



Delegation for relations with India

D-IN_PV(2010)0120

MINUTES
of the meeting of 20 January 2010, from 16:15 to 17:15
STRASBOURG

The meeting opened at 16:15 on Wednesday, 20 January 2010, with Graham Watson (Chair) in the chair.

1. Adoption of the draft agenda (PE 432.714)

The agenda was adopted without amendments.

2. Adoption of the draft minutes of the meeting of 10 November 2009 (PE 431.831)

The minutes were adopted without amendment.

3. Chairman's announcements (Approval of 1st Vice-Chair)

Mr WATSON announced that Mr. Charalampos ANGOURAKIS had been nominated to replace Mr. PAFILIS as First Vice Chair of the delegation. Mr. PAFILIS had been elected to the Greek Parliament at the national elections in the autumn of 2009.

Members agreed by acclamation to the confirmation of Mr ANGOURAKIS as First Vice Chair and he took his seat on the podium.

Mr WATSON thanked the Indian Ambassador Dr. BHAGWATI for hosting a lunch. The Ambassador had been unable to attend the delegation meeting because of other commitments

4. Programme of activity of Delegation in 2010

Mr WATSON stated that planning a programme of activities in 2010 for the Delegation had been complicated by the fact that the calendar of the sittings of the Lok Sabha, the

Lower House of the Indian Parliament, was not confirmed until a late date. It also did not necessarily coincide with the calendar of the European Parliament.

He stated that it had not yet been possible to confirm a suitable date for the Bureau visit because of the incompatibility over calendars. It would, however, be desirable to travel when the Lok Sabha was likely to be in session in mid March. Work was continuing on this.

The outgoing full Delegation to India would have to take place during the periods when the Lok Sabha was definitely in session. Mr WATSON stated that this would almost certainly be from mid April until the end of May. He had therefore asked Ambassador Bhagwati at the lunch whether it would be convenient to visit in the week of 26 April 2010 (Week 17) and the Ambassador had replied that it would indeed be possible.

Mr WATSON also noted that Baroness Ashton would also be visiting India at the end of April. The Delegation would be allowed to send up to 15 members plus the Chair in the course of 2010.

The initial dates proposed for an incoming India delegation were in week 40 (6 to 10 October 2010) with a possible additional visit to the South West of England or Gibraltar. This would be discussed in due course with the Ambassador.

Mr WATSON noted that the Lok Sabha currently had no permanent delegation for relations with the European Parliament, although it had friendship groups for individual countries in Europe. Political parties in the Lok Sabha had been invited to send in nominations for the Friendship Group with the European Parliament - i.e. the equivalent of the counterpart of the EP Delegation. This list would be consolidated and sent to the Speaker for it to be formally consolidated.

He also noted that, under Indian parliamentary practices, Friendship Groups did not visit foreign countries as groups. However members from Friendship Groups were included in Delegations headed by the Speaker on visits abroad.

The Commission had also raised the issue of the Friendship Group during its meetings with the Indian side.

Ms TICAU stated that, although the Delegation had been asked to have a better and stronger dialogue through more interaction with the Indian side; it had unfortunately not proven to be possible. She thought that the end of April would be a suitable time to organise a visit. Information technology, renewable energy and climate change should be the main priorities. As the Copenhagen Summit had not delivered the desired results, it was necessary to try to reach a post-Kyoto agreement in which India should play an important role. She proposed a Delegation meeting to follow up the negotiations that would start in the following week on the renewal of the EU-India agreement. The follow-up meeting should include representatives from the Commission and the Indian authorities. She stressed that the relations between the EU and India would bring benefits to both sides.

Mr LEINEN stated that it was a pity that India had not visited the European Parliament for the past five years and hoped that this visit could take place as soon as possible because the European Parliament had drawn great benefits from the last visit. He

proposed a visit to other cities besides Delhi.

Mr VAN DALEN asked if it was possible to schedule the visit in Week 21 because in Week 17 there would be committee meetings. As the relations with India became more intensive, he suggested having two visits in 2010 to cover human rights issues including religion freedom, and also specific topics including water policy.

Mr WATSON replied that Week 21 was difficult because the Lok Sabha would probably not be in session and the Delegation would like to talk to the Indian parliamentarians

Mr ALVARO agreed that visits outside Delhi should be requested and underlined that the Delegation could learn a great from the environmental perspective. He added that they should also visit rural areas where traditional practices still prevailed. He would also like to learn how India managed to avoid the most significant impacts of the global financial crisis.

Mr MANN agreed that an incoming visit of the Lok Sabha would be of benefit. He underlined the need for the two sides to cooperate on the environmental issue. The EU should not disregard the principle of intellectual property rights. India was expecting to have a sustainable partnership with the EU and the delegation therefore needed to build up confidence and deliver a positive signal to India by visiting some other economic centres besides Delhi.

Ms FERREIRA suggested concentrating on three topics: i.e. environmental protection with sustainable economic growth; the conditions for free trade including the Doha Round, foreign direct investment, and the protection of patent rights; and thirdly the financial issue including the insurance and banking sectors.

