

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

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*Delegation for relations with the People's Republic of China*

D-CN\_PV(2007)0327

## **MINUTES**

of the meeting of 27 March 2007, from 16.15 to 17.15  
BRUSSELS

1. Adoption of draft agenda (PE 385.581)
2. Approval of minutes of the meeting of 24 January 2007 (PE 383.671)
3. Chairman's announcements
4. Report by Chairman on Bureau visit to Hong Kong/Macao of 5 to 9 March 2007
5. Preparations for 24th EU-China IPM (Beijing/Tibet) in week of 25 June 2007
6. Any other business
7. Date and place of next meeting

The meeting opened at 16.15 on Tuesday, 27 March 2007, with Dirk Sterckx (Chairman) presiding.

**1. Adoption of draft agenda (PE 385.581)**

The agenda was adopted without amendment.

**2. Approval of minutes of the meeting of 24 January 2007 (PE 383.671)**

The minutes were adopted without amendment.

**3. Chairman's announcements**

Mr Sterckx welcomed the members present, including those who had just joined the delegation.

**4. Report by Chairman on Bureau visit to Hong Kong/Macao of 5 to 9 March 2007**

Mr Sterckx outlined the programme of the Bureau visit to Hong Kong and Macao. He stressed that it had provided a clear picture of relations between the regions and the Chinese mainland. The subjects for discussion included democracy, economy, and migration, movement of people to Hong Kong and Macao from the mainland and vice versa.

Mr Sterckx detailed the meetings with different ministries, legislative councils, pro-democracy movements, stating there was an extensive interaction between the Hong Kong and Macao authorities and Beijing. The Bureau was impressed by the economic development of the regions, as well as by the improvements in areas of migration control, environment and trade. Mr Sterckx informed members that the full report was being prepared.

**5. Preparations for 24th EU-China IPM (Beijing/Tibet) in week of 25 June 2007**

Mr Sterckx outlined the preliminary draft programme for the 24th EU-China IPM in Beijing and Tibet in June 2007. He noted that it included meetings with Chinese legislators, the EU delegation to Beijing and the EU member states' embassies. He mentioned the desire of the Chinese colleagues to start the visit on 27 June with the formal IPM on the following days in view of the fact that the National People's Congress Standing Committee would take place at the beginning of the week.

Mrs Roure raised concerns about the proposed length of time in Tibet. She noted that in a three days period the delegation might have difficulties to adapt to local climate conditions. She also argued strongly that the visit required more than three days, which was thoroughly inadequate. She proposed that a quicker means of transportation to Tibet than the train should be used and that less time should be spent in Beijing. She pointed to the five days spent in Tibet during the last EP visit in 2002.

Mr Stevenson agreed with Mrs Roure on the insufficient amount of time scheduled for the visit to Tibet. He also asked about the possibility for foreign observers to be invited to the National People's Congress Standing Committee, which would start in the beginning of the week of 25 June 2007. Mr Stevenson also suggested leaving earlier for Tibet and to consider

flying to the Himalaya foot hills and taking the train from this point to Lhasa. He emphasised that going to Tibet was the key point of the visit; therefore less time might be spent in Beijing. He also asked about the possibility of visiting a bear sanctuary, in relation to the EP position on banning bear bile. Mr Stevenson referred to a bear sanctuary in Chengdu, where bears were rescued from the bear bile extraction.

Mr Hoppenstedt suggested spending less time in Beijing, as many members of the delegation had already been there. He considered that a train journey had many positive features. Mr Hoppenstedt advised members of the delegation to start training for the high altitude climate. He finally asked about the availability of a more detailed programme on the visit to Tibet.

Mrs Lichtenberger noted the method of transportation had no effect on altitude sickness. She was concerned about the shortness of the programme in Tibet. She noted the Chinese authorities' assurances on the implementation of the autonomy had not been borne out by the reality of the situation in Tibet. Mrs Lichtenberger then underlined the need to ask about the Chinese authorities' dialogue with representatives of the Dalai Lama, referring to the EP resolution on the issue. She stated that the idea of taking a train for only a part of the journey, and especially in a more interesting mountainous land, was appropriate.

Mrs Roure raised the programme of the EP delegation visit to Tibet in 2002, stating a three day visit would be insufficient, taking into consideration the rich Tibetan culture. She also stressed the need to look at the changes in the places the EP delegation that had visited in 2002.

