk STERCKX, Chairman of the European Parliament
Delegation for Relations with China**

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Bureau visit to Beijing and Inner Mongolia

25 -30 May 2008

Introduction

The Bureau of the European Parliament delegation for relations with China travelled to Beijing and the Autonomous Region of Inner Mongolia from 25 May to 30 May 2008.

The aim of the visit was to travel away from the more prosperous coastal regions, to another part of China that has been - at least in some areas - experiencing significant economic growth, thanks to its large mineral resources, particularly of coal and rare earth.

Inner Mongolia is also facing serious problems water shortages in some parts and the threat of desertification that is affecting some 60% of the total land area and is spreading at a rate of around 600,000 hectares each year. In response the authorities are implementing a policy of afforestation to combat the threat.

The visit also enabled the members to examine the situation of the Mongolian ethnic minority, who make up some 17% of the population, and to learn about the extent to which they enjoy genuine linguistic and cultural rights.

The visit also came at a volatile time for relations between the European Union and China following the events in Tibet, although this had been partially overshadowed by the earthquake in the province of Sichuan. Inevitably, however, the subject of Tibet was discussed at a number of meetings at which the delegation was reminded of the Chinese government position on the issue.

A meeting was requested with the human rights activist, Hu Jia, who has been the subject of European Parliament resolutions. The delegation was informed by the Chinese authorities that such a meeting could not be arranged.

The delegation was headed by Dirk STERCKX (ALDE, Belgium), Chair of the European Parliament delegation. He was accompanied by the First Vice Chair, Jean-Luc DEHAENE (EPP-ED, Belgium) and the second Vice Chair, Henri WEBER (PES, France). The visit was authorised in a letter from President Pöttering of 2 April 2008. The full programme of the visit is attached.

Monday 26 May 2008

**Meeting with H.E. Mr Serge ABOU, Head of the European Commission
Delegation to China**

Discussion centred on the recent earthquake in the province of Sichuan and Mr Abou noted that the disaster had affected an area twice the size of Belgium. The number of victims was rising daily. China now had around 300 million internet users and it was therefore impossible to block everything. The authorities had conducted a very effective media operation with the thousands of journalists who were present. The government leaders who had visited the affected areas had received praise for their willingness to come and meet with the victims.

The ambassador pointed to fears about the safety of some nuclear installations in the area of the earthquake and the "quake lakes" caused by the earthquake - these fears had not received a public airing. Many schools had been poorly built and had fallen down and it was likely that fingers would be pointed at the guilty parties when the current feelings of solidarity cooled down.

Mr Abou stressed that the delegation needed to underline how much support had been provided by the EU and member states in response to the earthquake in Sichuan. He noted that the US government had given \$500 million and that there had been accusations in China that European companies were not doing enough. However there had been 20 flights to date carrying aid from the EU. The Commission had provided EUR 2 million and member states had come up with EUR 18 million. A further EUR 60 million had been provided so far by European companies. Mr Abou believed that the level of support from European companies would reach EUR 100 million.

The ambassador noted that the government's stance on the issue of Tibet was supported by an overwhelming majority of the population. The demonstrations in China in support of the Olympics had been largely spontaneous and people viewed the calls for a boycott as an attack on China and not as support for Tibet. The Chinese people were determined to enjoy what they viewed as their festival and were unhappy at any attempts from outside to disrupt it.

Many people were content with economic progress and a GDP growth rate of around 10%. It remained to be seen how they would react if the rate were to drop below this level. There were, nevertheless, concerns about environmental degradation and anger at corruption among officials.

The EU-China Law School was one clear area of common ground between the EU and Beijing as the Chinese authorities were particularly keen on having a strong and effective police force and they also saw the benefits of a sound legal system for a range of areas such as property rights. The Chinese International Business School already served as a successful model for the Law School.

Meeting with Mr Zha PEIXIN, Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, 11th NPC

The meeting provided the first opportunity for Mr Sterckx to meet with his new Co-Chair, Mr Zha Peixin, Vice Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, who taken up the post in March 2008 on the formation of the new NPC. Mr Zha began by underlining the importance of the relationship between the European Parliament and the National People's Congress (NPC).

