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DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH JAPAN
- THE CHAIR -

310326 13.07.2006

Mr Elmar Brok
Chairman AFET Committee
European Parliament
rue Wiertz 60
B-1047 Brussels

Re: report of the visit to Tokyo by the Bureau of the Japan Delegation

Dear Chairman,

On 7-9 June 2006, the Bureau of the Japan Delegation visited Tokyo to hold talks with the Diet of Japan also in preparation for the next interparliamentary meeting, due in Strasbourg this October.

While interparliamentary meetings have been held regularly on a yearly basis for the last 26 years (one year in Japan, next year in the European Union), it was the first time that the Bureau of the Japan Delegation had the opportunity to visit Japan in the year of a interparliamentary meeting in Europe. This format proved extremely valuable. Since it is more in line with the requirement for increased co-operation and increased dialogue and is likely to become a standard feature of our relations, in both directions, allowing also direct Committee-to-Committee contacts in the future in such a strategic relationship.

In the meetings with Diet Members, issues of common interest were raised, including energy security, world security issues, in particular the nuclear issues with Iran and North Korea, and the possible lifting by the EU of the arms embargo on China, a point that was heavily objected by our Japanese counterparts.

Besides this point, the regional security issues were an essential part of discussions, with the tense relations of Japan with its neighbours as a focal point.

To most of our interlocutors, the political debates on symbolic issues like the Yasukuni shrine (Chinese insistence in this was felt as intrusive and counter-productive) were seen as raised for political reasons and were not an indicator of the reality of relations between the people, especially in relation to South Korea that are cordial, especially with the younger generation, academics and business people.

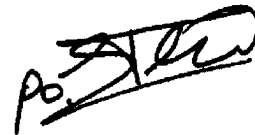
We made clear that Japan, as one of the democratic states in East Asia, should not let itself be cornered by the diplomatic activism of China, in particular not be isolated from South Korea, its other democratic neighbour, but rather reinforce its links with its neighbours basing on common democratic system, the honouring of human rights and the rule of law.

Regarding North Korea, the Japanese parliamentarians presented the issue of Japanese abductees. We expressed sympathy, but made clear that putting too much emphasis on this bilateral matter could strain the possibilities of renewing the Six-Party-Talks. We pointed out that Japanese negotiators should pay more attention to the way South Korea dealt with similar cases and look for a more consistent, co-operative approach with South Korea.

The Members of the Diet of Japan, confronted with the perspective of a first-time ever referendum to ratify constitutional changes, showed a great interest in the European experience of the ratification process of the draft European Constitutional Treaty and the current reflections in the European Union.

The meetings provided also the opportunity to address a number of sensitive bilateral issues of concern for the EU, in particular the slow progress on the Science and Technology agreement, the lack of an EU/Japan air services agreement to replace older agreements with the Member states, and possible problems for the certification process of the new Airbus A380 by the Japanese authorities.

Yours sincerely,



Georg JARZEMBOWSKI

Attachment : Programme of the meeting

EP: GJ: Georg Jaruzembowski; KV: Kyości Vitrankoski; JZ: János Zsolt Zsolt; TJ: Thierry Jacoby;
 Tokyo Delegation: BZ: Bernhard Zepter; MR: Michael Reiterer; TN: Thomas Naecke; HT: Hajime Takahashi; MKa: Mariko Katsuj; MT: Mari Tomoda

