



Delegation for relations with India

D-IN_PV(2013)0918**MINUTES**

of the meeting of 18 September 2013, from 11:00 to 12:00
Brussels

The meeting opened at 11:00 on Wednesday, 18 September 2013, with Graham Watson (Chair) in the chair.

1. **Adoption of the draft agenda (PE 515.428)**

The draft agenda was adopted without amendment.

2. **Chair's announcements**

Sir Graham Watson welcomed all those present, particularly the new member from Croatia, Ms Zdravka Busic. He noted that this was the first meeting for several months. A meeting had been anticipated on the occasion of the visit to the EP of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Ms Kumar, who had been scheduled to come to Brussels in early July accompanied by six MEPs but that visit was unfortunately cancelled.

Sir Graham mentioned in particular the following who were present: Ms Kristine De Mulder, General Manager of Europalia International; Ms Soumya Chandrashekharachari and Ms Devi Gopinath from the Indian embassy; Mr Giuseppe Busini from EEAS; Ms Renita Bhaskar from DG Trade; and Mr Kyaw Kyaw Aung and Mr Myo Zaw Win from the Myanmar/Burma Parliament, noting that they were spending four weeks in the European Parliament on the Democracy Fellows Programme.

He noted that Mrs Anthea McIntyre had sent her apologies. She had asked nevertheless that the issue of discrimination by insurance companies against people with HIV be addressed. She had also asked that the delegation devote attention to Corporate Social Responsibility in India in its future activities and meetings with Indian partners.

Sir Graham also referred to a press release that he had made the previous week on capital punishment in India and the trial of the four men for the gang rape and murder

of a student in Delhi last December. He underlined the strong opposition of the European Parliament and European Union to the death penalty. He noted that on the previous day the Development Committee had adopted a question for oral answer on caste-based discrimination. This was scheduled to be debated in plenary, followed by a resolution, during the first October Strasbourg session. He informed members of a workshop organised by the Trade Committee and Policy Department entitled "The long road towards an EU-India Free Trade Agreement" that would be taking place on 24 September in the European Parliament in Brussels. Finally he informed members that the Trade Committee was sending a delegation to India in week 44 (w/c 28 October 2013). He would not be able to travel but a place was available for a delegation member to accompany this group. Mrs Mazej Kukovic underlined the importance to small businesses for receiving contact information about how to enter the Indian market and asked for these details to be made available.

3. Update on EU-India relations by representatives of the European Commission and the European External Action Service

Sir Graham then gave the floor to Mr Busini of the EEAS. Mr Busini outlined the contacts between High Representative Ashton and Indian Foreign Minister Salman Khurshid in recent months. He highlighted the important on-going sectoral meetings, including discussions on ICT and counter-piracy. He looked forward to the meeting between Messrs Barroso and Van Rompuy and Indian President Pranab Mukherjee at in October at Europalia India.

Mr Busini noted that the EU-India human rights dialogue had not taken place on the scheduled date of 30 August 2013 and that a new date was being sought. The EU had proposed that the next EU-India summit should take place on 29 October 2013 but there had been no response to date from the Indian side. India's response to the EU's proposal for a Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility - which had been sent in April - was also awaited.

Finally Mr Busini referred to a statement on 22 June 2013 by High Representative Ashton expressing her condolence to the victims of the floods in northern India.

Ms Renita Bhaskar of DG Trade then took the floor. She noted that there had been some contacts with India in May and June over the outstanding issues on the FTA and there had also been a written exchange between the two sides. It was recognised that the "window of opportunity" for reaching an agreement was narrowing and that both sides had to act quickly.

For the EU it was essential that the market access issues should be resolved. These included car parts and wine & spirits (although there had been some movement on the latter sector). The necessary legislation on the service sectors (particularly insurance) also remained to be adopted in the Indian Parliament. The Central Bank of India also needed to issue new banking guidelines, although Ms Bhaskar recognised that the new governor had stated that it was one of his priorities.

In conclusion Ms Bhaskar stressed that it was now important to have a new round of talks at Chief Negotiator level and a suitable date was being sought. In response to Mr Newton Dunn and Sir Graham she could not give a definite timetable for the conclusion of the FTA negotiations and recognised that there was a risk that the window of opportunity would close. She stressed the importance of achieving a comprehensive and ambitious agreement that benefited both sides. On the Indian side some elements were dependent on legislation but others - such as car parts - fell within

the competence of the executive. She underlined that if certain key elements fell into place then agreement could be reached very quickly.

In response to Sir Graham, Mr Busini recognised that the most recent human rights dialogue had taken place in March 2012 and since then there had been six or seven postponements. The EU regretted that the dialogue had not taken place on 30 August 2013. He stressed that this dialogue was a two way process and the EU was very prepared to review the modalities of the event, with a possible role for EU Human Rights Special Representative Stavros Lambrinidis. Finally Mr Busini underlined that High Representative Ashton regularly raised human rights issues in her meetings with Foreign Minister Khurshid.