The new co-chair then gave details of the earthquake in Sichuan province, noting that it had measured eight on the Richter Scale and had affected 30 million people, or a population the size of Canada. At present it had led to 62,000 deaths and 150,000 injured. 110,000 soldiers of the National People's Army had been sent to the region and the whole nation was mobilised in the effort to assist the victims. The first priority was to reach the injured and to provide assistance to them. A particular danger was created by the "quake lakes" that had been created by the earthquake. Many countries had sent assistance and Mr Zha thanked the European Parliament for its expressions of sympathy. He recognised that the buildings to be constructed in the region would have to be better designed and some companies would need to relocate away from earthquake zones.

Mr Sterckx thanked Mr Zha for his welcome and also underlined the importance of a dialogue between the European Parliament and the NPC. He stressed that the things in common to the two sides were greater than the differences and that it was important to have a frank and open discussion in order to explore where there were problems. He recognised that the European Parliament might adopt resolutions that were difficult for the Chinese authorities to accept. He underlined that these resolutions concerned a large number of countries and that there were serious internal debates within the Parliament about its position on China. He emphasised that private and public bodies in the EU were providing a total of EUR100 million of assistance in response to the Sichuan earthquake. This aid had been more effective because the Chinese had been very specific about the type of assistance that they wanted.

Mr Zha broadly agreed with these sentiments and stressed that he wanted the European Parliament to play a positive role in the EU-China relationship. He believed that there was insufficient understanding within the EU about China, which was a vast and varied country that was undergoing huge changes. Each country had its own national reality and was formed by history. In a globalised world, with ever closer relations between states, it was impossible for any country to isolate itself and it was essential to cooperate. China needed to understand the world and the world needed to understand China.

Mr Sterckx noted that the EU was also undergoing significant transformation as the importance of individual member states declined. There were constant changes to European institutions in order to adapt to the evolving situation.

Mr Zha stressed that the establishment of peace in Europe was a great achievement of the EU. China was a very diverse country and it was always necessary to make choices between different regions. In the early years of the new economic policy introduced by Deng Xiaoping, the emphasis had been put on developing the coastal

regions, however there was now a strategy of boosting growth in the western parts. It was essential that the benefits of development should be shared among the whole population. Economic growth needed to be sustainable and a balance should be struck with social, political and cultural development. Mr Zha referred particularly to the need to promote incomes in agricultural regions and he reminded MEPs that the agrarian tax had been removed and that there had been increased state subsidies to farming areas. He noted too that in recent years some 200 million peasants had left rural areas to work in SMEs or in towns

In response to a question from Mr Dehaene, it was noted that there was a mechanism to transfer state revenues to less developed areas, broadly along the lines of the EU Structural Funds. Officials, including teachers, who worked in western regions, received their salaries from the central government. All children were obliged to follow a minimum of nine years of compulsory education, which was free in less developed areas. Nearly everyone had medical insurance, with state support provided for the poorest people. Mr Zha stressed that it was important to have reciprocity between regions and that the economic expansion of the eastern coastal regions had been underpinned in the past by the natural resources of the western regions. Discussions on these issues took place at different levels, including the NPC, the Chinese Communist Party and the government.

Mr Zha noted that Inner Mongolia had significant resources of coal and steel as well as dairy and woollen products. Desertification had been caused by excessive pastoral farming. There had been significant efforts to tackle the problem by a policy of afforestation, which had enjoyed significant success. Currently 18% of the region was forested and there was a target of 20%.

Following this meeting Mr Zha hosted a banquet for the MEPs. The delegation then took the flight to Hohhot, capital of the Autonomous region of Inner Mongolia.

Meeting with Mr Lei E'erdeni, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Inner-Mongolia People's Congress

On arrival in Inner Mongolia the delegation held an introductory meeting with Mr Lei E'erdeni, Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Inner Mongolia People's Congress.

Mr E'erdeni informed the MEPs that the region of Inner Mongolia had undergone a great economic advance in recent years, thanks to the exploitation of its natural resources, particularly the reserves of coal. As a result it exported over 50% of the electricity that it produced to other parts of China. Mr E'erdeni was one of many interlocutors to underline the importance of afforestation in order to prevent desertification and to stress the problems caused by a shortage of water in much of the region.

Following this brief introduction to the region Mr E'erdeni hosted a welcome banquet for the delegation.

Tuesday 27 May 2008

The delegation took the train from Hohhot to the city of Ordos. They travelled via Baotou, the largest city in Inner Mongolia, which has a population of 2.43 registered residents in 2006. Along the route the MEPs were struck by the extensive coal production and the importance of the railway for its transportation. There was also significant evidence of desertification and afforestation.

