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*Delegation for relations with India*

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**MINUTES**  
of the meeting of 10 November 2009, from 15:00 to 16:00  
**BRUSSELS**

The meeting opened at 15:00 on Tuesday, 10 November 2009, with Graham Watson (Chair) in the chair.

**1. Adoption of the draft agenda (PE 429.767)**

The agenda was adopted without amendments.

**2. Adoption of the draft minutes of the constituent meeting of 30.9.2009 (PE 429.751)**

The minutes were adopted without amendment.

**3. Chairman's announcements**

The Chair announced that Vice Chair Mr. Athanasios Pafilis would be leaving the European Parliament on his election to the Greek Parliament. He would be replaced as Vice Chair by Mr Charalampos Angourakis. It was intended that this should be ratified by the plenary session on 11 November 2009. Mr Angourakis was unable to attend the meeting.

The Chair mentioned that the 2009 was the 25th anniversary of the Bhopal disaster, which was the worst industrial disaster in history and had led to many thousands of deaths from illnesses related to gas exposure.

4. **Exchange of views on EU-India relations with  
- H.E. Dr Jaiminin BHAGWATI, Indian Ambassador to the EU**

Ambassador Bhagwati outlined the recent EU-India summit on the 6 November 2009 in New Delhi. In addition there had been meetings between the Indian foreign ministry and their counterparts in the Commission, and the Council. There had been also separately meetings with senior officials in Brussels in September 2009. Together with other international meetings at the United Nations and the G20 meeting, it demonstrated the width and depth of the EU-Indian relationship.

He underlined that the European Union was the largest trading partner of India, despite a decrease in trade in 2009 due to the financial crisis. He noted too that the two sides were committed to the Doha Round. On the bilateral level, the European Union had been engaged in negotiations on a free trade agreement which included services and investment. It was expected to be concluded at the next EU-India summit. Concerning about climate change, India was working with the European Union in several specific areas, for instance clean coal technology, energy efficiency and renewable energy including solar energy. India had adopted a very elaborate national action plan with regards to the natural environments. As the European Union was a lead player in technology, India was a growing market. This opened the way to all kinds of potential relationships between the two sides, in particular in the area of nuclear energy because Indian was in a strategically significant location. India had already signed an agreement on this at the summit.

He wished to dispel any notions that India was not interested in fully engaging with the EU on political issues. India had both formal and informal structures in such interactions. There had been an extensive discussion in the previous week at ministerial level about India's national action plan on climate change and both sides had made their positions clear. India needed to supplement its production by means of nuclear power. He also invited the EP Delegation members to one of the Indian parliament sessions for further discussions.

He underlined that the two sides needed to coordinate strategies to respond to the financial crisis. Monetary policies had been relaxed and interest rates had been reduced in India. The government had provided fiscal stimulants to higher government spending. The economy in India had been doing reasonably well during the crisis. With regard to poverty in India, the two sides should work together towards the Millennium Development Goals. This aimed at bringing a large number of people in rural areas above the poverty line.

Finally he stated that Indian was confronted by terrorism of a cross-border nature. He recalled the terrorist attack on several hotels in Mumbai which had taken place on 26f November 2008. The EU and India should cooperate as closely as possible to tackle this threat.

**- Representative from the European Commission**

The representative from the European Commission, Mr. Remond, stressed the need to conclude the free trade agreement with India in 2010. There were still some important obstacles to be overcome, particularly in the areas of IPR, public procurement, and

services. He hoped for specific progress in the next series of negotiations. There was a common will to strengthen cooperation on energy, with work taking place, for example, on clean coal and solar energy through exchanges and joint calls for proposals. The Euratom fusion agreement had furthermore been signed at the Summit, and work was progressing on the planned research agreement. Dialogue on both illegal and legal migration was now developing in an encouraging way, and in the area of culture it was hoped that a joint declaration could shortly be concluded. Any expansion of the Erasmus Mundus programme would be welcomed. The bilateral cooperation programme had just been the subject of a Mid-Term Review which had concluded that cooperation should continue to be focussed primarily on the social sectors but with some support also being provided for activities related to the EU-India Joint Action Plan. Funding for the next period (2011-2013) was likely to be around €210 million.

He underlined that global challenges had nevertheless dominated the summit discussions, in particular the subject of climate change. While India was not yet willing to commit to specific target figures on emission reductions, it was determined to work towards a fair and balanced outcome in Copenhagen. On terrorism there was a strong interest on the two sides to cooperate, as witnessed by the recent visit to India of the EU Counter-Terrorism Coordinator and by the intention to launch cooperation between Europol and India's Central Bureau of Investigation. Peacekeeping was also an area where shared commitment had been noted.

Mr. Leinen asked about the country's plans for the Copenhagen Climate Conference. He would like know if India would be representing itself or a whole bloc of countries.

Ms. Silvia-Adriana also raised the issue of the Copenhagen Climate Conference. She asked what measures India had taken to adapt to climate change. She last commented that improvements were needed in the areas of drinking water, carbon emissions and health care.

Mr. Van Dalen raised the issues of child labour and human rights.

Mr. Winkler asked about India's position in the Doha Round.

Ambassador Bhagwati replied that India was indeed aware of the country's vulnerability to the effects of climate change, not least the implications of a receding icecap in the Himalayas. The Ministry of the Environment's position on this could be seen on their website. The Indian Government took the position that, although it was not responsible for causing climate change, it would nevertheless participate in finding solutions in an open and transparent way. He stressed that India would be only speaking on behalf of itself at the Copenhagen Climate Conference.