4. Update on preparations for Europalia India (4 October 2013 - 26 January 2014)

Sir Graham then gave the floor to Ms Kristine De Mulder, General Manager of Europalia India. Ms de Mulder gave a short update on the preparations for the programme, which would be starting in Brussels on 4 October 2013 and running until 26 January 2014. She noted that details of the programme had been distributed to members but they included over 500 events, including theatre, dance, music films and conferences. Referring in particular to the exhibition "The Body in Indian Art", she underlined that one of the key aims of Europalia was to make Indian art and culture more comprehensible to Europeans. Although the programme was centred on Belgium, Ms De Mulder stressed that there was a great deal of interest from people in neighbouring countries.

Sir Graham thanked Ms De Mulder, noting that Europalia provided an excellent means of using culture and art to bring people together. Ms Chandrashekharachari underlined the support of the Indian embassy for the event and stressed that Europalia could lead to a better understanding in Europe of India's pluralistic culture.

5. Any other business

Sir Graham noted that the report of the delegation visit to India in late April/early May 2013 was in the dossier and asked for any comments to be made directly to the secretariat.

He informed members that planning was underway for the programme of Delegation activity in 2014. There was a possibility for external travel in the week of 24 March 2014 which was the only pre-election "green week". He noted that the EU Delegation in New Delhi had been contacted about the possibility of travelling at that time. They had stressed that this period would probably coincide with the Indian elections which would be spread over two months. They had noted that this was a period when everything was in a state of flux and there was likely to be uncertainty over meetings with politicians. He asked members for comments in order to ascertain whether there was interest in travelling at that time. He noted too that the alternative was for the EP delegation to travel after the European and Indian elections in the week of 27 October 2014 (week 44).

Mr Newton Dunn expressed great interest in travelling to India during the election period.

Sir Graham asked the secretariat to consult with the political groups about the level of interest in travelling in March.

6. **Date and place of the next meeting**

Sir Graham told members that they would be informed as soon as possible about the date of the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 12:00.

ПРИСЪСТВЕН ЛИСТ/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/
 ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/KATAΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/POPIS
 NAZOČNIH/LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU REĢISTRŠ/DALYVIŲ SĄRAŠAS/JELENLÉTI
 ÍV/ REĢISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŠCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/LISTĂ DE PREZENȚĂ/
 PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA

Бюро/Mesa/Předsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Predsjedništvo/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/ Biuras/Elnökség/ Prezydium/Birou/Predsednictvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
Charalampos Angourakis, Lena Kolarska-Bobińska, Graham Watson
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Zastupnici/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/ Képviselek/ Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Jo Leinen, Zofija Mazej Kukovič, Emma McClarkin, Bill Newton Dunn
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Zamjenici/Suppléants/ Supplenti/Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantysnariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/ Namestniki/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
Zdravka Bušić, Kinga Gál, Thomas Mann

187 (2)
193 (3)
46 (6) (Точка от дневния ред/Punto del orden del día/Bod pořadu jednání (OJ)/Punkt på dagsordenen/Tagesordnungspunkt/Päevakorra punkt/Ημερήσια Διάταξη Σημείο/Agenda item/Točka dnevnog reda/Point OJ/Punto all'ordine del giorno/Darba kārtības punkts/Darbotvarkēs punktas/ Napirendi pont/Punt Agenda/Agendapunt/Punkt porządku dziennego/Ponto OD/Punct de pe ordinea de zi/Bod programu schôdze/ Točka UL/Esityslistan kohta/Föredragningslista punkt)

Наблюдатели/Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaatlejad/Παρατηρητές/Observers/Promatrači/Observateurs/ Osservatori/Novērotāji/Stebėtojai/Megfigyelők/Osservatori/Waarnemers/Observatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatel'ia/ Opazovalci/Tarkkailijat/Observatörer

По покана на председателя/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/Na poziv predsjednika/Sur l'invitation du président/Su invito del presidente/Pēc priekšsēdētāja uzaicinājuma/Pirmininkui pakvietus/Az elnök meghívására/Fuq stedina taç-'Chairman'/ Op uitnodiging van de voorzitter/Na zaproszenie Przewodniczącego/A convite do Presidente/La invitația președintelui/Na pozwanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan
De Mulder (Europalia)

Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nõukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/Vijeće/Conseil/Consiglio/Padome/Taryba/Tanács/Kunsill/Raad/Conselho/Consiliu/Svet/Neuvosto/Rådet (*)
Комисия/Comisión/Komise/Kommissionen/Kommission/Euroopa Komisjon/Επιτροπή/Commission/Commissione/Komisija/Bizottság/Kummissjoni/Commissie/Komisja/Comissão/Comisie/Komisia/Komissio/Kommissionen (*)
Bashkar
Европейска служба за външна дейност/Европскá služba pro vnější činnost/EU-Udenrigstjenesten/Europäischer Auswärtiger Dienst/Euroopa välisteenistus/Ευρωπαϊκή Υπηρεσία Εξωτερικής Δράσης/European External Action service/Servicio Europeo de Acción Exterior/Europska služba za vanjsko djelovanje/Service européen pour l'action extérieure/Servizio europeo per l'azione esterna/Eiropas Ārējās darbības dienests/Euopos išorės veiksmų tarnyba/Európai Külügyi Szolgálat/Servizz Ewropew għall-Azzjoni Esterna/Europese dienst voor extern optreden/Europejska Służba Działañ Zewnętrznych/Serviço Europeu para a Acção Externa/Serviciul european pentru acțiune externă/Európska služba pre vonkajšiu činnost'/Evropska služba za zunanje delovanje/Euroopan ulkosuhdehallinto/Europeiska avdelningen för yttre åtgärd (*)
Busini
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 oħra/Andere instellingen/Inne instytucje/Outras Instituições/Alte instituții/Iné inštitúcie/Druge institucije/Muut toimielimet/Andra institutioner/organ

Други учасници/Otros participantes/Ostatní účastníci/Endvidere deltog/Andere Teilnehmer/Muud osalejad/Επίσης Παρόντες/Other participants/Drugi sudionici/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

Gopinath, Soumya (Indian Embassy) - Kyaw Kyaw Aung , Myo Zaw Win (Myanmar Parliament) - Mohoric, Ulvila (MEP's assistants)

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/Tajništva klubova zastupnika/Secrétariat des groupes politiques/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko grupu sekretariāts/Frakciju sekretoriat/Képviselőcsoportok titkársága/Sekretarjat gruppi politici/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secr. dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupin/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristö/Gruppernas sekretariat

PPE	Mitsopoulou, Marciniak, Bernard
S&D	Williams
ALDE	de Crayencour, Pondelek
ECR	De Jong
Verts/ALE	
GUE/NGL	
EFD	
NI	

Кабинет на председателя/Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelář předsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinett des Präsidenten/Presidendi kantselei/Γραφείο Προέδρου/President's Office/Ured predsednika/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/Talmanens kansli

Кабинет на генералния секретар/Gabinete del Secretario General/Kancelář generálního tajemníka/Generalsekretærens Kabinet/Kabinett des Generalsekretärs/Peasekretäri büroo/Γραφείο Γενικού Γραμματέα/Secretary-General's Office/Ured glavnog tajnika/Cabinet du Secrétaire général/Gabinetto del Segretario generale/Generalsekretära kabinets/Generalinio sekretoriaus kabinetas/Főtitkári hivatal/Kabinett tas-Segretarju Ġenerali/Kabinet van de secretaris-generaal/Gabinet Sekretarza Generalnego/Gabinete do Secretário-Geral/Cabinet Secretar General/Kancelária generálneho tajomníka/Urad generalnega sekretarja/Pääsihteerin kabinetti/Generalsekreterarens kansli

Генерална дирекция/Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/ Directorate-General/Glavna uprava/Direction générale/Direzione generale/Generāldirektorāts/Generalinis direktoratas/Fóigazgatóság/ Direttorat Generali/Direktoraten-generaal/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direcții Generale/Generálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni direktorat/ Pääosasto/Generaldirektorat	
DG PRES DG IPOL DG EXPO DG COMM DG PERS DG INLO DG TRAD DG INTE DG FINS DG ITEC	Condomines
Правна служба/Servicio Jurídico/Právní 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/Rättstjänsten	
Секретариат на комисията/Secretaría de la comisión/Sekretariát výboru/Udvalgssekretariatet/Ausschusseksretariat/Komisjoni sekretariaat/Γραμματεία επιτροπής/Committee secretariat/Tajništvo odbora/Secrétariat de la commission/Segreteria della commissione/Komitejas sekretariāts/Komiteto sekretoriatas/A bizottság titkársága/Sekretarjat tal-kumitat/Commissiesecretariaat/ Sekretariat komisiji/ Secretariado da comissão/Sekretariat comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeriistö/Utskottssekretariatet	
Boden	
Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asyistent/Pomočnik/ Avustaja/Assistenten	
Mollet	

- * (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Predsjednik/Président/
 Priekšsēdētājs/Pirmininkas/Elnök/Chairman/Voorzitter/Przewodniczący/Preşedinte/Predsa/Predsednik/Puheenjohtaja/
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 Vice-Chair(wo)man/Potpredsjednik/Vice-Président/Priekšsēdētāja vietnieks/Pirmininko pavaduotojas/Alelnök/Viçi 'Chairman'/
 Ondervoorzitter/Wiceprzewodniczący/Vice-Presidente/Vicepreşedinte/Podpredsa/Podpredsednik/Varapuheenjohtaja/
 Vice ordförande
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 Membru/Lid/Członek/Membro/Membru/Člen/Poslanec/Jäsen/Ledamot
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 Funzionario/Ierēdnis/Pareigūnas/Tisztviselő/Ufficial/Ambtenaar/Urządник/Funcionário/Funcionar/Úradník/Uradnik/Virkamies/
 Tjänsteman