Ordos had undergone a rapid expansion because of the exploitation of coal. The population had stood at 10,000 in 1994 and was forecast to increase to between three and four million by 2020. At present the population of the Ordos district stood at around one million. The increase in population was due to migration both from Inner Mongolia and from other regions.

Farming programme in Dongsheng



The delegation visited a farming project in the vicinity of Ordos where there had been a substantial investment in the development of irrigation techniques and large scale agricultural production. The project involved the creation of huge fields, along the lines of the prairies of the Mid West of the USA, in a region where there had previously been a tradition of small fields. It was the largest of a number of similar projects in Inner Mongolia. Members commented that they had not previously seen such a large area in China, which had such a small labour force.

The machinery for irrigation had been imported from the USA and 228 wells had been dug. The main products were potatoes, maize and sunflower. It had been necessary to cut down 10,000 trees, which would be replaced. Production was by means of large businesses which employed local workers, cooperatives of farm

workers; or individual households. Subsistence farming had been the normal practice in the past.

The large scale production had resulted in a reduction of 60% in the requirement for water, 30% in the need for electricity and 80% fewer workers. Those who were obliged to leave the land were reported to be happy with this lifestyle change, particularly as they received compensation and could find employment elsewhere.

The delegation was briefed on the project by the local secretary of the Chinese Communist Party. They were informed that the deputy mayor of the district was in charge of the project but that local businesses were involved with the development of the programme. The state provided subsidies for the project, including the purchase of machinery. The project already had contracts to supply McDonalds and Wal-mart.

Following this visit the delegation returned to Ordos where they were hosted by Mrs Li Xiulan, the Deputy Director of the local people's congress.

Wednesday 28 May 2008

The delegation returned to Hohhot by bus, following a route that was roughly parallel to the railway line. Of particular note were the afforestation projects and the large scale production of aluminium near Baodou.

Visit of the Meng Niu Dairy

In the afternoon the members visited the China Mengniu ("Mongolian Cow") Dairy Company near Hohhot. The company manufactures and distributes dairy products in China and has its headquarters in Inner Mongolia. The company was founded in 1999 and its outputs include milk, yoghurt, ice cream and other dairy products. It is listed on the Hong Kong stock exchange and has 49 bases in China with 30,000 workers. It is the largest producer of UHT milk in the world and is the top producer of liquid milk and ice cream in China.

The site visited had 12,000 cows and covered 8,590 hectares, producing 2,000 tonnes of milk each day. The automatic milking techniques were extremely modern and included milking "robots" that operated for 24 hours a day. Forage grass was imported from twelve different countries.

Workers were rigorously supervised and an assessment system led to the swift dismissal of those who did not meet the standards required. There were a large number of inspirational slogans displayed around the premises, including the following: "Food is the first necessity of the people. Milk is the first option among food"; "Three glasses of milk mean health in the city and wealth on the farm"; "Doom stands behind pride. Evil stands behind arrogance".

There was substantial international involvement in the factory with many foreign workers (the delegation spoke to Danes and New Zealanders) and widespread use of imported machinery. Significant R&D took place, including research into the

production of dairy cattle embryos by IVF and the production of "super dairy cattle" that would produce between 15 and 25 tonnes per annum.

It was noted that an increasing number of Chinese were consuming dairy products and that the experience of eating such products at McDonalds appeared to be a significant factor in this development. At present the company was only producing for a domestic market, although an export drive was scheduled.

Thursday 29 May 2008

Meeting with the directors of various departments in the Inner-Mongolia Autonomous Region, chaired by Mr. Lei E'erdei Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Inner-Mongolia People's Congress



Mr Lei E'erdei opened the meeting and outlined the economic and social development of the Autonomous Region of Inner Mongolia since its creation on 1 May 1947. It was the third biggest province in China and had a large number of natural resources and a sparse population (20 people per square kilometre).

Mr Lei drew attention to the central government's Western Region Development Strategy, which had been introduced in 1999. This covered eleven provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities under the direct administration of the central government and included Inner Mongolia and Tibet. It covered 57% of China's land area and 23% of the population and included many untapped natural resources.

Inner Mongolia had enjoyed rapid economic development in recent years with an 18% increase in GDP between 2005 and 2006 and an increase in GDP per capita from

US\$1,986 to US\$2,500 in the same period. In the three months from January to March 2008 the annual rate of increase in GDP had stood at 18.3%.

