

EUROPA-PARLAMENTET  
EUROPÄISCHES PARLAMENT  
ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟ ΚΟΙΝΟΒΟΥΛΙΟ  
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

PARLAMENTO EUROPEO  
PARLEMENT EUROPEEN  
PARLAMENTO EUROPEO

EUROPEES PARLEMENT  
PARLAMENTO EUROPEU  
EUROOPAN PARLAMENTTI  
EUROPAPARLAMENTET



## **DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

### **24<sup>th</sup> EP/NPC Interparliamentary Meeting**

**Saturday 23 June 2007 - Friday 30 June 2007  
Beijing and Tibet**

### **SUMMARY REPORT**

#### **Introduction**

The delegation was headed by Mr Dirk Sterckx (ALDE, Belgium) and was made up of 22 members, three of whom did not travel to Tibet. The visit to Tibet was the first by the European Parliament's delegation for relations with China since 2002 and one of the aims was to observe the changes since that date. Efforts were made to follow some elements of the 2002 programme, notably the EU funded project to promote rural development in Panam, near Shigatse.

The visit was closely managed by the Chinese hosts who provided excellent technical support and a large accompanying entourage throughout the days in Tibet. In advance of the visit a briefing session was held with NGOs on the situation in Tibet and members received information from a number of organisations involved in issues related to Tibet and China in general.

Key elements to emerge from the visit to Tibet were as follows:

- The Chinese authorities appeared to be reluctant to commit themselves to continue the talks that had started in 2002 with the representatives of the Dalai Lama. (A resumption of these talks has been a regular theme of European Parliament plenary resolutions on China). They were sceptical about the Dalai Lama's statements that he was prepared to accept that Tibet was part of China and suspected that he was still seeking independence for a "Greater Tibet".
- Members of the delegation nevertheless continued to raise this issue at all possible occasions and stressed the need to reach a settlement that is compatible with Chinese sovereignty and respects the Tibetan population. They argued that the only way to attain this goal is by an open dialogue that is not subject to any preconditions. Examples of regions in Europe that enjoyed

considerable autonomy were also put forward by MEPs as possible models for Tibet.

- Reference was made by the Chinese authorities on a number of occasions to the "reunification of Tibet with the Motherland" that took place in 1951 and how Tibet had been an inalienable part of China since the Yuan dynasty in the 13th century.
- The local authorities made comparisons between the feudalistic state governed by the Dalai Lama and the economic progress achieved by Tibet in recent years. They pointed to the significant economic growth (currently 12% per annum). They stressed that this economic development was not taking place at the expense of the fragile ecology of Tibet and that environmental considerations were factored into all projects such as the development of hydropower or the construction of the railway from Golmud to Lhasa.
- The authorities stressed that the Tibetan Autonomous Region (TAR) enjoyed a large degree of self government with full freedom of religion and that the position of the Tibetan language was secured. In addition, ethnic Tibetans were present at all levels of the administration. Furthermore literacy rates had soared since 1951 and the rate infant mortality had been significantly reduced.

After the visit to Tibet the delegation travelled to Beijing where it held a series of meetings with representatives of the Chinese government and the Communist Party. It also held two half days of meetings with its counterparts from the National People's Congress.

- Discussions on the environment and global warming indicated much common ground. The Chinese side accepted the dangers and outlined the measures that they were taking, notably those set out in the Climate Change Action Plan. The EU expressed concern about the heavy reliance of China on coal-fired stations, albeit ones that were increasingly using "clean coal" technologies. Discussion also centred on the need to ensure security of energy supply, as well as the importance of developing renewable energy such as wind power, solar power and hydro power. The need for adequate public transport in order to ensure mobility in cities was also underlined.
- The Chinese noted the findings that China had recently overtaken the USA as the largest emitter of greenhouse gases. However they pointed out that the problem of global warming was largely a result of western industry and that China's per capita emissions were less than a quarter of those the USA and less than half those of the EU. The EU side accepted these arguments but stressed the need for all countries to cooperate in order to tackle the problem of global warming.
- The Chinese recognised concerns about labour conditions and health and safety at work issues, as well as the number of people living below the poverty level in China. They gave a summary of work underway to ensure that social development kept pace with economic development. The need to address the

divides in China between rural and urban areas and between the coastal and inland regions was also fully recognised.

- Concern was expressed by MEPs about the weak position of Intellectual Property Rights and the prevalence of intellectual piracy. The Chinese side agreed to respond to this and other issues more fully at the subsequent meeting.
- The Chinese members recognised the large trade imbalance and the huge exchange reserves in the country. They detailed measures being taken to deal with this issue, including adjustments to the taxation levels. They also promised to respond more fully at the next meeting to questions on issue of product safety.
- There was broad agreement that the EU and China needed to work together to promote security across the world and that there was no fundamental source of conflict between the two sides. Unanimous support was given to the negotiations underway on a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement.
- The key role of China in the search for a settlement of the situation in Darfur was underlined and the MEPs gave a general welcome to recent developments in the region and the agreement on the sending of a multinational force. The NPC members emphasised that Beijing was playing a positive role in Africa and was boosting the development of that continent by their policy of economic engagement.
- The European Parliament side also looked to China to play a positive role in responding to the steps taken by Iran and North Korea towards developing a nuclear capacity. The Chinese representatives stressed that they opposed the proliferation of nuclear weapons but that they saw negotiations rather than economic sanctions as the way forward.
- On the issue of Taiwan the Chinese side expressed their implacable opposition to any steps taken by Taipei towards a unilateral declaration of independence and they looked to the European Union to make clear to the Taiwanese that it was fully behind the "one China" policy.
- The European Parliament delegation raised the issues of freedom of expression and the media. The Chinese side contended that the constitution enshrined these rights, however people were also required to be "patriotic" and not act in opposition to the government. The Falun Gong organisation was singled out in this respect and it was agreed that this would be a specific agenda item for the next meeting.
- The MEPs emphasised the EU's opposition to capital punishment in all parts of the world. In response they were told that a debate was currently underway in China on the subject but that the time was not right for abolition and that public opinion strongly supported the death penalty for heinous crimes such as murder and arson. Nevertheless authorisation for the carrying out of executions now needed to be obtained from the central government.

- General concern was expressed about trafficking in human beings and the instances of child labour other examples of exploitation of workers. The MEPs were informed of measures being taken to tackle this problem. They were also updated on steps taken to mitigate the difficulties caused by the one child policy.
- A list of individual human rights cases was passed to the Chinese side for further follow-up.
- Finally, in a bilateral meeting discussions took place on the effects of the previous week's vote in the European Parliament that will lead to a ban on the import into the EU of cat and dog furs. The MEPs were not satisfied with the responses of the Chinese interlocutors on this issue as the latter did not appear to be accepting the joint responsibility for tackling the problem.

### **Report on the programme**

#### **Saturday 23 June 2007**

##### **Arrivals in Lhasa.**

Members were accompanied throughout their time in Tibet by an escort of police cars, other cars with officials and an ambulance. They were informed that this was for their security.

##### **Visit of a Housing Project for low-income residents and peasants**

On the route from the airport the delegation briefly visited a housing project that had been constructed to accommodate low income families and peasants.

#### **Sunday 24 June 2007**

##### **Visit of the Potala Palace**

There has been a palace on the site since the 7th century and the current building dates mainly from the 17th century. It was the winter palace of the Dalai Lama when he headed the government of Tibet and is now a museum run by the Chinese tourist authorities that attracts huge numbers of (mainly Han Chinese) tourists.

##### **Visit of Tibet Medicine Hospital**

The members visited the Tibet Medicine Hospital and were informed about the uniquely Tibetan medical practices that were used in the institution. This Tibetan system is a synthesis of Chinese and other medical practices, such as Indian and Arab medicines. The hospital had originally been built 90 years ago and now covered 60,000 square metres and had 700 medical staff.

