DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

(37 Members)

Chairs of the Delegation

1980-1982  Mr Gilles MARTINET  (PSE, France)
1983-1984  Mrs Marie Jacqueline DESOUCHES  (PSE, France)
1984-1986  Mr Enzo BETTIZZA  (LDR, Italy)
1986-1989  Mr Geoffrey HOON  (PSE, United Kingdom)
1989-1994  Mr Enzo BETTIZZA  (PSE, Italy)
1994-1996  Mr Stefano DE LUCA  (UPE, Italy)
1997-1999  Mr Per GAHRTON  (Green, Sweden)
1999-2001  Mr Per GAHRTON  (Green, Sweden)
2002-2004  Mrs Elly PLOOIJ-VAN GORSEL  (ELDR, Netherlands)
2004-2009  Mr Dirk STERCKX  (ALDE, Belgium)
2009-2014  Mr Crescenzio RIVELLINI  (EPP, Italy)
2014-2019  Mr Jo LEINEN  (S&D, Germany)

Brief history of the delegation

Parliament’s Delegation for relations with the People’s Republic of China was established following the first direct European elections in 1979, and IPMs have been taking place since 1980.

The EU’s relations with China, established in 1975, are governed by the 1985 EU-China Trade and Cooperation Agreement. The EU is China’s biggest trading partner, while China is the EU’s largest source of imports and second largest two-way trading partner. Annual summits and regular political, trade and economic dialogues are held, including over sixty thematic dialogues and agreements.

The main task of the delegation is to maintain relations with the National People’s Congress (NPC) through regular inter-parliamentary meetings. The delegation is also the focal point for relations with the legislative councils of the Special Administrative Regions (SARs) of Hong Kong and Macao.

The Delegation for relations with China is Parliament’s second-largest interparliamentary delegation. It has 37 full members and an equal number of substitutes. Since 2007, it has been standard practice to hold two IPMs each year – one in Europe and one in China. The delegation bureau makes an additional annual visit to China. The importance of Parliament in the development of the EU-China relationship is widely recognised, as in the Commission Communication of October 2006, which states that ‘the European Parliament plays a central role and should expand co-operation with the Chinese National People’s Congress’, and in
several others documents and reports issued by EU institutions, Member States and Chinese authorities.

In addition to the formal meetings, the delegation Chair regularly meets separately with the Chinese ambassador and other embassy representatives, as well as with other individuals and groups involved in EU-China relations, including EEAS officials and high-level officials of the EU.

**Activities during the 8th parliamentary term (2014-2019)**

**Main delegation activities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bureau visit</td>
<td>April 2015</td>
<td>Beijing &amp; Hong Kong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37th interparliamentary meeting</td>
<td>July 2015</td>
<td>Beijing &amp; Shenyang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38th interparliamentary meeting</td>
<td>September 2015</td>
<td>Brussels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39th interparliamentary meeting</td>
<td>May 2016</td>
<td>Beijing &amp; Chengdu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40th interparliamentary meeting</td>
<td>November 2017</td>
<td>Strasbourg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bureau visit</td>
<td>December 2017</td>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41st interparliamentary meeting</td>
<td>May 2018</td>
<td>Beijing &amp; Hangzhou</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Activities during the 7th parliamentary term (2009-2014)**

**Main delegation activities**

- Bureau visit                                  October 2009  Beijing, Shanghai
- Enlarged Bureau visit                          May 2010  Shanghai
- 29th interparliamentary meeting               June 2010  Strasbourg
- 30th interparliamentary meeting               Oct-Nov 2010  Beijing, Wuhan, Chengdu
- Bureau visit                                  May 2011  Beijing, Hong Kong
- 31st interparliamentary meeting               June 2011  Brussels, Spain
- 32nd interparliamentary meeting               September 2011  Beijing, Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Hong Kong
- 33rd interparliamentary meeting               July 2012  Brussels, Bulgaria
- Working Group visit                            Oct-Nov 2012  Beijing, Chongqing
- 34th and 35th interparliamentary meeting      July 2013  Beijing, Nanning, Hong Kong, Macao
- 35th and 36th interparliamentary meeting      November 2013  Brussels, Rumania

**Other activities in Parliament (Brussels/Strasbourg)**

- Visit of Ms Fu Ying, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs  July 2010
- Meeting with a delegation of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China (EUCCC)  September 2010
- Meeting with a delegation of the Chinese People’s  October 2010
Political and Consultative Conference (CPPCC)
– Meeting with a delegation of the Sichuan Province November 2010
– Meeting with a delegation of the Chinese People’s Congress Central Committee March 2011
– Seminar on EU-China relations March 2011
– Meeting with Members of the Legislative Council of Hong Kong March 2011
– Meeting with a delegation of the Party School of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China May 2011
– Meeting with a delegation of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China (EUCCC) September 2011
– Meeting with a delegation of the Chinese National People’s Congress on Tibetan Issues May 2012
– Workshop: EU-China – strategic partners or global rivals? June 2012
– Meeting with a delegation of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China (EUCCC) September 2012
– Meeting with a delegation of the Chinese People’s Congress Central Committee December 2012
– Exchange of views with Mr Wu Hailong, Ambassador of the PRC to the EU April 2013
– Meeting with a delegation of the China Institute of International Studies (CIIS) May 2013
– Visit of a delegation of Macao Higher Education Students June 2013
– Meeting with EU Ambassadors to China, Hong Kong/Macao September 2013
– Meeting with as delegation of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China (EUCCC) September 2013
– Meeting with a delegation of the Subcommittee for Ethnic and Religious Affairs of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference October 2013
– Meeting with a delegation of the Communist Party of the People’s Republic of China February 2014

Meetings during previous legislative periods
- 1st interparliamentary meeting June 1980 Strasbourg
- 2nd interparliamentary meeting September 1981 Beijing
- 3rd interparliamentary meeting October 1983 Strasbourg
- 4th interparliamentary meeting April 1984 Beijing
- 5th interparliamentary meeting October 1985 Strasbourg, Venice
- 6th interparliamentary meeting May 1986 Beijing
- 7th interparliamentary meeting September 1988 Beijing
- 8th interparliamentary meeting December 1988 London, Derby, Strasbourg
- 9th interparliamentary meeting September 1991 Beijing, Lhasa, Chengdu, Guangzhou
- 10th interparliamentary meeting  Oct/Nov 1992  Madrid, Lisbon, Strasbourg, Barcelona
- 11th interparliamentary meeting  November 1993  Beijing, Shanghai
- 12th interparliamentary meeting  February 1995  Brussels, Strasbourg, Athens
- 13th interparliamentary meeting  May/June 1996  Beijing, Xian
- 14th interparliamentary meeting  April 1997  Brussels
- 15th interparliamentary meeting  May/June 1998  Beijing, Shenyang, Dalian, Macau, Hong Kong
- 16th Interparliamentary meeting  December 1999  Strasbourg

Other activities in the European Parliament

April 2005  Representatives of National People's Congress, Foreign Affairs Committee
May 2006  His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Foreign Affairs Committee
March 2008  Mr Karma Chopel, Speaker of the Tibetan Government-in-exile, Foreign Affairs Committee
December 2008  His Holiness the Dalai Lama, plenary session of European Parliament