There had been significant year on year increases in the production of coal, electricity, steel and aluminium. The coal industry was being developed in a sustainable way in order to prevent pollution. Clean coal was a priority and the mines were modern and on a large scale, which meant that they were less polluting. They were also safer than the older and smaller mines in other regions and there was no illegal exploitation of coal. Other sources of energy were being developed, notably solar energy, wind power and gas from manure. Inner Mongolia had 50% of the world production and 80% of Chinese production of the rare earth minerals. The resource had huge potential and was being rapidly developed. It could be used for a large number of modern technological devices such as superconductors, miniaturised magnets, electronic polishers, refining catalysts and hybrid car components.

Tourism was also being rapidly developed with most people coming from late June to early September. 29.08 million Chinese came to the region, most seeking to escape the high summer temperatures in other regions. There were around 1.49 million foreign tourists. The transport links between the eastern and western parts of the region were being improved with the construction of new roads and railway lines.

Almost all the inhabitants of the region were covered by electricity supplies and there was 100% compulsory education. Around 55% of enterprises were controlled by the state and 45% were private. State enterprises were concentrated in such areas as the production of energy, electricity, aluminium, steel and coal. An increasing number of European companies had a presence in the region, including Mercedes and other German firms.

The region had 7.04% of the total arable area of China and 22% of the total pastoral land. In the last year farmers had enjoyed a 9.3% increase in their incomes, which was four times the national average. The dairy sector, in particular, had experienced an increase of 42% and there had been a significant process of mechanisation of agriculture. There was a significant population shift from rural to urban areas as agriculture became more mechanised and less labour intensive. Unemployment stood at 3.5% and was not a significant problem

The authorities endeavoured to strike a balance between economic development and environmental protection, particularly by means of afforestation policies. The central and western parts of the Region had the most significant problems of water shortages and desertification. The authorities were well aware of the problem and were seeking to ensure that there was a sustainable exploitation of water resources

The MEPs were then briefed on the measures taken by the regional authorities to promote the economic, social and cultural development of the ethnic Mongolian and other minority populations and to promote national harmony. There was a Standing Committee for the Development of Ethnic Minorities which - as well as the ethnic Mongolians, was also responsible for the Manchu, Hui, Daur, Evenk, Korean and Russian populations. These groups were dispersed across the region and none of them were nomadic.

Great emphasis was placed on the role of education in the promotion of the Mongolian language. There were some 20 newspapers and 40 magazines, as well as TV and radio programmes in Mongolian.

Visit of the Inner-Mongolia Museum



The delegation visited the Inner Mongolia Museum which had been opened in 2007 to mark the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Autonomous Republic of Inner Mongolia. It replaced the previous museum that had been opened in 1957 to commemorate the tenth anniversary. A prominent place in the museum was enjoyed by Genghis Khan, "the Pride of Heaven" who "sped up the civilisation of Europe and Asia".

The delegation then returned to Beijing where they met again with H.E. Mr Serge Abou, Head of the European Commission Delegation to China, and debriefed him on the visit.

Friday 30 May 2008

Meeting with Mr Chen Fengxiang, Vice-Minister of the International Communication Department, Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party

Mr Chen Fengxiang was one of many speakers to express the sincere thanks of the Chinese people for the support of the international community in the aftermath of the earthquake in Sichuan. Mr Sterckx reiterated the condolences of the European Parliament and expressed the hope that the EU could provide expert help to deal with the results of the disaster.

Mr Sterckx also noted that he was very impressed by the economic progress that he had seen in Inner Mongolia but asked how environmentally sustainable it was, particularly in view of the concern over water supplies and the extensive use of coal. He was also struck by how integrated and vibrant the ethnically diverse society appeared to be.

Mr Chen, who came originally from Inner Mongolia, noted that the region still lagged behind much of China in economic and social development and underlined the central government's aim to achieve balance between the regions. He stressed that the economy of Inner Mongolia had been largely based on agriculture and animal husbandry but that industry was becoming increasingly important, especially in the "Golden Triangle" of Hohhot, Baotou and Ordos. He underlined the problems of desertification in the region with a very low rainfall of 200 mm per annum, compared with over 1000mm per annum in Europe. Although wind power and solar power had been developed, there was still a long way to go and living standards in rural areas were very low.

Mr Chen outlined the extensive cultural freedoms enjoyed by the ethnic Mongolians and the large number of marriages between Mongolians and Han Chinese. Unlike Tibet, he said, there was little or no interference in the region by external forces and the inhabitants wanted stability. He could not understand why so many people in the EU made "irresponsible" comments about the situation in Tibet, which exacerbated the situation.