### **Visit of the Tibet Museum**

The Museum was completed in 2000 in the Tibetan architectural style. Members briefly visited the sections on ethnography, history and religion and noted a photograph of the 14th Dalai Lama that was taken when he was a child, (photos of the Dalai Lama on public display are extremely rare in Tibet). Items included the 17 point agreement signed in 1951 marking China's takeover of Tibet and the Golden Urn used by the Chinese to select their choice for the position of 11th Panchen Lama in 1995, (see below, section on Tashi Lhunpo monastery).

### **Visit of the Lhasa Railway Station**

The delegation visited the Lhasa railway station and was informed that the building had been designed to conform to traditional Tibetan architecture (most new buildings in Lhasa are constructed in the standard Chinese architectural style). Members toured the station, noting the large meeting /VIP rooms and also the waiting room set aside for the military.

The Lhasa-Golmud railway line was completed in October 2005 and passenger services started in 2006. The cost of the project was US\$4.1 billion and construction took a mere four years. The distance is 1,140km and the train takes half the time of the bus. The 4,000km journey from Beijing can be completed in 48 hours. It is anticipated that 6,000 passengers would be using the railway station every day. Plans exist to extend the railway westwards to Shigatse.

Throughout the delegation visit there was recurring discussion of the impact of the railway line on Tibet and the effect that it would have on the region's previously isolated position. The railway has provoked considerable controversy, with claims that it will have a seriously detrimental effect on Tibet's fragile eco-system and rare wildlife. In addition there are fears that it will lead to mass immigration to Tibet by Han Chinese workers and lead to expansion of the extractive industries. All these charges were rejected by the authorities in their discussions with the delegation.

### **Visit of Jokhang Temple Monastery and Barkhor Street**

The Jokhang is Tibet's most sacred temple and was started in the 7th century, originally to house a Buddha image that had been brought from Nepal. During the Cultural Revolution it was used as a military barracks and it was subsequently a hotel for Chinese officials.

Following this visit the delegation followed the paths of the pilgrims who make a clockwise circuit of the Jokhang along the Barkhor. The nearby Barkhor Square has been the scene of anti-government protests in the past.

### **Meeting with Mr Thubdan Tsewang Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the People's Congress of the Tibetan Autonomous region (TAR)**

Mr Tsewang welcomed the delegation and gave an outline of cooperation between the Tibetan Autonomous Republic (TAR) and the EU. He highlighted the great improvement in the lives of the Tibetan people since the "reunification with the Motherland", noting that the regional GDP was growing at 12% per annum, which was above the Chinese average of 10%. He stated that Y2.8 billion had been invested in 2006 to improve the living conditions for 260,000 people and to construct 40,000 houses, including those in the housing project which the delegation had visited the previous day.

The Vice Chairman underlined that full freedom of worship was guaranteed under the Constitution and that there were 1,700 places of worship and 4,600 monks in Tibet. As an autonomous region the TAR had wide ranging rights to manage its own affairs.

Mr Sterckx thanked Mr Tsewang and asked about dialogue with the Dalai Lama. He was informed that the authorities in Tibet would welcome the return of the Dalai Lama if he were to give up his position of advocating independence. The Chinese government policy on the matter of Tibet was well known and would not change. Mr Tsewang stressed that the issue of Tibet should not be a barrier to the development of relations between China and the EU.

### **Monday 25 June 2007**

#### **Discussions with TAR government departments, at the Tibetan People's Assembly Hall.**

The meeting was opened by Mr Luosang Dunzha who gave an extensive factual introduction to the Tibetan Autonomous region (TAR). He stressed that Tibet had been an inalienable part of China since the Yuan dynasty and that China was a unified country made up of different ethnic groups. 91.8% of the population in the TAR were ethnic Tibetan. He outlined the "democratic reform and transition to socialism" that had enabled Tibet to move from "serfdom to feudalism" and from "darkness to light" since its "peaceful liberation" in 1951.

Mr Hoppenstedt noted the 12% annual GDP growth in the TAR compared to the Chinese average of 10% and that 47% of the water flowing into Asia came from the Tibetan plateau. He asked what replenished the rivers and whether the melting of glaciers was monitored in Tibet. He was informed that the authorities used remote sensor satellites and other artificial methods to monitor the melting of glaciers. There were 46 fixed monitoring stations and many temporary monitoring stations and great emphasis was laid on the issue of melting glaciers. Finally it was noted that the water quality in the rivers and lakes was extremely high and that three on a scale of five were "drinkable".

In response to a question from Mr Stevenson on hydro-power projects, the representatives of the TAR stated that these projects were mainly located on the branches of the main rivers. A network of over 450 hydro stations had been built producing 5 MGW of clean electricity. Thorough environmental assessments took place and the water quality of Tibet's rivers had been found to be good. Mr Turmes was told that there were no plans for large scale development of hydro stations on the

mainstreams of rivers. Discussions were ongoing with neighbouring states on how to respond jointly to issues of water management and conservation.

Mrs Truepel was informed that the railway to Lhasa would promote the social and economic development of Tibet, particularly in sectors such as tourism. It appeared that demand for tickets was greater than the supply and it was extremely useful to have contacts with railway officials to be able to make the journey(!) The railway could also be used for transporting construction material for the large scale hydro-power stations. New routes were being envisaged such as Lhasa to Shanghai, as well as Shigatse. The special waiting rooms for soldiers were standard in China and fell into the same category as those for the handicapped. Although the importance of national defence was not ignored, the construction of the railway was not targeted at any neighbouring country.

Responding to Mrs Roure, the delegation was told that the one child policy was not applied to ethnic Tibetans, although it did apply to Han Chinese living in the TAR. Measures were being taken to reduce the infant mortality rate, in particular by encouraging women to give birth in hospitals. The Tibetan birth rate was 1.3%, against a national average of 0.8%. Mrs Gebhardt was told that between 1951 and 2005 the death rate from birth had dropped from 5% to 0.3%. Child mortality rates per 100,000 children had dropped from 430 to 27.03 in the same period. Mrs Doyle was then informed that there were no restrictions on the number of children that mixed Han Chinese-Tibetan couples could have.

In response to a question from Mr Hughes the delegation was informed that the proportion of ethnic Tibetans in government offices was very high. At local county level there were virtually no Han Chinese and at county level ethnic Tibetans made up over 80% of the total. In addition 71% of the deputies in the TAR were Tibetan.

The speakers sought to reassure Mr Roucek that the authorities placed a great emphasis on preserving cultural traditions in Tibet and that much funding had been directed to this purpose. They pointed in particular to the restoration of the Potala Palace and the creation of the necessary infrastructure to promote the protection of Tibet's cultural heritage.

Mr Golik was informed that there were no plans to create a Free Trade Area in Tibet, although efforts would be made to develop industries that reflected the region's unique strength. Examples of such industries included the development of the processing of yak milk and the further expansion of the tourism industry. On this, and other occasions in the discussion, stress was laid on promoting harmony between humanity and nature.

Mr Garcia Margallo asked about outward migration from Tibet and was told that Tibetans generally did not want to leave their homes. The population had increased from 1.1 million at the time of the Dalai Lama's rule to the current level of 2.81 million. In response to a question from Mr Kuc on trade, the delegation was informed that foreign commerce made up around 8% of the GDP of Tibet and that there was growing border trade with India, Bhutan and Nepal. Exports included agricultural products such as garlic and Tibetan medicines.

Following this meeting the delegation travelled to Shigatse, the second largest city in Tibet that lies some 250 kilometres from Lhasa.

### **Visit of Jade Processing Factory and Darewa Qiang Brewery on the way to Shigatse.**

The factory and brewery are located roughly half way between Lhasa and Shigatse and are therefore ideally placed for stopovers by the many tourist groups that travel between the two largest urban centres of Tibet.