Programme for the EP Delegation for Relations with Japan Tokyo, 7 – 10 June 2006

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	Wednesday 7 June	Thursday 8 June	Friday 9 June	Saturday 10 June
am	07:30 Arrival Narita (T1) from Frankfurt (LH 710) (GJ, JZ) - Transfer to Hotel by Del's car.	09:30-10:30 Meeting with Prof. Kokubun, Director of Keio Institute of East Asian Studies (The Salon, Imperial Hotel) (GJ, KV, JZ, TJ, MKa)	09:30-10:30 Meeting with Mr Takashi Oda, Director General, Yonituri Shimbun (The Salon, Imperial Hotel) (GJ, KV, JZ, TJ, MKa, MT)	- Transfer to NRT by own means (GJ, JZ) 09:55 Departure NRT(T1) for Frankfurt (LH 711) (GJ, JZ)
lunch		11:00-11:45 Meeting with Mr Junichi Manuyama, Deputy Director General, European Affairs Bureau MOFA (GJ, KV, JZ, TJ, MKa)	11:00-11:30 Courtesy call on Mr Yohei Kono, Speaker of the Lower House (Speaker's Official Residence) (GJ, JZ, MR, TJ, MKa, MT)	- Transfer to NRT by own means(LJ) 12:05 Departure NRT (T1) for Munich (LH 715) (TJ)
pm	13:00-14:00 Press interview with Maimichi Shimbun (The Salon, Imperial Hotel)(GJ, JZ, TJ) 13:55 Arrival Narita(T2) from Paris (JL406) (K.V) - Transfer to Hotel by own means.	12:00-13:30 Lunch with MP Keiichiro Asao, Shadow PM in DPJ (Restaurant "Nanbu-tei") (GJ, KV, JZ, TJ, MKa)	12:00-13:30 Lunch with Prof. Yoshikawa, private member of the Council on Economic and Fiscal Policy ("Bonne Femme") (GJ, JZ, MR, TN, TJ, MKa)	
	14:30-15:15 Meeting with BZ (Delegation) (GJ, JZ, TJ)	14:00-15:00 Meeting with Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence in the House of Councillors (7 th Committee Room, Diet Bldg) (GJ, KV, JZ, MR, TJ, MKa, MT)	- Transfer to NRT by own means (KV) 13:00 - Departure NRT (T2) for Frankfurt (JL407) (KV)	
	15:30-16:30 Meeting with EU-Japan Parliamentary League of Friendship (Dairichi Chiu Kaikan) (GJ, JZ, TJ, MKa, MT)	15:10-15:50 Visit to National Diet Library (Detached Library in the Diet) and coffee break (GJ, KV, JZ, MR, TJ, MKa, MT)	14:00-16:00 Timeslot for free time (GJ, JZ, TJ, HT)	
	16:45-17:45 Meeting with Special Committee for Research on the Constitution of Japan in the House of Representatives (HoR, Main bldg. 3F) (GJ, BZ, KV, JZ, TJ, HT, MKa, MT)	16:00-17:00 Meeting with Committee on Foreign Affairs in the House of Representatives (Standing Committee Room) (GJ, KV, JZ, MR, TJ, MKa, MT)	16:30-17:30 Press interview with Jiji Press (The Salon, Imperial Hotel) (GJ, JZ, TJ)	
Evening	18:00 - Reception hosted by EU-Japan Parliamentary League of Friendship (Capitol Tokyo Hotel) (GJ, BZ, KV, JZ, MR, TJ, HT, MKa, MT)	17:20-18:10 Rest at Imperial Hotel (GJ, KV, JZ, TJ)	17:30-18:10 Rest at Imperial Hotel (GJ, JZ, TJ)	
		18:30 Dinner with key members of the EU-Japan Parliamentary League of Friendship (Restaurant "ARGO") (GJ, KV, JZ, MR, TJ, MT)	18:30 Dinner at BZ Residence (GJ, BZ, JZ, TJ, HT, MKa)	

Accommodation: Imperial Hotel (1-1 Uchisaiwai-cho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo; Tel 03-3504-1111; Fax 03-3581-9146)

Contact: BZ: 03-3239-0440 (office), 090-6526-4881 (mobile), 090-6529-5955, HT: 03-3239-0444 / 090-9856-6210; MKa: 03-3239-0494 / 090-7917-7886
 Diet (Mr Nagakubo: 090-5800-5921 / Ms Shinagawa: 090-5342-0818); Prof. Kokubun: 090-9675-9965; MP Asao's Office: 03-3508-8711; MoFA (Mr Satke): 03-5501-8000 (exL5175); Prof. Yoshikawa (Ms Tsuchiya, Cabinet Office): 03-3581-0095; Yonituri Shimbun (Mr Oda): 090-7403-1854; BZ's residence: 03-3405-1227;
 Restaurant Nanbu-tei (Mr Ueda): 03-3591-1023; Restaurant ARGO (Ms Yamamoto): 03-3265-5504; Bistro Bonne Femme (Mr Minami): 03-3582-0200