

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Delegation for relations with Japan

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MINUTES
of the meeting of 2 April 2008, from 10:15 to 11:15
BRUSSELS

The meeting opened at 10:17 on Wednesday, 2 April 2008, with Georg Jarzembowski (Chairman) in the chair.

	<u>Page</u>
1. Adoption of draft agenda (PE 403.251)	2
2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 27 February 2008 (PE 403.214)	2
3. Communications by the Chair	2
4. Current political situation in Japan and issues in EU-Japan relations Exchange of views with the European Commission	2
5. Preparation of the 29th EP/Japan Interparliamentary Meeting (2-6 June, Brussels/Vienna)	3
6. Any other business	4
7. Date and place of next meeting	4

1. Adoption of draft agenda

The draft agenda was adopted.

2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 27 February 2008

The minutes were approved.

3. Communications by the Chair

The Chair briefly reminded members of the next ASEP V meeting to take place in June in Beijing, and mentioned that the decision on the EP delegation to be sent to Beijing will be taken on April 17.

4. Current political situation in Japan and issues in EU-Japan relations. Exchange of views with the European Commission

The Chair welcomed Mr Dashwood from the European Commission and gave him the floor to brief the members on the current political situation in Japan and on EU-Japan relations.

Mr Dashwood introduced the two topics he wanted to cover during this meeting: an overview of the main domestic political issues in Japan at the moment and a briefing on the preparations of the upcoming EU-Japan Summit to take place on April 23.

The LDP-led Fukuda government is currently suffering from bad opinion ratings. Approximately only 30 per cent of the Japanese population has some confidence left in the weak government facing major challenges today. Mr Dashwood mentioned the following issues of concern in domestic Japanese affairs: loss of pension files, corruption in the ministry of defence, public health food concerns regarding imports from China, the government's weakness in the case of the two dead fishermen, failed candidates proposed by the government to lead the Bank of Japan and the unpopularity of the petrol tax law. The democratic opposition party has not yet fully taken advantage of the government's relative weakness, and lacks popular backing as well.

An important event to be mentioned is the Chinese President's (Hu Jintao) visit to Japan on 6 May 2008. The Japanese engagement policy under PM Fukuda aims to enhance the cooperation between both countries although China's defence spending remains a significant issue of concern to the Japanese government. Finally, Tokyo's response to the Tibet-issue was very measured and cautious not to endanger good neighbourly relations with the Chinese authorities.

With regard to the bilateral EU-Japan Summit of 23 April 2008, prepared by the Troika, Mr DASHWOOD mentioned the following agenda items that will be discussed during the summit: climate change, development (particular focus on Africa), market access concerns, the science and technology agreement and global concern issues such as the situation in North Korea, Afghanistan, Iran, Myanmar, ... The agenda for the summit is still to be confirmed. Hence, no further details could be given on the themes to be debated.

Mr DASHWOOD confirmed the participation at the summit of Commission President Mr Barroso, Commissioner for Trade, Mr Mandelson, and of Commissioner for External Relations, Ms Ferrero-Waldner. As they plan to visit China right after the EU-Japan summit,

we should expect quite moderate language in the final press statement on issues related to China.

The Chair asked (i) whether the LDP party and the opposition party had different positions on the Tibet-issue, (ii) whether the EU-Japan summit was planning to breathe new life into the 2001 EU - Japan Action Plan, (iii) whether Mr Dashwood could provide the members with some more information about the initiative of a Japan-EU business "integration" or "union" between both business communities, and (iv) whether the Japanese government followed the EU-South Korea Free Trade Agreement process, and the Japanese view on this trade relation.

Mr Dashwood replied that there were no different voices to be heard from both political parties on the recent developments in Tibet. Because so much is at stake, official reactions from the government as from the opposition were very cautious without any strong condemnation. On the second question, he stated that it is highly unlikely that the upcoming summit will find the time to really assess the 2001 Action Plan in detail. Unfortunately, both parties are still unable to reach an agreement on the implementing details of the plan. Regarding the economic "integration" initiative of the Japanese and the European business communities, Mr Dashwood clearly indicated that this should be considered a 'business-led initiative', and therefore that a 'wait-and-see' approach should be adopted by the EU. He reiterated that the main focus of the EU on these matters is on the multilateral fora dealing with these issues, such as in the framework of the DOHA-round (WTO). This bilateral business initiative is secondary but will be analysed upon due time. Finally, with regard to the Japanese reaction on the EU-South Korea FTA, Mr DASHWOOD stressed that this reaction is confuse and should be cleared up in the near future. Some officials and business leaders consider the Economic Integration Agreement (EIA) as a sort of FTA between Japan and the EU.