### **Meeting with Mr. Kelsang Tsering, Director of the Working Committee of the People's Congress of Shigatse Prefecture**

Mr Kelsang Tsering, Director of the Working Committee of the People's Congress of the Shigatse Prefecture, welcomed the delegation and gave an outline of the political and economic situation of the Prefecture. In particular he welcomed the EU involvement in agricultural development, noting that the Panam Integrated Rural Development project had received an EC grant of EUR 7.6 million.

The Shigatse prefecture had a population of 670,000, of whom 95% were ethnic Tibetan and the remainder came from 15 other ethnic groups. 90% of officials in the administration were ethnic Tibetan and 40% of them were women. Freedom of religion was guaranteed and there were 4,000 monks in 300 religious locations. He stressed that harmony prevailed between believers and non-believers.

He stated that there had been substantial social improvements with the introduction of electricity and running water to villages. In addition 12,000 people now had access to the telephone. 12,000 herdsmen were being moved into new housing and in the near future 80% of the total would be covered. These economic improvements would accelerate with the construction of a railway from Lhasa to Shigatse.

The authorities ensured that environmental considerations were taken into account in the development of the prefecture and stress was laid on eco-vegetation and diversity. In particular great use was made of solar energy and each farmer was provided with solar energy panels.

Other key priorities were education and health. There were 247 schools in the prefecture with 114,000 pupils, an enrolment of 97% of children of school age. 1,600 medical staff worked in 244 medical establishments. Particular attention was paid to sports and there was great pride that the Olympic torch would pass through Shigatse in 2008.

### **Tuesday 26 June 2007**

### **Visit of Tashi Lhunpo Monasteries**



The Tashi Lhunpo Monastery is the seat of the Panchen Lama. Considerable controversy surrounds this issue as the 11th Panchen Lama is Tibet's second highest incarnate. In 1995 the Dalai Lama declared a six year old boy to be the true Panchen Lama (the previous incumbent having died in 1989). However the Chinese authorities took the boy into custody and he has not been seen in public since. Shortly afterwards, another six year old boy was selected by the Chinese as the 11th Panchen, however he is apparently rarely seen in Shigatse.

**Panam project (EU financed). Visit Sino-European Comprehensive Agricultural Development Project including a school and, safe water project and ox breeding centre**

The Panam Integrated Rural Development project received an EU grant of EUR7.6 million and a Chinese contribution of EUR16.45 million. The project lasted from 2001 to 2005 and sought to provide a sustainable and replicable model for improving the quality of human development in Panam count. It included the introduction of new crops, breeds, technologies and infrastructure on a pilot basis. The project had also been visited during the previous visit by the delegation in 2002.

Members first visited a village which had been provided with a gravity-piped water supply - the "safe water project". In the village they visited a home and noted the use of solar panels for heating water.

They then visited a school, which had 2,450 pupils, including a high proportion of boarders and where the EU funded the salaries of the teachers. The pupils of both sexes were undertaking vocational courses in addition to the regular curriculum. The courses included carpentry, motorcycle mechanics and sewing.

Finally the delegation briefly visited an ox-breeding project. There was insufficient time to visit the new hospital that in 2004 had replaced the hospital visited on the previous delegation in 2002. At all projects the EU flag was prominently displayed to indicate the source of funding.

**Visit of Bianxiong School for blind children**

The delegation visited the Shigatse centre of the Bianxiong School for blind children. This organisation was founded by a German-Dutch couple (Sabriye Tenberken and Paul Kronenberg) in 1998 and seeks to integrate blind children into society through education and vocational training. The Shigatse buildings were opened in 2003.

Ms Tenberken created a Tibetan language Braille system and books are being published to meet the needs of the children. The first Braille schoolbooks in Tibetan were produced in 2001.

The proportion of blind people in Tibet is higher than the world average (30,000 out of a population of 2.67 million according to the figures provided by the school), a situation that has been aggravated by climatic and hygienic factors such as dust, wind, soot from home fires and a high level of UV light.

The children ranged in age from seven to 15 years old. Members observed the activities being taught, including weaving and cooking. Another activity was the making of cheese by the residents.

The delegation then returned to Lhasa.

### **Wednesday 27 June 2007**

#### **Departure to Chengdu-Beijing (flight delayed)**

The programme of events that had been anticipated on the members' arrival at Beijing (press point and briefing with the Head of the Commission Delegation) had to be cancelled because of the lengthy delay to the flight to Beijing. The delegation arrived at the hotel shortly before midnight.

### **Thursday 28 June**

#### **24th EU-China IPM, first working session co-chaired by Mr Wang Yingfan and Mr Sterckx (Anhui hall)**

Mr Wang made an opening statement welcoming the European Parliament delegation. He was followed by Mr Sterckx who thanked the Chinese hosts for the excellent arrangements of the visit to Tibet.

#### **Environment and energy**

Mr Stevenson noted the major difficulties surrounding security of energy supply and climate change. He pointed to the heavy dependence of some member states in particular on Russian supplies of energy and their deep vulnerability to pressure from Moscow. Such a situation of overdependence on one supplier was not sustainable, he stressed. In view of this, and the pressures caused by climate change, it was necessary to promote energy efficiency and diversify energy supplies from producers such as Russia and the unstable Middle East. Renewable energy sources included on and off shore wind power and he referred to a project for a super grid of giant offshore turbines. While recognising the controversy about the issue, Mr Stevenson argued the need for using nuclear power as well.

He noted that in the previous week it had been announced that China had become the largest CO<sub>2</sub> emitter in the world and that this could push the world over the 2% danger threshold. He recognised nonetheless that China's emissions only stood at four tonnes per capita, compared to ten in the EU and 19 in the USA. He could therefore understand that the Chinese might be aggrieved at being preached to by the West. However he underlined that this was a problem that impacted on the whole world and that it was essential to work together. While welcoming the Chinese Climate Change Action Plan, Mr Stevenson argued that this was still not enough and he was concerned that China was continuing to open new coal fired power stations.

Mr Turmes stressed that the world was facing a crisis and that the system of consumption that had been enjoyed to date in industrialised countries was only sustainable for a global middle class of one billion. He noted that last March the EU

leaders had agreed to cut carbon dioxide emissions from 1990 levels by the year 2020 and to raise the use of renewable fuels to 20%. It was essential to "move from talk to action" and to develop innovations such as energy efficient houses and cars. He noted that only 1% to 2% of new buildings were energy efficient and these structures had to be brought out of this "niche market". It was also important to develop an infrastructure that promoted mobility. He was concerned that, in China, 80% of transport investment was in roads and only 20% on railways. Mr Turmes also stressed the need for the EU and China to cooperate more in these fields.

Mr Xu Jiamnin stressed that energy saving was a major concern to Beijing and that the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress was examining the issue. He outlined China's steps set out in the recent Climate Change Action Plan and stressed that there was a "fine Chinese tradition" of self reliance and that the country would become self reliant in energy as it had done in food. He noted nonetheless that many countries were investing in China and setting up factories - this had an impact on the growth of emissions.

Coal would be developed in an "orderly manner" with the use of clean coal technology. Energy efficiency was being introduced in some power plants. Oil and gas reserves were being developed and, in particular, a very large oil field had been found in north east China with up to 100 years worth of resources. There were also large liquefied gas fields in the South China Sea. Solar energy and wind energy were being increasingly used and China was exporting clean energy products. Hydro-power was also very important and many regions of China depended on small hydro-power plants.

Mr Hoppenstedt noted that the car industry contributed 12% to total emissions. In China there had been a 170% growth in car ownership since 2002 and this was likely to reach the level of the USA by 2031. In view of the size of the population of China, he stressed, a major problem was developing.

Mrs Lichtenberger noted the high proportion of the population of the EU that lived in an urban environment. The European Commission was drafting a Green Paper on Urban Transport that would be adopted in September 2007. Solutions to the problem of urban mobility needed to be found at all levels and a "push and pull" strategy was needed: i.e. it was not only necessary to ask people to use public transport, attempts should also be made to enforce it by means such as reducing parking spaces, increasing pedestrian areas and making public transport more attractive. She believed that there should be a dialogue with China on the matter. Mrs Lichtenberger also drew attention to the importance of safeguarding sources of clean water and looked to joint projects in this field so that glaciers and highlands might be protected.