Mr Sterckx emphasised that the European Parliament was a sovereign body and that there had been a clear majority in favour of its recent resolution on Tibet. In his personal view a boycott of the opening ceremony of the Olympic Games would not help anyone. Nevertheless the Dalai Lama was viewed with sympathy in the EU. It was important to look for a way out of the controversy and he was happy that there were reports of new contacts between the Beijing authorities and the representatives of the Dalai Lama.

Mr Chen referred to the positive development of the relationship between China and Russia. At present the volume of trade between the two countries stood at only \$48 billion, which was relatively modest and needed to be increased. He was pleased with the results of the visit that week by the new Russian president, Dmitry Medvedev, and looked forward to the growth of a strategic partnership based on mutual trust. Mr Sterckx acknowledged that there were Russian concerns about the eastward expansion

of the EU, while in the EU there were significant concerns about over-dependency on Russia's energy resources.

Meeting with Mr Wu Shimin, Vice-Chairman of the State Ethnic Affairs Committee

Mr Wu outlined his role and that of his department, which fell within the Prime Minister's area of competence. It had responsibility for supervising government policy for ethnic groups and to ensure equality between them at all levels. The department had no budget of its own and generally did not deal with economic issues - this area was dealt with by the Bank of Development of China which funded development projects.

Mr Wu noted that there were 55 ethnic minorities or "nationalities" in China, making up some 10% of the population. Even minority groups with only 2,000 people enjoyed representation in the National People's Congress. All ethnic minorities had the right to use their own languages when dealing with officialdom. There were around 30 publishing houses - many of which were state subsidised - producing works in ethnic minority languages. There were also a significant number of radio and TV programmes broadcast in minority languages. Many Han Chinese also learned the languages of the region where they were living.

In the view of Mr Wu there had been much misreporting by the foreign media of the situation in Tibet. The central government had made many efforts to promote the rights of the Tibetan minority. He did not accept that there was any justification for violence in Tibet, even if there might be some economic difficulties for the indigenous population. Mr Wu drew parallels with the rioting by Afro-Americans in Los Angeles who were also suffering some economic hardships and stressed that the American government had taken action against the rioters. There was also a faction that was seeking independence for Tibet and this position was unacceptable.

The door was open to talks with the Dalai Lama but he had to give up his calls for an independent Tibet. Mr Wu considered that the Dalai Lama had done much to divide the country and could not understand why people in the west were so interested in the question. Mr Sterckx stressed that there were fundamental differences between the EU and China in their perceptions of the Dalai Lama. Within the EU the Dalai Lama was viewed as a charismatic person who embodied universal values of respect for human rights and who was not calling for independence for Tibet. He had also not called for a boycott of the Olympic Games. It was stretching credulity to believe that he had organised the riots in Lhasa.

Mr Wu emphasised that his government supported human rights but argued that this should start with the right to food and housing. The EU ought not to raise human rights as a means of putting pressure on China and it needed to allow the Chinese time to make progress in this area. Returning to the question of Tibet, he argued that the problem there had not existed before China had been invaded by foreigners. The Dalai Lama had been at the head of a feudal system where the majority of the population were oppressed.

In conclusion Mr Wu stressed that China had shown its openness to the world in the aftermath of the Sichuan earthquake. He hoped that the differences with the EU did not harm the very important relationship between the two sides.

Dinner with Mr Wang Yin Fang, Former Co-Chair of the EU-China IPM

The visit concluded with a dinner between Mr Sterckx, Mr Ddehaene and the former co-Chair of the EU-China IPM, Mr Wang Yin Fang.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Bureau visit
China/Beijing

24 -30 May 2008

Participants List

| MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT | |
|---|--|
| Mr Dirk STERCKX , Chair ALDE, Belgium | Committee Transport and Tourism |
| Mr Jean-Luc DEHAENE, First Vice-Chair EPP-ED, Belgium | Committee on Constitutional Affairs |
| Mr Henri Weber, PES, France | Committee on Culture and Education |

EPP-ED Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and Euro
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PES Group of the Party of European Socialists
ALDE Group of the Alliance of Democrats and Liberals of Europe

Secretariat, Interparliamentary Delegations DG External
Policies

Mr Tim BODEN

Administrator

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Secretariat, Interparliamentary Delegations DG External Policies