He acknowledged that there were indeed some serious issues of human rights to be tackled in India, but that the situation was socially complex. While the laws were in place the question of enforcement was not always easy. Freedom of religion was nevertheless a right that India had always supported, for example welcoming Buddhists from Tibet and Parsees from Persia. In his response he also confirmed that Delegation members would be welcome to visit any communities or regions of India they wished (subject to security considerations) to assess for themselves the true situation.

Mr. Remond added that these and many more such issues were raised in the EU-India Human Rights Dialogue. Religious freedom had even been raised in the context of the 2008 Summit in Marseille. India was furthermore a pilot country for the implementation of the EU guidelines on the rights of the child.

**5. Draft programme of delegation activity in 2010**

The Chair informed members that the following programme of delegation activity had been proposed for 2010.

28 January - 2 February 2010 - Bureau visit

Week 21 (24 May 2010) - full delegation to travel to India (NB subsequently changed to 10-14 May)

Week 40 (6-10 October 2010) - incoming delegation from India

**6. Any other business**

The Chair referred to a number of organisations that had approached him and stated that they would like to discuss the following issues at future delegation meetings.

Food First Information and Action Network (FIAN) in India had been campaigning for the right to food for around 15 years and worked particularly with the marginalised and vulnerable tribal and fishing communities.

Intelligence in Science (ISC) had been promoting EU-India scientific cooperation. India was the third largest recipient of R&D projects funded under the EU Seventh Framework Programme (2007-2013)

The Chair thanked Mrs. Kolarska-Bobinska for meeting recently with a group of Indian journalists on the behalf of the members.

The Chair informed members that there would be a meeting with a group of Indian academics on 12 November at 1630hrs. All members were invited to attend.

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

No other regular meeting was scheduled for 2009. Members would be informed of the schedule of meetings for 2010 as soon as possible.

The meeting closed at 16:00.

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

Бюро/Mesa/Předsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/Biuras/Elnökség/ Prezydium/Birou/Předsednictvo/Předsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
Graham Watson
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselek/ Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Luigi Berlinguer, Peter van Dalen, Karima Delli, Satu Hassi, Jo Leinen, Bill Newton Dunn, Silvia-Adriana Țicău, Winkler, Iuliu
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Supplenti/ Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantys nariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/Namestniki/ Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
José Manuel Fernandes, Kinga Gál, Jean Lambert, Toine Manders, Toine Manders

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193 (3)
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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/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)

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По покана на председателя/Por invitación del presidente/Na pozváni 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 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

Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nðukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/Conseil/Consiglio/Padome/Taryba/Tanács/Kunsill/Raad/Conselho/Consiliu/Svet/Neuvosto/Rådet (*)	
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REMOND - KHANDEKAR - WILKINSON - GRUNBERG - BORMEISTER	
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	
EESC	SIGMUND - SUBHAN

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 oħra/Andere aanwezigen/Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Alți participanți/Iní účastníci/Dруги udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare	
Joyeux, Matias, Mouchtar, Knaus, Stone, Eberlen, Cummings, Powell, Dharmendra, georgiades, Findlater, Hauer, Hillmann	
Секретариат на политическите групи/Secretaría de los Grupos políticos/Sekretariát politických skupin/Gruppenes sekretariat/Sekretariat der Fraktionen/Fraktsioonide sekretariaat/Γραμματεία των Πολιτικών Ομάδων/Sekretariats of political groups/Secrétariat des groupes politiques/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politiske grupu sekretariāts/Fracijų sekretoriai/Képviseletcsoportok titkársága/Secretarjat gruppi politici/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secr. dos grupos políticos/Sekretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupin/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristöt/Gruppenas sekretariat	
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ALDE	Pondelek
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Секретариат на комисията/Secretaría de la comisión/Sekretariat výboru/Udvalgssekretariatet/Ausschusseksretariat/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/Secretariado da comissão/Sekretariat comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottssekretariatet	
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Mollet	

- \* (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Président/Priekšsēdētājs/Pirmininkas/Elnök/Chairman/Voorzitter/Przewodniczący/Preşedinte/Predseda/Predsednik/Puheenjohtaja/Ordförande
- (VP) = Заместник-председател/Vicepresidente/Místopředseda/Næstformand/Stellvertretender Vorsitzender/Aseesimees/Αντιπρόεδρος/Vice-Chair(wo)man/Vice-Président/Priekšsēdētāja vietnieks/Pirmininko pavaduotojas/Alelnök/Víci 'Chairman'/Ondervoorzitter/Wiceprzewodniczący/Vice-Présidente/Vicepreşedinte/Podpredseda/Podpredsednik/Varapuheenjohtaja/Vice ordförande
- (M) = Член/Miembro/Člen/Medlem./Mitglied/Parlamendiliige/Μέλος/Member/Membre/Membro/Deputāts/Narys/Képviselő/Membru/Lid/Członek/Membro/Membru/Člen/Poslanec/Jäsen/Ledamot
- (F) = Длъжностно лице/Funcionario/Úředník/Tjenestemand/Beamter/Ametnik/Υπάλληλος/Official/Fonctionnaire/Funzionario/Ierēdnis/Pareigūnas/Tisztviselő/Ufficial/Ambtenaar/Urzednik/Funcionário/Funcionar/Úradník/Uradnik/Virkamies/Tjänsteman