Mr Wang Weicheng highlighted the expansion of the metro system in Beijing and argued that the citizens were becoming more positive about public transport and reducing energy consumption. Subsidies existed to encourage people to replace their car engines and use natural gas. He noted that many people in Beijing continued to use bicycles. Mr Wang was very keen to enhance cooperation between the EU and China in this whole area.

Mrs Hall noted that she had been the ALDE shadow rapporteur on the report on the Commission's Green Paper on Energy Efficiency. She stressed that the main problem with action plans was implementation rather than setting the targets. She underlined the need for technical and political cooperation between China and the EU and suggested that one possibility might be exchanges between municipalities. Ideas that should be developed included "smart meters" to measure the use of energy by individual houses and "co-generation" whereby the by products of coal fired power stations such as water from the steam were also used.

Mrs Sarbu warned of problems that had been caused by gold mining at the Baia Mare mine in Romania which had led to toxic spills of cyanide. She warned the Chinese of allowing a similar disaster to strike on the Tibetan plateau.

Mr Wang Yingfang also noted that, although China had a large automobile industry, a large number of people still used bicycles. Strong measures, such as the removal of a fleet of polluting taxis, had already been taken. His own car dated from the 1980s and had to be inspected twice a year. It was essential to develop the metro so that a station was within ten minutes walking distance of everyone's home. A metro ticket cost Y0.5 in contrast to the \$3 to \$5 that it would cost to travel a similar distance by taxi.

Mr Xu Jiamin pointed out the heavy responsibility that was borne by western industrialised countries for global warming, noting that between 1950 and 2000 they had been responsible for 70% of the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) had recognised the differences of economic growth and had stressed that developed countries should honour their commitments and take concrete steps. At the same time the rights of developing countries to promote their economic growth should be respected.

Rapid growth had taken place in China but it was uneven both socially and geographically. There was also a big difference between the country and the town and many lived under the poverty level. EU-China cooperation should be results orientated and he regretted that media coverage in the West on China was largely negative.

Mr Xu argued that many laws had been introduced to promote renewable resources and he believed that climate change would be tackled within the framework of sustainable development. He was not convinced that China had overtaken the USA in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions but recognised that there was an international consensus that the problem needed to be tackled.

Mrs Doyle agreed that the west had a responsibility for creating climate change but she believed that the whole world now had to act together to resolve it. She recognised that China needed to develop and was keen to learn more about its plans post 2012. She warned that inaction on the matter was not an option for any country.

Mr Turmes mentioned the European Parliament Special Committee on Climate Change, which was planning to visit Beijing later in the year. Mr Stevenson reminded the meeting that 75% of China's energy came from coal and that clean coal technology only reduced CO<sub>2</sub> by about 20%. Mr Roucek asked about the development of nuclear energy and also hydro power in Tibet.

Mr Xu emphasised again the need to work together and to use effective European technologies, such as the wind power technology developed by the Danes. He also underlined the importance of hydro-power, notably the development of the Three Gorges Dam.

Mr Wang Weicheng stated that 69% of China's energy came from coal and that this proportion would be reduced. By 2020 nuclear energy would make up 4% of China's total energy sources - at present it was just 0.6%.

### **Financial and social/economic issues**

Mr Wang Mengkui spoke of China's economic boom since 2002 with 10% annual growth. Great expansion was taking place in urban areas and ten million people had moved from the countryside to towns. China was however keen to address the gaps between town and country, as these imbalances could have a detrimental impact on the country's growth. Farmers needed to be encouraged to diversify into non-agricultural sectors. Other areas of imbalance included the divide between the more developed eastern areas and the more backward western regions. It was essential that social development kept pace with economic development. At present 20 million people lived below the poverty line and average GDP per capita was \$2,000. China had four times the population of the USA and roughly the same GDP.

Mrs Truepel stated that the recent G8 summit in Germany had looked at how to introduce social standards to the WTO. She referred to the public debate in China on whether there was a specific Chinese way of capitalism and whether capitalism needed pluralism and accountability.

Mr Hoppenstedt pointed to the huge reserves in China amounting to \$200 billion for investment by China's new state asset agency. He spoke of the risks of a huge influx of capital into Europe. He asked too about the extent to which the authorities cooperated with European businesses operating in China and whether China could learn from the social standards under which they operated. .

Mr Hughes asked the view of the Chinese on whether all WTO members should ratify the International Labour Organisation core labour standards. Referring to occupational health and safety standards, he noted the large number of people who were injured at work, in particular in coal mines and through the use of cadmium. He looked forward to direct contact with the NPC on a comprehensive framework law on occupational safety.

Mrs Kauppi raised the growing problem of intellectual piracy which had increased by 139% in the last two years. She referred to the two cases pending that were being brought by the USA and were supported by the EU. She underlined the need for China to create domestic copyright systems and asked why Beijing did not shut the illegal websites that allowed users to download material.

Mr Wang Yinfang recognised that many serious issues had been raised and that it would be necessary to continue the discussions in Strasbourg at the next IPM.

Mr Zhang Xiao recognised that the huge exchange reserves held in China merited close attention from the government. He noted that the customs and taxation rebate system had been changed to reduce the trade surplus. It was desirable to adjust the taxation system, especially for exports such as coal, precious metals and steel. Indeed, changes so far in the export tariffs for coal had reduced exports by 27%. Import tariffs would also be reduced for many imports.

Government procurement would be increased so that trade reserves might be used and large Chinese delegations were currently in the West to pursue this goal. There would also be increased overseas investment and he pointed to the \$3 billion acquisition of a 10% stake in the Blackstone Group, a US private equity company.

Mr Gao Zhiguo informed the MEPs about the 1994 Labour Law which set out protection for workers. He noted that the NPC would review and vote on a revised labour law and that wage levels will be set out. He argued that coastal areas were more advanced than other regions and that therefore a unified standard wage was not appropriate as the large coastal cities had a relatively high minimum wage. He also referred to regulations on workplace injuries and noted that a social insurance law was being developed.

A task force had been set up to examine health care reforms and bodies such as the WTO and the World Bank had been invited to work with China on the issue. It was essential that everyone should have access to basic health care services, although there were considerable difficulties in carrying this process forward.

The internet was developing quickly and there were currently 137 million users, the second highest figure in the world after the USA. Freedom of expression was very important but there was a need for tight regulations for teenagers to ensure that they were not exploited.

Mr Sterckx emphasised that these issues could be raised again at Strasbourg.

Mr Tabadji spoke of the challenge that the urban-rural divide posed for Eastern Europe and the exodus from villages. He noted too the ageing population in Western Europe.

Mr Golik welcomed the steps taken by China after it had joined the WTO. He also pointed to the 7% GDP growth in Poland. Referring to the fact that approximately 50% of the EU budget was spent on the CAP, he asked about China's approach to the matter within the WTO framework and how it would reorganise its agriculture. He also raised the issue of the role played by Chinese Chambers of Commerce and how they might work with the EU.

Mrs Gebhardt brought up the matters of labour standards and product safety and liability. She noted that many Chinese products were being brought into the EU but that some had been blocked. She stressed too the benefits of eliminating taxation for people on low incomes.

Mr Sterckx referred again to the note that would be received from the Chinese on these matters.

Mr Wang Yinfang agreed that these materials would be distributed before the meeting in Strasbourg in September.

### **Meeting with Mr. Sheng Huaren, Vice-Chairman of NPC Standing Committee**

Mr Sheng welcomed the delegation and quoted the proverb "seeing is believing" in relation to the visit of the European Parliament to Tibet.