The Chair approved the 'wait-and-see' attitude of the European Commission on this business-led initiative to integrate both business communities as no solid proposal is yet on the table at the moment.

Ms Starkeviciute asked the Commission representative whether the issue of the financial market on the global scale will be on the agenda of the next summit.

Mr Dashwood replied that it is still too soon to determine all the items on the agenda, but assured that at least a general discussion on the current financial macro-economic situation would take place during the summit. He added that Japan might be interested in adopting European auditing and accounting standards. A decision on this matter will follow later this year.

Mr Sanchez Presedo wanted to know from the Commission which security issues in the domain of foreign affairs were most needed in the European cooperation with Japan.

Mr Dashwood replied that the EU and Japan do not adopt genuinely different approaches in multilateral fora on international issues, such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Zimbabwe, etc., but that the EU and Japan have sometimes different interests and different perspectives.

5. Preparation of the 29th EP/Japan Interparliamentary Meeting (2-6 June, Brussels/Vienna)

The Chair thanked the Commission representative for his well-informed replies to the

questions and for his briefing on the current domestic political situation in Japan and the preparations for the next summit. He went on by referring to the draft programme of the 29th EP/Japan IPM to take place in June 2008 in Brussels/Vienna. The Chair urged all members to be present on June 3 to take part in the discussions with the Japanese delegation, and expressed the need for 'first speakers' to introduce the 6 topics on the agenda: EU regional issues, European Neighbourhood Policy, political views on Japan, East Asian regional issues, development issues (Africa), EU-Japan economic cooperation. The Chair called upon the members to volunteer for this task.

6. Any other business

None.

7. Date and place of next meeting

The next D-JP meeting will take place on Tuesday 3 June 2008 at 9:30. The Chair friendly urged the members to be on time.

The meeting closed at 10:49.

**ПРИСЪСТВЕН ЛИСТ/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/
ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/KATASTAΣH ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/
LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU REĢISTRS/DALYVIŲ SARAŠAS/JELENLÉTI IV/
REĢISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŚCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/LISTÁ DE PREZENTĀ/
PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA**

Бюро/Меса/Председниство/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Проефрео/Bureau/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/Biuras/Elnökség/ Prezydium/Birou/Predsedničtv/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidet (*)
Georg Jarzembowksi (P)
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselők/ Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputati/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Cristobal Montoro Romero, Antolín Sánchez Presedo, Margarita Starkevičiūtė
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Supplenti/ Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantys nariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanči/Náhradníci/Namestniki/ Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
Zita Gurmai, Vladko Todorov Panayotov

178 (2)
183 (3)

46 (6) (Точка от дневния ред/Punto del orden del día/Bod pořadu jednání (OJ)/Punkt på dagsordenen/Tagesordnungspunkt/Päevakorra
punkt/Hμερήσια Διάταξη Σημείο/Agenda item/Point OJ/Punto all'ordine del giorno/Darba kārtības punkts/Darbotvarkēs punktas/
Napirendi pont/Punt Agénda/Agendapunt/Punkt porządku dzennego/Ponto OD/Punct de pe ordinea de zi/Bod programu schôdze/
Točka UL/Esityslistan kohta/Föredragningslista punkt)

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Наблюдатели/Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaattejad/Παρατηρητές/Observers/Observateurs/Osservatori/ Novērotāji/Stebētojai/Megfigyelők/Osservaturi/Waarnemers/Obserwatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelia/Opazovalci/ Tarkkailijat/Observatörer

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

Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nõukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/Conseil/Consiglio/Padome/Taryba/Tanács/Kunsill/Raad/Conselho/Consiliu/Svet/Neuvosto/Rådet (*)

Комисия/Comisión/Komise/Komissionen/Kommission/Euroopa Komisjon/Επιτροπή/Commission/Commissione/Komisija/Bizottság/Kummissjoni/Commissie/Komisja/Comissão/Comisie/Komisia/Komissio/Kommissionen (*)

Christopher Dashwood

Други институции/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/Alte instituīji/Iné inštitúcie/Druge institucije/Muut toimielimet/Andra institutioner/organ

Други участници/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/Alți participanți/Iní účastníci/Drugi udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare

Miya Shimotomai

Секретариат на политическите групи/Secretaría de los Grupos políticos/Sekretariát politických skupin/Gruppernes sekretariat/Sekretariat der Fraktionen/Fraktsioonide sekretariaat/Γραμματεία των Πολιτικών Ομάδων/Secretariats of political groups/Secrétaire des groupes politiques/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko grupu sekretariāts/Frakciju sekretoriai/Képviselőcsoportok titkársága/Segretariat gruppi politici/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secr. dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupín/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristöt/Gruppernas sekretariat

PPE-DE
PSE
ALDE
Verts/ALE
GUE/NGL
IND/DEM
UEN
NI

Isabelle de Crayencour

Кабинет на председателя/Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelář předsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinett des Präsidenten/Presidendi kantselei/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/Cabinet Președinte/Kancelária predsedu/Urad predsednika/Puhemiehen kabinetti/Talmannens kansli	
Кабинет на генералния секретар/Gabinete del Secretario General/Kancelář generálního tajemníka/Generalsekretærens Kabinet/Kabinett des Generalsekretärs/Peasekretáři Büro/Γραφείο Γενικού Γραμματέα/Secretary-General's Office/Cabinet du Secrétaire général/Gabinetto del Segretario generale/Generalsekretära kabinets/Generalino sekretoriaus kabinetas/Főtitkári hivatal/Kabinett tas-Segretarju Ĝenerali/Kabinet van de secretaris-generaal/Gabinet Sekretarza Generalnego/Gabinete do Secretário-Geral/Cabinet Secretar General/Kancelária generálneho tajomníka/Urad generalného sekretarja/Pääsihteerin kabinetti/Generalsekretærarens kansli	
Генерална дирекция/Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/Directorate-General/Direction générale/Direzione generale/Generaldirektoräts/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/Direttorat Generali/Directorate-general/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direcții Generale/Generalne riaditelstvo/Generalni direktorat/Pääosasto/Generaldirektorat	
DG PRES DG IPOL DG EXPO DG COMM DG PERS DG INLO DG TRAD DG INTE DG FINS DG ITEC	
Правна служба/Servicio Jurídico/Právni služba/Juridisk Tjeneste/Juristischer Dienst/Öigusteenistus/Νομική Υπηρεσία/Legal Service/Service juridique/Servizio giuridico/Juridiskais dienests/Teisės tarnyba/Jogi szolgálat/Servizz legali/Juridische Dienst/Wydział prawny/Serviço Jurídico/Serviciu Juridic/Právny servis/Pravna služba/Oikeudellinen yksikkö/Rättsjänsten	
Секретариат на комисията/Secretaría de la comisión/Sekretariát výboru/Udvalgssekretariatet/Ausschussekretariat/Komisjoni sekretariaat/Γραμματεία επιτροπής/Committee secretariat/Secrétaireat de la commission/Segreteria della commissione/Komitejas sekretariāts/Komíteto sekretoriatas/A bizottság titkársága/Segretariat tal-kumitat/Commissie secretariaat/Sekretariat komisi/Secretariado da comissão/Secretariat comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottsekretariatet	
Thierry Jacob	
Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Bonθόć/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asystent/Pomočník/Avustaja/Assistenter	
Germana Carnazza	

- * (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Président/Priekšsēdētājs/Pirmininkas/Elnök/Chairman'/Voorzitter/Przewodniczący/Președinte/Predsednik/Puheenjohtaja/Ordförande
 (VP) = Заместник-председател/Vicepresidente/Místopředseda/Næstformand/Stellvertretender Vorsitzender/Aseesimees/Avtutróedrosz/Vice-Chair(wo)man/Vice-Präsident/Priekšsēdētāja vietnieks/Pirmininko pavaduotojas/Alelnök/Viči 'Chairman'/Ondervoorzitter/Wiceprzewodniczący/Vice-Präsident/Vicepreședinte/Podpredseda/Podpredsednik/Varapuheenjohtaja/Vice ordförande
 (M) = Член/Miembro/Člen/Medlem/Mitglied/Parlamentilige/Méλος/Member/Membre/Membro/Deputāts/Narys/Képviselő/Membri/Lid/Członek/Membro/Člen/Poslanec/Jäsen/Ledamot
 (F) = Должностно лице/Funcionario/Úředník/Tjenestemand/Beamter/Ametnik/Υπάλληλος/Official/Fonctionnaire/Funzionario/Ierēdnis/Pareigūnas/Tisztviselő/Ufficjal/Ambtenaar/Urzédnik/Funcionário/Funcionár/Úradník/Uradnik/Virkamies/Tjänstemän