Ms. DELLI reminded members that 2010 was the year of fighting against poverty and social exclusion. Poverty still existed in many parts of India. The European Parliament needed to continue promoting renewable and stable energy to India following the failure of the Copenhagen Summit. She noted that a major part of the Indian economy was still based very much on manual labour. She underlined the importance of promoting exchanges and knowledge. She also mentioned that there were 5000 suicides occurring per month in rural communities in India.

Mr SALVINI believed that it would be interesting to study the democratic decentralisation process and new forms of autonomy in the Indian regions in detail as a lot of European countries were in very similar situations.

Mr TANNOCK strongly agreed with the proposal of spending time outside Delhi as India was a vast country. He would be in favour of visiting Bangalore and to see its IT and software industries. The EP should view India as a force for stability in South Asia and a partner in the fight against global terrorism. India had an important role of stabilising, democratising and modernising the South Asia region due to its relations with highly unstable neighbours, ranging from Nepal to Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Ms KOLARSKA-BOBINSKA categorised the discussion into four topics. The first one was climate issues, including water and renewable energy. The second one was social issues, including poverty and marginalisation. The third one was foreign policy. The

fourth one was economics and trade. She also agreed with the proposal to view what was happening on the ground.

Mr WATSON added that the Ambassador would be interested in learning about European experience, notably the construction of the EU. He suggested discussing the respective constitutional structures or constitutional functioning of India and of the European Union because the two sides had very different historical origins but nevertheless had many challenges in common. The discussion should cover as much as possible. He hoped to raise these issues during the Bureau visit in mid March.

6. Any other business

Mr WATSON referred to a human rights case in which Professor Singh-Bhullar, a Sikh activist, had been condemned to death for conspiracy and was currently on death row. The Chair also asked if any member was willing to host an exhibition on the life of Gandhi. Ms. FERREIRA offered her sponsorship.

Ms. DELLI introduced a Gandhian, PV Rajagopal who was currently organising a march for rural people in order to raise the awareness of the government towards poverty. In the last march about 20,000 rural people went on march. She asked members who would come across India to take part in the march.

7. Time and date of the next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled to take place in Strasbourg on Thursday 11 March at 1000hrs.

The meeting closed at 17:15.

**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 PREZENÇÁ/
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, Charalampos Angourakis, Lena Kolarska-Bobińska
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselek/ Membri/Leden/Poslowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Gabriele Albertini, Peter van Dalen, Karima Delli, Jo Leinen, Bill Newton Dunn, Matteo Salvini, Charles Tannock, Silvia-Adriana Țicău
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Supplenti/ Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantys nariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/Namestniki/ Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
Alexander Alvaro, José Manuel Fernandes, Elisa Ferreira, Kinga Gál, Marielle Gallo, Thomas Mann, Joanna Katarzyna Skrzydlewska

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/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/Observateurs/Osservatori/ Novērotāji/Stebētājai/Megfigyelők/Osservatori/Waarnemers/Observatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelja/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/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/La invitația președintelui/Na pozvanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan

Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nōukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/Conseil/Consiglio/Padome/Taryba/Tanács/Kunsill/Raad/Conselho/Consiliu/Svet/Neuvosto/Rådet (*)
Комисия/Comisión/Komise/Kommissionen/Kommission/Euroopa Komisjon/Επιτροπή/Commissione/Komisija/Bizottság/Kummissjoni/Commissie/Komisja/Comissão/Comisie/Komisia/Komissio/Kommissionen (*)
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 institūīi/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/Autres participants/Altri partecipanti/Citi klātesošie/Kiti dalyviai/Más résztvevők/Parteicipanti oħra/Andere aanwezigen/Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Alți participanți/Ini účastnici/Dруги udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare	
GHOSH (Indian Embassy)	
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/Secrétariat des groupes politiques/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko grupu sekretariāts/Frakciju sekretoriai/Képviselőcsoportok titkársága/Segretarjat 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	LASZLO, BASTIAANSEN, MAIER, KNAUS
S&D	DE CESARE, CERSANI
ALDE	PONDELEK
ECR	DE JONG
Verts/ALE	JOYEUX
GUE/NGL	KYRIAZIS
EFD	
NI	

<p>Кабинет на председателя/Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelář předsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinett des Präsidenten/Presidendi kantselēi/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 Preşedinte/Kancelária predsedu/Urząd predsednika/Puhemiehen kabinetti/Talmannens kansli</p>	
<p>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/Cabinet du Secrétaire général/Gabinetto del Segretario generale/Ġeneralsekretära 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/Urząd generalnega sekretarja/Pääsihteerin kabinetti/Generalsekreterarens kansli</p>	
<p>Генерална дирекция/Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/Directorate-General/Direction générale/Direzione generale/Generāldirektorāts/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/Direktorat Ġenerali/Direktoraten-generaal/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direcții Generale/Generálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni direktorat/Pääosasto/Generaldirektorat</p>	
<p>DG PRES DG IPOL DG EXPO DG COMM DG PERS DG INLO DG TRAD DG INTE DG FINS DG ITEC</p>	<p>BODEN, MOLLET, NUTTIN</p>
<p>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</p>	
<p>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</p>	
<p>Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asystent/Pomočnik/Avustaja/Assistenten</p>	
<p>GEORGHIADES, PHELLAN, BENSOUAG, HILLMAN</p>	

- * (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/Functionar/Úradník/Uradnik/Virkamies/Tjänsteman