Mr Sterckx thanked him for helping to organise a very interesting visit. He noted the tensions that existed between development and traditions in Tibet and recalled the mistakes that had also been made in European history. Referring to discussions between Beijing and the Dalai Lama, he stressed that the European Parliament would support any moves towards a settlement within the framework of a "one China" policy". He also referred to the interesting discussions that had taken place within the IPM and the basis that they provided for further exchanges of opinion and information.

Mr Sheng also underlined the need for mutual understanding and cooperation between the European Parliament and the National People's Congress. He stressed that this was helped by having meetings twice a year between the two sides.

He pointed to the great progress made in China but noted that it was still a developing country and would remain so for some time to come. He referred to figures that the EU's GDP per capita was \$30,000 compared to the Chinese figure of \$2,000. He did not believe that China would be able to overtake the EU in 20 to 30 years. Instead its real goal should be to reach the level of an average developed country by 2050.

He stressed that China would deepen its reform process and open up further to the world and that this policy was irreversible. Economic development would continue in the construction of a "socialist democracy" and tackling the urban-rural and East-West divides and income inequalities. The government was seeking to build a "harmonious society" in China and a "harmonious world" on a global level, based on a stable and long term framework of mutual respect.

Mr Sheng emphasised that China was the only major country that had not completed a process of reunification and that it had made a solemn commitment to ensure its territorial integrity. Following the return of Hong Kong and Macao to the Motherland it was necessary to concentrate on Taiwan. Beijing would never tolerate Taiwanese independence and opposed attempts by Taipei to achieve independence by constitutional means. In this respect he welcomed the support of the EU for the "One China" policy.

Mr Sheng outlined the rapid economic development in Tibet, thanks largely to the support from Beijing. He warned of those who were still seeking independence and stated that substantive discussions with the Dalai Lama could take place when he publicly recognised that Tibet was an integral part of China. He hoped that the Dalai Lama would contribute to the welfare of his fellow Tibetans during the remainder of

his life. Mr Sheng argued that Beijing had always supported the development of Tibet and had shown concern for the environment and ecology of the region. It also supported the traditions of Tibet but rejected certain aspects such as the serfdom system that had held sway under the Dalai Lama.

In conclusion Mr Sheng stated that he looked forward to greeting the delegation again in Beijing in 2008. Mr Sterckx thanked him and welcomed in particular the references to peaceful development as, he said, violence would be ruinous. He noted that two MEPs had gone to Tibet in 2002 and had not recognised the region this time because of all the changes.

### **Meeting with Mr. Zhang Zhijun, Vice-Minister of International Department of CPC (Communist Party China)**

Mr Zhang welcomed the delegation and spoke first of the excellent relations between the CCP and many European political groups. Mr Sterckx thanked him and referred to the delegation's visit to Tibet. He then opened the floor to questions.

Mrs Truepel referred to an open debate on CCTV on the tenth anniversary of the return of Hong Kong. She asked for more information about the "Chinese way to development and capitalism". Mr Zhang stated that China's road of development was unique and that in building "Chinese socialism" the CCP was never rigid. Indeed President Hu Jintao had spoken in recent days of the need to "emancipate minds" and to be open to, and learn from, other countries' experiences. He believed that the EU model might be more balanced than the "Anglo-Saxon" model of the USA. Ultimately however, China would find its own path to socialism.

Mrs Roure stressed that she was very impressed with the changes in Tibet since her last visit in 2002. She asked what precautions were being taken to ensure that economic progress did not destroy the Tibetan civilisation and referred to mistakes made in Europe. Mr Zhang stressed that this issue had to be tackled in many places, including Beijing. There was now a greater awareness of the need to protect cultures and strike a proper balance between development and preserving traditions. He pointed in particular to the great attention paid to environmental concerns in the construction of the railway to Lhasa.

Mrs Kauppi asked about cases of high level corruption in the CCP and misuse of foreign investments. She was informed that the CCP was determined to root out corruption and that "tough" measures were taken against those who violated the rules - whatever position they were in. He referred to a number of cases, including that of a member of the political bureau who had been removed from his duties and was under investigation.

Mr Roucek was informed that China had played a constructive role in the Doha round of talks. It had a unique role as it was both a developing country but had some parts of the economy that were quite advanced. Mr Zhang hoped that the USA would give more consideration to the needs of developing countries and stressed that the dispute over farm subsidies needed to be resolved.



Mrs Lichtenberger pointed to some successful examples of local autonomy such as the Süd Tirol region of northern Italy and asked whether this might be a model for Tibet. She stressed that the Dalai Lama had expressed his support for Tibet to be part of China and asked why the talks with him could not continue. Mr Zhang noted that Hong Kong and Tibet had different histories and that Tibet had always been part of the mainland system of government. He argued that the channel of communication with the Dalai Lama was still open, however the latter wanted a separate Tibetan state and a greater Tibetan region, including some areas that had never been part of Tibet.

In response to a question from Mr Golik about whether it was better to invest in China or India, Mr Zhang believed that the best place to invest was the place that gave the maximum returns. He pointed to the strengths of India, such as its IT industry, but underlined the more developed nature of China's infrastructure. Referring to the importance of agriculture in Poland, he stressed that the Chinese government was investing more in rural areas and was seeking to develop the infrastructure and human resources. In particular it had removed the 2,600 year old agricultural tax, as well as school fees. It had also introduced a new medicare system. Nevertheless he accepted that the "road was long" and that the income of rural areas had to be raised on a sustainable basis.

Mr Tabadji asked about the government's position on the death penalty and on Kosovan independence. Mr Zhang underlined that a debate on capital punishment was taking place in China and that the number of executions was declining. At present the majority of the NPC wished to retain it. Beijing was concerned over the long term viability and security of Kosovo and stressed the need for more consultation among the parties involved.

Mr Stevenson asked how China could use its influence over Sudan and Iran. He also raised the issue of the Anglo-Saxon and EU social models. Mr Zhang argued that the "Rhineland" model was more balanced but lacked a certain vitality, whereas the Anglo-Saxon model could lead to a large gap between rich and poor. China needed to learn from both of these approaches.

He believed that there had been some progress on Darfur and Beijing had contributed to persuading the parties to calm down the situation. It had also nominated a Special Envoy and had made its position clear to Sudan. It believed that persuasion was preferable to sanction. China was also providing humanitarian aid to the region. He believed that there was a role for the EU in persuading the rebel forces to negotiate with the government. He noted too that China was playing a positive role with regard to Iran. He subsequently informed Mr Garcia Margallo that Beijing opposed the development of nuclear technology that would threaten another country and that it had voted in a responsible manner in the UN Security Council and the IAEA.

Responding further to Mr Garcia Margallo, Mr Zhang warned of two dangerous years ahead as Taiwan appeared to be moving towards a declaration of independence. He stressed that Beijing would not allow this to occur. The European Parliament could help the situation by sending a clear message to Taipei that it rejected any moves to independence.

Mr Turmes raised the issue of workers' rights and in particular the inhumane conditions suffered by workers in Zhengzhou and the use of child labour to make official merchandise for the Olympic Games. He stressed the need for a more "bottom up" system. Mr Zhang stressed that government policy opposed any such abuses and that such cases would be tackled and the local officials involved would be punished. He stressed that China had signed up to the International Convention on Child Labour. Mr Sterckx noted that these issues would be followed up at the next meeting.

Mrs Doyle drew attention to China's obligations under the WTO and the related TRIPS agreement and expressed her strong dissatisfaction with its record on respect for IPR. She condemned furthermore its refusal to publish official statistics on matters such as the number of executions and the instances of child labour, noting that this was incompatible with its membership of the UN Human Rights Committee. She also asked why Beijing appeared to be so afraid of the Falun Gong and why it should choose the future Dalai Lama. Finally she condemned its "appalling record" on animal welfare.