Mrs Morgan was concerned that the visit could be seen as being too touristy, arguing the delegation had a lot of cultural activities foreseen. She emphasised the importance of the EU-China dialogue on climate change and energy issues. She also disagreed with the proposal for a long train journey to Tibet. In conclusion she stressed the need for delegation activity to be serious.

Mr Martin agreed that the work of the delegation needed to be serious. He considered that the visit to Lhasa did not need to be longer than two days as a lot could be seen in that time. If necessary the delegation could split up in order to cover as much as possible.

Mr Piks proposed that the delegation should plan to start its work programme in Tibet from the evening of the second day upon arrival.

Mrs Laperrouze supported the proposed shortening of the delegation stay in Beijing, thus lengthening the visit to Tibet. She also asked about the relevance of travelling by train as regards altitude change. She stressed the importance of discussing key issues and agreed with Mrs Morgan's remarks on global warming. Noting that coal-fired power stations were still used in China, Mrs Laperrouze raised concerns over the EU-China dialogue on the issue. She finally referred to the importance of examining agricultural and rural issues in Tibet.

Mrs Doyle asked about the maximum number of members of the EP delegation visit to China and the possibility of being accompanied by an assistant, with the member paying all the expenses. She asked too about the time difference with China and the climate at the time of the EP delegation visit in June. She was informed that the time difference between Brussels

and the whole of China - including Tibet - was seven hours.

Mr Sterckx underlined the restrictions on participating in a delegation according to Article 12, part 3 of the Rules of Procedure. He emphasised that, taking into account risks related to visiting Tibet, the delegation members should not be accompanied by assistants or other persons.

Mr Martin thought that by taking the train part of the way to Tibet the delegation would get acclimatised gradually. He also agreed with Mrs Lichtenberger that medical advice on high altitude conditions was needed.

Mrs Roure noted there was no substantial difference in taking various means of transportation, as the train was pressurised. She reiterated that the time in Tibet should be lengthened, referring to the EP delegation to Tibet in 2002, when the members had the opportunity to carry out numerous activities.

Mr Calabuig Rull disagreed with taking a train to Tibet, stating it would not be suitable for a short visit. He also emphasised the need to draw up a more detailed visit programme.

Mr Martin suggested visiting an area on the way so that the delegation could observe economic development outside the Beijing region and not to limit the visit by seeing only Lhasa and the Chinese capital. He considered that it would be useful to visit a coal fired power station.

Mr Sterckx referred to the programme of the EP delegation visit to Tibet 2002, emphasising the need to avoid previous shortcomings, such as beginning the programme immediately on arrival. It was necessary to acclimatise to the high altitude. He suggested spending some time in Lhasa before continuing to other Tibetan areas. He also noted the need to consult with Chinese colleagues on the possibility of spending less time in Beijing. He informed members that regrettably the NPC's Standing Committee was not open to public and it would be difficult to witness this event. He would also look at the possibility of spending more than three days in Lhasa.

He noted that the programme of the visit to China would run into political group week in the European Parliament. Consequently the approval of the Conference of Presidents would be needed in order to lengthen the time spent in Tibet.

Mr Sterckx stressed that the delegation had always worked hard during visits abroad. He believed that interaction with local population and cultural learning were an important way of observing the real state of things.

He noted that energy and climate change had been the main points of the November 2006 visit to China. Mr Sterckx believed that this time the delegation should concentrate on Beijing and Tibet, in order not to be distracted by other subjects. He supported the idea of physical preparation for the high altitude.

Mr Sterckx agreed with Mrs Roure that there was the need for an assessment of how places outside Lhasa that had been visited in 2002 had developed.

Finally Mr Sterckx proposed early consultations with Chinese colleagues and those who were on the previous delegation to Tibet in order to develop the cultural and political components of the programme.

Mrs Doyle asked about the possibility of visiting Tibet before going to Beijing, taking into account the beginning of the Standing Committee of the NPC and the Chinese high officials presence needed there. She also suggested leaving for China on Friday 22 June and returning to Brussels on Monday 2 July, in order to minimise the absence from parliamentary activities.

Mr Stevenson noted that senior Tibetan officials would also be in Beijing during the NPC's Standing Committee. He stressed that the delegations had always fulfilled an extensive work plan and been very serious about content.

In response to Mrs Doyle's question, Mr Sterckx noted that there was a concern that some members of the delegation would not stay in Beijing afterwards if Tibet was visited first. He stressed the need to discuss this matter with his co-chair, Mr Wang, who might wish to accompany the European Parliament delegation. He also promised to review the means of transport to Tibet. He finally underlined that he would discuss the content of the programme with the Chinese.