Mr Tim BODEN

Administrator

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE'S
REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Bureau visit to Beijing and Inner Mongolia

25 -30 May 2008

FINAL
PROGRAMME

Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 May 2008

Individual arrival of Members and staff (travel details attached)

WELCOME AT VIP LOUNGE AND TRANSFER TO

Grand Hotel Beijing
No. 35 East Chang An Avenue
Beijing 100006
(北京贵宾楼)

Sunday 25 May 2008

09.00 EP/NPC Secretariat Meeting

15.00 Meeting with H.E. Mr Pierre BERNARD, Belgian Ambassador
(Mr STERCKX and Mr DEHAENE only)
Venue : Grand Hotel Beijing

- 17.30 DEPARTURE FROM HOTEL FOR
- 18.00 Banquet hosted by *Mr Qi XUCHUN*, Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, 11th NPC
Venue: Feng Ze Yuan Restaurant
- 19.30 Return to Grand Hotel

Monday 26 May 2008

- 09.30 Meeting with H.E. Mr Serge ABOU, Head of the European Commission Delegation to China
Venue : Grand Hotel
- 10.15 DEPARTURE FROM HOTEL FOR
- 10.30 Meeting with *Mr Zha PEIXIN*, Vice-Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, 11th NPC
Venue : People's Great Hall
- 11.30 Welcome banquet hosted by *Mr Zha PEIXIN*
Venue : People's Great Hall
- 12.30 DEPARTURE FROM THE PEOPLE'S GREAT HALL TO THE HOTEL
- 13.20 DEPARTURE FOR BEIJING AIRPORT
- 14.15 ARRIVAL AT BEIJING AIRPORT
- 15.15 Leave Beijing for Hohhot on flight CA 1104
- 16.20 Arrive in Hohhot (capital of the Inner-Mongolia Autonomous Region)
- 17.20 Arrival at
Inner-Mongolia Hotel
- 17.30 Meeting with *Mr. Lei-E'erdeni (雷·额尔德尼)*, Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Inner-Mongolia People's Congress
- 18.00 Welcome banquet hosted by *Mr. Lei-E'erdeni*

Tuesday 27 May 2008

- 07.30 Breakfast in the hotel café
- 08.00 CHECK-OUT
- 08.20 DEPARTURE FOR HOHHOT TRAIN STATION
- 08.50 Take train A283 to the city of Ordos (N.B. Ordos is also known as E'erduosi)
- 13.00 Arrive in Ordos and check-in at *Holiday Inn Hotel*
- 13.30 Lunch in the hotel - own arrangements
- 14.30 Visit local farming programmes in Dongoheng
- 17.30 Return to hotel
- 18.30 Dinner

Wednesday 28 May 2008

- 07.30 Breakfast
- 08.00 CHECK-OUT
- ... Return to Hohhot by bus
- 12.00 Arrive in Hohhot and stay at *Inner-Mongolia Hotel*
- 14.00 Visit of the Meng Niu Dairy
- 17.30 Return to hotel

Thursday 29 May 2008

- 07.30 Breakfast
- 08.10 DEPARTURE FROM HOTEL BY BUS FOR
- 09.00 Meeting with the directors of various departments in the Inner-Mongolia Autonomous Region, chaired by *Mr. LUO Xiaotian*,

(罗啸天), Vice-Chairman of the standing committee of the Inner-Mongolia People's Congress.

- 12.00 Lunch in the hotel
- 12.45 CHECK OUT
- 13.00 Visit of the Inner-Mongolia Museum
- 15.20 DEPARTURE FROM MUSEUM FOR HOHHOT AIRPORT
- 17.20 Leave Hohhot for Beijing on flight CA 1103
- 18.25 Arrive in Beijing
- 19.45 Meeting with H.E. Mr Serge Abou, Head of the European Commission Delegation to China

Friday 30 May 2008

- 08.15 DEPARTURE FROM HOTEL FOR
- 09.00 Meeting with *Mr Chen Fengxiang*, (陈凤翔), Vice-Minister of the International Communication Department, Central Committee of the Chinese Communist Party
Venue : International Communication Department
- 10.00 DEPARTURE FOR
- 10.30 Meeting with *Mr Wu Shimin* (吴仕民), Vice-Chairman of the State Ethnic Affairs Committee
- 11.30 Return to the hotel
Afternoon meeting programme cancelled
- 17.15 Return to the hotel
- 18.30 Dinner with Mr Wang Yin Fang, Former Co-Chair of the EU-China IPM