Mr Zhang replied that human rights had a universal nature and should be judged at an international level. However there were other pressing problems in developing countries such as ensuring that people had housing and food. Nevertheless people in China enjoyed far more human rights than they had in the past. He pointed to great advances such as fewer restrictions on freedom of movement. He argued too that the authorities were becoming increasingly transparent about statistics. He considered that there were traits in Christianity that were alien to Chinese people, such as worshipping only one God rather than ancestors. Christian priests had played a negative role in helping the pre-Communist government of China to crush peasant uprisings.

He noted that religious bodies objected to the "perverse cult" of Falun Gong, which had caused great damage and had led to some 2,000 deaths. The movement was opposed to the Chinese government and was able to mobilise mass demonstrations. It was not clear where its funds came as many of its adherents stayed in five star hotels. The Dalai Lama needed to break off his relations with Taiwan. His successor would be chosen by the traditional selection process.

Finally Mr Zhang informed Mr Kuc that there was mutual respect between China and the countries of Central Asia. Each had the right to choose its own policy and they were cooperating well through the Shanghai Cooperation Council

### **Visit to Ministry of Forestry (Animal Welfare rights)**

Present at the meeting were Mr L Yucai, Director General of the State Forestry Administration Department, Vice Director-General Mr Wang Wei and the Secretary General of the China Wildlife Association, Mr Chen Runsheng.

The previous the week the European Parliament had voted unanimously for an EU-wide ban on the import, export and trade in cat and dog skins. Opening the meeting Mr Stevenson said that the ban would be in place by the end of 2008 in all member

states. It had been estimated that this trade had led to the death of over two million cats and dogs each year in China

Mr Chen stressed that China regarded the skinning of cats and dogs as barbaric. He noted that there was "only one earth" and that humanity should take care of animals.

Mr Wang Wei then stated that the Chinese government had worked hard to improve conditions and welfare for animals and encouraged the captive breeding of animals. However China had a long tradition of using wildlife products in traditional medicine and now used captive resources for this purpose. He stated that the Public Security Department had investigated the cases that Mr Stevenson had brought to the attention of the Chinese authorities last year and it had concluded that the film of a dog being skinned alive in Harbin Province was actually a set-up. A Taiwanese film maker had paid a farmer to skin a dog alive so that the film could be shown in Europe.

Mr Wang also argued that not all the two million animals to which Mr Stevenson had referred would have been skinned alive as there was no economic advantage in doing this. He noted the EU's decision to close its borders but he could not guarantee that this would stop the trade.

Mr Hoppenstedt asked about reforestation and its role in absorbing CO2 emissions. He wanted to ascertain what compensation was received by farmers who lost land. He was also interested in the results of the breeding programme for pandas and its impact on supplies of bamboo.

He was informed that in the last 18 years around ten million hectares of steep slope farm land had been converted into forest and a further ten million hectares had been planted on barren hills. Farmers who lost land were compensated. These initiatives were playing a significant role in reducing carbon emissions. There were currently over 200 giant pandas in captivity and constant attempts were made to encourage captive breeding. In 2005 16 giant panda babies survived in captivity and in 2006 the figure rose to 18. A large number of events had been held in China to celebrate the births of these pandas in captivity. Large areas had been planted with bamboo and its resources were no longer a problem.

### **Friday 29 June**

**24<sup>th</sup> China-EU IPM, second working session co-chaired by Mr. Wang Yingfan and Mr. Sterckx (Anhui Hall)**

### **Global and regional security**

Mr Roucek noted that an EU Strategy Paper of 2003 had stated that there was no fundamental source of conflict between the EU and China and that it was essential to work on building a strategic partnership. He pointed to EU-China trade which totalled EUR 250 billion and argued that it was also in the interests of the two sides to manage issues of common concern, such as the security of energy supplies. He welcomed the launch of negotiations for a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement between the EU and China and stressed the EU's support for the "One China" policy. He asked the

Chinese to comment on current developments regarding Taiwan, Burma/Myanmar and Central Asia, noting that the latter region was important for security concerns as well as its energy resources. Finally he wished to raise the question of the current situation in Darfur, which recently appeared to be more encouraging.

Mr Wang Yinfang commended the smooth development of EU-Chinese relations and noted the frequent high level visits and dialogue. He too looked forward to the development of the strategic partnership between the two sides and welcomed the developments regarding a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement. China supported the integration process in Europe and had noted in its 2006 policy paper that the two sides had common interests in areas such as the promotion of trade, multilateralism and peace and security, as well as in finding solutions to issues arising from the situations in Darfur, Iran and North Korea.

Mr Wang recognised the EU's concerns for China to be more transparent about its military spending. He referred to a survey carried out for an international agency that had asked EU citizens which country they saw as the largest threat. According to the responses China appeared to be the second largest threat after the USA. He recognised that Beijing could not ignore these findings and there was a clear need for mutual understanding. He stressed that China's process of modernisation had included the development of military technology, however there remained a gap of some 20 to 30 years between China and the west. In conclusion Mr Wang stated that China played an active and constructive role across many international issues.

Mrs Hall referred to the large role played by China in Africa, especially since the China-Africa summit of November 2006. She noted that it was seeking access to raw materials and markets for its exports and expressed concern that potentially flooding African markets with low cost goods could damage domestic industries and push Africa further into debt. She welcomed signs of China's constructive intervention in the search for a resolution of the Darfur conflict and asked whether this was a sign of greater political engagement by Beijing.

Mr Gao Zhigao noted that last year's China-Africa Cooperation Forum had established a practical programme for dialogue. There had been a huge increase in Sino-African trade and there were currently over 870 joint projects. This cooperation was mutually beneficial and would not damage the interests of other countries.

Mr Wang Yinfang added that he had visited over 20 African countries, many of which were experiencing military conflicts. He referred to the EU's pledges of financial assistance to Africa and the great hopes they had created. He argued that African countries needed to import Chinese goods as they were not able yet to produce such goods themselves. China was encouraging enterprises to invest in Africa and was establishing factories on the continent. However it had faced problems in the past in recruiting managers with the necessary expertise, for example in the building of a railway in Tanzania. Beijing had provided considerable free aid and loans on preferential terms. There had been no cases of China forcing African countries to pay up their debts if they were unable to do so. Indeed a large number of such debts had been written off.

Mr Diaz de Mera referred to Mr Wang's comment that modernisation in China included military modernisation. He noted that Europe had enjoyed a long period of peace and stability and was using its armies for protecting and policing. He wondered what China was doing to modernise its army. Finally he asked about the current debate over positioning US missiles in central and eastern Europe.

Mr Wang replied that China was committed to security and unification and the development of its military was defensive in nature, although it could not afford to lag behind. It had been active in peace-keeping missions and sought peaceful resolution of issues such as the territorial disputes with India, Vietnam and Russia. However he reiterated that China would never allow Taiwanese independence and the EU and the USA should warn Taipei not to indulge in separatist activities. Finally he noted that China recognised Russian concerns over American missiles in central and eastern Europe, particularly as they echoed Chinese concerns over American missiles in Japan. He emphasised that such deployments had an impact on the global and regional balance of power.

Mr Stevenson referred to the words of former British Prime Minister Tony Blair that the situation regarding Iran was currently the most serious in the world. The Iranian President Ahmadinejad had threatened twice to "wipe Israel off the map" and appeared to be moving closer to a position in which he would be able to carry out this threat. The west seemed to be getting nowhere in its attempts to reach a solution. Iran had sent thousands of trained revolutionary guards to Iraq and had also supplied sophisticated armour piercing bombs. Moreover Teheran was making trouble in Lebanon and backing Hamas in Gaza and the West Bank. However, argued Mr Stevenson, military intervention in Iran by the West would be completely the wrong thing to do. Nor was anything being achieved by the EU policy of peaceful dialogue, which appeared to be only giving Iran more time to develop its nuclear technology. He asked whether China would be prepared to back tough sanctions to respond to this "intolerable situation". Supporting civil society to overthrow the mullahs was much better than either military intervention or appeasement.