## **6. Any other business**

Mr Bushill-Matthews asked whether it would be possible to have a shorter visit to China in 2008.

In reference to the September 2007 EP/China IPM, which was scheduled to take place in Strasbourg, Mr Mavrommatis informed the meeting that together with Mrs Batzeli and Mr Papadimoulis he had discussed with the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs the options for meetings of the Chinese delegation with representatives of the Greek government. Mr Mavrommatis suggested that the Chinese delegation should travel from Strasbourg to Athens on Thursday 27 September. On Friday 28 September they should hold meetings in Athens and on 29 they could have a cultural visit to Delphi before returning to Beijing. Mr Mavrommatis therefore asked for the Chinese to confirm the dates of their visit as a matter of urgency.

Mr Sterckx confirmed that the Chinese delegation would be in Strasbourg in that week and travel to Athens on 27 September. They would leave Europe on 30 September.

Mr Manders thanked Mr Sterckx for his work on the delegation and raised the issue of the visit on 30 July of Chinese organisations. Mr Sterckx agreed to provide information on this visit.

Mrs Doyle referred to the Global Legislators Forum on Climate Change in Washington, which took place on 14 February 2007. She underlined the contribution of the Chinese representatives and welcomed their signing up to the final resolution. She noted that the Chinese participants shared the commitment of the European Union to reduce carbon dioxide emission, as well as being ready to import new energy saving technologies.

Mr Sterckx agreed that this could be an item for the next IPM agenda.

**7. Date and place of next meeting**

Mr Sterckx announced that the next ordinary meeting was scheduled to take place on Tuesday 8 May between 17.30 and 18.30 hrs in Brussels.

The meeting closed at 17.35.

**LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/  
KATAΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU  
REĢISTRŠ/DALYVIŲ SĄRAŠAS/JELENLĒTI ĪV/REGISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBEČNOŠCI/  
LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA**

Mesa/Předsednictví/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/Biuras/Elnökség/Prezydium/ Predsedníctvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
Dirk Sterckx (P), Martine Roure (VP)
Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Mέλη/Members/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselek/ Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Joan Calabuig-Rull, Jorgo Chatzimarkakis, Eduard Hellvig, Karsten Hoppenstedt, Anne Laperrouze, Toine Manders, Hans-Peter Martin, Monica Iacob-Ridzi, Manolis Mavrommatis, Eluned Morgan, Jan Olbrycht, Rihards Pīks, Libor Roucek
Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Supplenti/Aizstājēji/ Pavadojantys nariai/Pótagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Náhradníci/Namestniki/Varajäsenet/ Suppleanter
Philip Bushill-Matthews, Agustín Díaz de Mera García Consuegra, Avril Doyle, Othmar Karas, Werner Langen, Eva Lichtenberger, Jiri Mastálka, Csaba Sándor Tabajdi,

178 (2)
183 (3)
Joop Post
46 (6) (Punto del orden del día/Bod pořadu jednání/Punkt på dagsordenen/Tagesordnungspunkt/Päevakorra punkt/Ημερήσια Διάταξη Σημείο/Agenda item/Point OJ/Punto all'ordine del giorno/Darba kārtības punkts/Darbotvarkes punktas/Napirendi pont/Punt Agenda/ Agendapunt/Punkt porządku dziennego/Ponto OD/Bod programu schôdze/Točka UL/Esityslistan kohta/Föredragningslista punkt)

Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaatlejad/Παρατηρητές/Observers/Observateurs/Osservatori/Novērotāji/ Stebėtojai/Megfigyelők/Osservatori/Waarnemers/Obserwatorzy/Observadores/Pozorovatelia/Opazovalci/Tarkkailijat/Observatörer

Por invitación del presidente/Na pozvání předsedy/Efter indbydelse fra formanden/Auf Einladung des Vorsitzenden/Esimehe kutsel/ Με πρόσκληση του Προέδρου/At the invitation of the Chair(wo)man/Sur l'invitation du président/Su invito del presidente/ Pēc priekšsēdētāja uzaicinājuma/Pirmininkui pakvietus/Az elnök meghívására/Fuq stedina tač-'Chairman'/Op uitnodiging van de voorzitter/Na zaproszenie Przewodniczącego/A convite do Presidente/Na pozvanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/ Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan

Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nõukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/Conseil/Consiglio/Padome/Taryba/Tanács/Kunsill/Raad/Conselho/ Svet/Neuvosto/Rådet (*)
Comisión/Komise/Kommissionen/Kommission/Euroopa Komisjon/Επιτροπή/Commission/Commissione/Komisija/Bizottság/ Kummissjoni/Commissie/Komisja/Comissão/Komisja/Komissio/Kommissionen (*)
Otras instituciones/Ostatní orgány a instituce/Andre institutioner/Andere Organe/Muud institutsioonid/Άλλα θεσμικά όργανα/ Other institutions/Autres institutions/Altre istituzioni/Citas iestādes/Kitos institucijos/Más intézmények/Istituzzjonijiet ohra/ Andere instellingen/Inne instytucje/Outras Instituições/Iné inštitúcie/Druge institucije/Muut toimeilimet/Andra institutioner/organ

Otros participantes/Ostatní účastníci/Endvidere deltog/Andere Teilnehmer/Muud osalejad/Επίσης Παρόντες/Other participants/ Autres participants/Altri partecipanti/Citi klātesošie/Kiti dalyviai/Más résztvevők/Partecipanti ohra/Andere aanwezigen/ Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Inī účastníci/Drugi udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare
Secretaría de los Grupos políticos/Sekretariát politických skupin/Gruppernes sekretariat/Sekretariat der Fraktionen/Fraktsioonide sekretariaat/Γραμματεία των Πολιτικών Ομάδων/Sekretariats of political groups/Secrétariat des groupes politiques/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko grupu sekretariāts/Frakcijų sekretoriai/Képviseletcsoportok titkársága/Segretarjat gruppi politici/Fractiesecretariaten/ Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secr. dos grupos políticos/Sekretariát politických skupín/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristöt/Gruppernas sekretariat
PPE-DE PSE ALDE Verts/ALE GUE/NGL IND/DEM UEN NI



Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelář předsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinett des Präsidenten/Presidendi kantslei/Γραφείο Προέδρου/President's Office/Cabinet du Président/Gabinetto del Presidente/Priekšsēdētāja kabinets/Pirmininko kabinetas/Elnöki hivatal/Kabinett tal-President/Kabinet van de Voorzitter/Gabinet Przewodniczącego/Gabinete do Presidente/Kancelária predsedu/Urad predsednika/Puhemiehen kabinetti/Talmannens kansli	
Gabinete del Secretario General/Kancelář generálního tajemníka/Generalsekretærens Kabinet/Kabinett des Generalsekretärs/Peasekretäri büroo/Γραφείο Γενικού Γραμματέα/Secretary-General's Office/Cabinet du Secrétaire général/Gabinetto del Segretario generale/Ģenerālsekretāra kabinets/Generalinio sekretoriaus kabinetas/Főtitkári hivatal/Kabinett tas-Segretarju Ġenerali/Kabinet van de secretaris-generaal/Gabinet Sekretarza Generalnego/Gabinete do Secretário-Geral/Kancelária geralneho tajomníka/Urad generalnega sekretarja/Pääsihteerin kabinetti/Generalsekreterarens kansli	
Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/Directorate-General/Direction générale/Direzione generale/Ģenerāldirektorāts/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/Direttorat Ġenerali/Direktoraten-generaal/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Generálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni direktorat/Pääosasto/Generaldirektorat	
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Secretaría de la comisión/Sekretariát výboru/Udvalgssekretariatet/Ausschusssekretariat/Komisjoni sekretariaat/Γραμματεία επιτροπής/Committee secretariat/Secrétariat de la commission/Segreteria della commissione/Komitejas sekretariāts/Komiteto sekretoriatas/A bizottság titkársága/Sekretarjat tal-kumitat/Commissiesecretariaat/Sekretariat komisji/Sekretariado da comissão/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottssekretariatet	
Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Pallġs/Padžējās/assizstēns/Asystent/Pomočnik/Avustaja/Assistenten	
Morag Donaldson, Tim Boden	

- \* (P) = Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Président/Priekšsēdētājs/Pirmininkas/Elnök/Chairman/Voorzitter/Przewodniczący/Predseda/Predsednik/Puheenjohtaja/Ordförande
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- (F) = Funcionario/Úředník/Tjenestemand/Beamter/Ametnik/Υπάλληλος/Official/Fonctionnaire/Funzionario/Ierēdnis/Pareigūnas/Tisztviselő/Ufficial/Ambtenaar/Urzędnik/Funcionário/Úradník/Uradnik/Virkamies/Tjänsteman