Mr Wang stressed again that China supported non-proliferation and that it basically shared the EU's position over Iran. It was talking "candidly" with Tehran and seeking to achieve a peaceful resolution within the wider six party mechanism. However Beijing did not accept that sanctions were the answer, in the same way as they had not succeeded with Cuba.

He recognised some progress on Darfur and believed the matter could be resolved quickly. He rejected statements by some US Congressmen that China was not playing a constructive role and stressed that the US could not act alone across the world. He also underlined that a peacekeeping mission required the consent of the country concerned and that Sudan had concerns that such a mission could infringe on its sovereignty. However Khartoum had agreed on 12 June to accept the deployment in the region of a hybrid force of the African Union and the United Nations. Mr Wang mentioned as well that Arabs and non-Arabs had previously lived in harmony in Darfur until climate change had led to less food and water.

Mr Garcia Margallo asked for further clarification from the Chinese side on their position on Taiwan and sanctions on Iran. He argued that the Cuban missile crisis had

been resolved by firm action by President Kennedy and that it was necessary to be equally firm with Iran.

Mr Turmes warned that the spread of so-called "peaceful nuclear power" could lead to the development of this capacity for weapons and asked whether the current Non-Proliferation Treaty was strong enough. Mr Roucek asked for more information on the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation and whether its scope included trade and development. Mr Post argued that China should take the opportunity of becoming more involved in the search for a settlement in the Middle East and "show its wisdom".

Mr Wang repeated Beijing's opposition to a proliferation of nuclear weapons and support for the peaceful resolution of disputes. He accepted that the peaceful use of nuclear energy was a complex issue and argued that the Non Proliferation Treaty identified specific measures that could be taken to prevent its use for developing weapons. He noted that Central Asia was largely stable and that this situation should be maintained. The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation was initially about security matters but trade cooperation had made rapid progress. Central Asian countries were keen to have Chinese investment and there were frequent exchanges of high level delegations.

Mrs Roure noted that Iran had signed the Non Proliferation Treaty but was not accepting the visits of nuclear inspectors. She asked how this might be enforced. Mr Wang emphasised again that the best approach was to persuade Iran to suspend its nuclear enrichment programme and to show more flexibility "If we block the road of peace the only result will be war", he concluded.

### **EP's briefing on "EU in 50 years and its challenges**

Mr Sterckx gave an outline of key developments in the development of the European Communities since 1957. He noted that the two most recent enlargements had made it imperative to redraft the Treaties to accommodate a 27 member Union. He set out the planned timetable for the introduction of a new Treaty following the summit in Berlin the previous week, noting that this new Treaty should be in place in time for the elections to the European Parliament in 2009. He stated that he was personally unhappy that the Charter of Fundamental Rights was not part of the Treaty. He welcomed China's wish for the EU to be a more political union that it might work with more effectively.

Mrs Doyle noted that the word "constitution" had been part of the problem with the previous constitutional treaty. Although the substance was not a major break with past Treaties it represented a psychological shift. Nevertheless Ireland was still required to have a referendum on whatever was agreed.

Mrs Roure argued that the French voters had rejected the Constitutional Treaty as they were unhappy with its stress on competition and wanted a more "social Europe", not one based on the market. President Sarkozy had understood that another referendum would not be possible and a second one would not take place in France.

Mr Stevenson argued that the majority of Europe's 480 million citizens were more concerned about other issues than the constitution. He agreed that the EU could not continue on the basis of the original treaties but the "grandiose scheme" of Mr Giscard d'Estaing had been too centralising and had threatened the role of nation states. The British Conservatives would continue to call for a referendum and a "no" vote.

Mrs Gebhardt disagreed and believed that if a referendum had been allowed in Germany there would have been a "yes" vote. She also did not accept that the term "constitution" was correct. She noted that the European Parliament had now been forced to the sidelines, unlike during the Convention.

Mr Post stated that the role of national parliaments in the process of deciding on Europe's constitutional future was essential. He believed that a second referendum in the Netherlands would also result in a "no" vote.

Mr Wang saw parallels in China's efforts to build cooperation with East Asia and it would be able to draw on the EU's experience. Many people in his country were very interested in the EU's integration process.

### **Political issues**

Mrs Gebhardt argued that the EU - with its 27 varying political systems in 27 member states - could be a positive model for China. It was important to have a more in depth discussion on specific issues. China could not be expected simply to copy the EU and needed to build a system based on its own traditions. She noted that China had wanted the EU to issue a statement that Taiwan was an inalienable part of China. She also noted that in Hong Kong there were different interpretations of the Basic Law and the issue of universal suffrage had not been resolved. She also raised concerns about the death penalty and the limits on the freedom of the media in China.

Mrs Roure referred to the many Chinese who were forced into prostitution in Europe and asked whether Beijing could act to stop the pimps and procurers. She also noted the problems caused by the one child policy. She wondered if there would be enough children in a few years to serve the needs of the growing number of retired people. She argued that single children could often be very spoilt and that this needed to be mitigated by families and schools. Finally she warned of the declining proportion of girls as many families chose to have boys.

Mrs Truepel asked about the role of the state in religion and the "patriotic education" of monks and nuns. She also wanted more information on the prevalence of torture in Chinese prisons and the limitations on the internet, particularly search engines such as Google.

Mr Zhang Chunsheng spoke of the democratic developments in Hong Kong and the high degree of autonomy that it enjoyed. He stressed that the number of directly elected members of the Legislative Council would gradually increase. He personally supported the abolition of the death penalty but the "proper conditions" did not exist at the present. Public opinion favoured the retention of the penalty, particularly for murder, arson and poisoning, nevertheless there were now more legal restrictions on its implementation. He noted too that more than 80 countries, including the USA, had

capital punishment. Mr Sterckx stressed that the European Parliament also regularly criticised the USA on this point.

Mrs Xin Chunying stated that China was opposed to the "blind pursuit" of GDP development. She rejected arguments about the dumping of Chinese products on foreign markets and noted that many of the factories involved were owned by multinationals. She also referred to the labour contract law which safeguarded workers' rights. The NPC was addressing the problem of the ageing society and people who "got old before they got rich". In particular the social insurance law was being reviewed. The reducing number s of girls was a great problem and the NPC had urged the Chinese government to provide social security for families with only one girl. Trafficking of women and girls was a criminal act and mechanisms were in place to tackle it.

Mrs Xin argued that freedom of expression was guaranteed by Article 35 of the Chinese constitution. She stressed that patriotism and religious belief should not be in conflict and citizens had an obligation to be patriotic.

Mr Sterckx concluded the discussion by handing over a dossier of individual rights cases to Mr Wang. They agreed that there were many issues that had not been addressed fully during the IPM and that they would return to them in September. These included labour legislation, the Party Congress and the situation of the Falun Gong.

In the afternoon some of the delegation visited the Temple of Heaven or held individual meetings.



EUROPA-PARLAMENTET  
EUROPÄISCHES PARLAMENT  
ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟ ΚΟΙΝΟΒΟΥΛΙΟ  
EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

PARLAMENTO EUROPEO  
PARLEMENT EUROPEEN  
PARLAMENTO EUROPEO

EUROPEES PARLEMENT  
PARLAMENTO EUROPEU  
EUROOPAN PARLAMENTTI  
EUROPAPARLAMENTET



**DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF  
CHINA**

**24th EP/CHINA INTERPARLIAMENTARY MEETING  
Beijing and Tibet**

23-29 June 2007

**List of Participants**

**Members of the European Parliament (22)**

	First Name	Surname	Country	Political Group
Mr	Dirk	STERCKX, Chair	Belgium	ALDE
Mrs	Martine	ROURE, 2nd Vice- chair	France	PES
Mrs	Frieda	BREPOELS	Belgium	EPP-ED
Mr	Agustín	DÍAZ DE MERA GARCÍA CONSUEGRA	Spain	EPP-ED
Mrs	Avril	DOYLE	Ireland	EPP-ED
Mr	Jose	GARCIA MARGALLO	Spain	EPP-ED
Ms	Evelyne	GEBHARDT	Germany	PES
Mr	Bogdan	GOLIK	Poland	PES
Mrs	Fiona	HALL*	United Kingdom	ADLE
Mr	Karsten	HOPPENSTEDT	Germany	EPP-ED
Mr	Stephen	HUGHES	United Kingdom	PES
Mrs	Piia-Noora	KAUPPI*	Finland	EPP-ED
Mr	Wiesław	KUC	Poland	UEN
Mrs	Eva	LICHTENBERGER	Austria	V/ALE
Mrs	Eluned	MORGAN	United Kingdom	PES
Mr	Joop	POST	Netherlands	EPP-ED
Mr	Libor	ROUCEK	Czech Republic	PES
Mrs	Daciana	SÂRBU *	Romania	PES
Mr	Struan	STEVENSON	United Kingdom	EPP-ED
Mr	Csaba	TABAJDI	Hungary	PES
Mrs	Helga	TRÜPEL	Germany	V/ALE
Mr	Claude	TURMES	Luxembourg	V/ALE

\*Beijing only

PPE-DE	Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats
PSE	Group of the Party of European Socialists
ALDE	Group of the Alliance of Democrats and Liberals of Europe
Verts/ALE	Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance
GUE/NGL	Confederal Group of the European United Left/Nordic Green Left
IND/DEM	Independence and Democracy Group
NI	Non attached members

**Secretariat, Interparliamentary Delegations**

Mr Tim BODEN	Principal Administrator
Ms Morag DONALDSON	Administrative Assistant
Ms Sarah WHITTALL	Administrative Assistant

**European Commission Delegation representative**

Mr Tom PEART	Adviser
--------------	---------

**Political group advisors**

Mr Adriaan BASTIAANSEN	Adviser, EPP-ED Group
Mr Silvestro LATELLA	Adviser, PES Group
Ms Barbara MELIS	Adviser, ALDE Group
Mr Paolo BERGAMASCHI	Adviser, V/ALE Group

**Interpreters**

Ms Evelyn HORNIK	English booth (team leader)
Mr. Pascal PIGNOT	French booth
Mr Alasdair THOMSON	English booth
Ms Geraldine WOJCIK	French booth
Ms Beate BREHM	German booth
Ms Xenia KOMMER	German booth

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

## DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

### 24th EP/CHINA INTERPARLIAMENTARY MEETING Beijing and Tibet

23 June - 30 June 2007

#### Draft Programme

#### Saturday 23 June 2007

Individual arrivals in Lhasa

*Lhasa Hotel*  
*Tel +86-891-6824509*  
*Fax. +86-891-6834117*

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| 15h05 | Arrival of part of Delegation from Beijing  |
| 16h10 | Arrival of main part of Delegation from Chengdu at Gongga Airport, Lhasa                                  |
| 16h30 | Departure from airport  |
| 17h00 | Visit a Housing Project for low-income residents and peasants en route                                    |
| 17h30 | Arrive and check into Lhasa Hotel   |
| 18h30 | Dinner hosted by Mr Luo Sang Dun Zhu, Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee of the Tibet People's Congress |

#### Sunday 24 June 2007

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| 08h00 | Breakfast   |
| 08h40 | Depart for Potala Palace                                |
| 09h00 | Visit the Potala Palace                                 |
| 10h30 | Group and Individual photos in the Potala Palace Square |
| 11h10 | Visit of Tibet Medicine Hospital                        |

11h40	Depart for the Tibet Museum
12h00	Visit the Tibet Museum
12h30	Depart for the Hotel
13h00	Lunch with Mr Luo Sang Jiu Mei, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Lhasa People's Congress
14h30	Depart for the Lhasa Railway Station
14h45	Visit the Lhasa Railway Station
15h10	Depart for Jokhang Temple Monastery
15h20	Visit the Jokhang Temple Monastery and Bakhor Street
17h00	Depart for the Hotel
18h00	Depart for the Tibetan People's Hall
18h30	Meeting with Mr Thubdan Tsewang Vice-Chairman of the Standing Committee of the People's Congress of the Tibetan Autonomous region (TAR)
19h10	Welcome Banquet

### **Monday 25 June 2007**

0800	Breakfast
0850	Depart for the Tibetan People's Assembly Hall
0900	Discussions with TAR government departments
12h00	Depart for Hotel
12h10	Arrive at Hotel
12h30	Lunch
14h00	Check out from Lhasa hotel and depart for Shigatse
	Visit Jade Processing Factory and Darewa Qiang Brewery
19h15	Arrive at Shigatse Hotel
19h30	Meeting with Mr. Kelsang Tsering, Director of the Working Committee of the People's Congress of Shigatse Prefecture
20h00	Welcome reception

*Shigatse Hotel*  
*Tel : +86-892-8800236*  
*Fax : +86-892-8821900*

**Tuesday 26 June 2007**

07h00	Breakfast
08h20	Depart for Tashi Lhunpo Monastery
08h30	Visit Tashi Lhunpo Monasteries
09h20	Departure for Panam project (EU financed)
10h00	Visit Sino-European Comprehensive Agricultural Development Project, including a school, safe water project and ox breeding centre
12h30	Depart for Shigatse Hotel
13h00	Arrive at Shigatse Hotel, check out hotel Lunch
14h30	Departure for Bianxiong school for blind children
15h30	Depart for Lhasa by bus
19h30	Arrive at Lhasa Hotel
20h00	Dinner

**Wednesday 27 June 2007**

07h30	Luggage collection outside room
08h00	Breakfast
08h40	Depart for Gongga Airport
10h35	Departure from Lhasa CA 4404 to Chengdu
19h00	CA 4103 Chengdu-Beijing (flight delayed)
23h00	Arrivals in Beijing

*Beijing Hotel*

*33 East Chang An Avenue  
100004 Beijing  
Tel. +86-10- 6513 7766  
Fax. +86-10- 6513 7703*

**Thursday 28 June**

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| 08h20 | Assemble in hotel lobby  |
| 08h50 | Arrive Great Hall of the People - (South entrance)   |
| 09h00 | 24th EU-China IPM, first working session co-chaired by Mr Wang Yingfan and Mr Sterckx (Anhui hall) |
| 11h30 | Courtesy Call on Mr. Sheng Huaren, Vice-Chairman of NPC Standing Committee                         |
| 12H15 | Luncheon hosted by Vice-Chairman Sheng Huaren (Hongkong Hall)                                      |
| 14h00 | Departure for International Department of CPC (Communist Party China)                              |
| 15h00 | Meeting with Mr. Zhang Zhijun, Vice-Minister of International Department of CPC                    |
| 15h30 | Departure for State Bureau of Forestry   |
| 16h15 | Visit to Ministry of Forestry (Animal Welfare rights)  |
| 17h15 | Departure for Great Hall of the People (East entrance)   |
| 18h30 | Welcome banquet hosted by Mr. Wang Yingfan (Macao Hall)  |

**Friday 29 June**

- |       |   |
|-------|---|
| 08h20 | Assemble in hotel lobby   |
| 08h50 | Arrive Great Hall of the People (South entrance)  |
| 09h00 | 24 <sup>th</sup> China-EU IPM, second working session co-chaired by Mr. Wang Yingfan and Mr. Sterckx (Anhui Hall) |
| 12h00 | Departures for Beijing Hotel  |
| 12h30 | Lunch free for own arrangements   |
| 14h30 | <i>Departure for Temple of Heaven (members only) Optional</i>   |

*15h00 visit of Temple of Heaven*

*16h00 Departure for the hotel*

*(1400-1600hrs) Secretariat at Commission Delegation*

**Saturday 30 June**

Individual arrangements for flights to Europe