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*Delegation for relations with India*

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**D-IN\_PV(2011)0512**

**MINUTES**

of the meeting of 12 May 2011, from 10:15 to 11:15  
Strasbourg

The meeting opened at 10:15 on Thursday, 12 May 2011, with Mr Graham Watson in the chair.

1. **Adoption of the draft agenda**

The draft agenda was adopted without amendment.

2. **Adoption of the draft minutes of the meeting of 6 April 2011**

There were no comments on the minutes of the meeting of 6 April 2011.

3. **Chair's announcements**

4. **Review of the visit of the delegation to India from 11 to 15 April 2011**

The items were taken together

Mr Watson welcomed Mr Nair of the Indian embassy and thanked him and his ambassador for hosting a dinner on the previous evening for the members who had participated in the recent delegation visit to India.

Mr Watson thanked the members for participating in the delegation visit. He particularly thanked Mr Angourakis for replacing him as Chair on the final day.

He noted that the draft report of the delegation visit had been distributed to members for comment.

Mr Watson also referred to the debate and resolution that had taken place that week

on the EU-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA). A copy of the adopted resolution had been distributed to members. In his view the text was largely in line with the previous resolution of March 2009.

Mr van Dalen argued that the new resolution concentrated too much on trade issues and did not give sufficient emphasis to non-trade issues. He had decided to abstain in the final vote.

Mr Watson noted that the new resolution on the FTA was the first during the current legislature. In his view it contained the major points of the Parliament's previous position: i.e. that the majority favoured a trade agreement and that there should also be guarantees of certain social outcomes from the agreement.

Mr Désir agreed that the European Parliament was in favour of such cooperation agreements. There was, nevertheless, debate on what the balance should be between trade and non-trade issues and the definition of "non-trade" issues was rather vague. He stressed that the S&D group had also not voted in favour of the March 2009 resolution. He underlined the importance of corporate social responsibility and referred to the actions of companies such as Union Carbide, which had caused large scale pollution. He stressed that trade agreements should ensure that action be taken on major companies that did not comply with basic social and economic rights. There were lessons to be learned from Latin America and it was important to ensure that agreements did not have a detrimental effect on services such as the provision of water. It was essential to look closely at all aspects of the FTA and not simply have a "blanket agreement" that would alienate civil society. He noted, too, the Indian concerns about imports of subsidised agricultural products from the EU.

Mr Leinen believed that the resolution had been improved by amendments. There was still considerable concern over access to generic medicines and he reminded the representative of the embassy that he had asked for its view on this issue.

Mr van Dalen thanked Mr Watson for the clarification. He emphasised that the new resolution was weaker than the March 2009 resolution and had moved too far away from the non-trade issues. He was informed that the resolution that had been circulated was the resolution adopted that week.

Mrs Kolarska-Bobinska expressed concern on the progress of the negotiations, which were clearly very difficult. There was a danger of raising increasing numbers of issues which delayed these negotiations even further.

Mr Angourakis thanked all those who had been on the visit to India and he believed the visit to have been a great success. He personally opposed the FTA as he considered that it was an "unfair agreement" that would set the Indian side against that of the EU. He recognised, nonetheless, that there were different views on the agreement and he appreciated the discussions that had been held. He recalled the question of a journalist in Patna who had asked whether the Europeans wanted to return to a neo-colonialist position.

He informed the meeting that he had received a message from an Indian group that opposed the construction of the Jaitapur nuclear plant in Maharashtra, in an area that was prone to earthquakes. This development, which involved the French company

Areva, would be the largest nuclear power plant in the world and had been the subject of considerable protests.

Mr Newton Dunn thanked the secretariat and the EU ambassador for their role in organising the visit, which he had very much enjoyed. He stressed the need during the next visit to concentrate on strengthening the links with the Indian Parliament and to encourage them to acquire the powers to ratify such agreements. He was sorry to have heard from the Indian Ambassador that Indian MPs tended to go to member states when they were in Europe and that Brussels was only a small "add-on". He stressed that it was important to educate them about the European Parliament and its powers and role.

Mrs Rosbach thanked every one for a "fantastic" visit, which had been very valuable. However, she wanted to know how the imports from India would meet all the EU standards, especially as EU manufacturers already had problems in meeting these standards.

Mrs Delli stressed that the EU was India's main trade partner and that the EP resolution needed to highlight social and environmental issues. There had not been proper transparency on the negotiations and it was important that the NGOs were consulted. There should be a major colloquium on the agreement. She stressed that the Indian population was generally opposed to the FTA. She referred to the violent demonstrations against the construction of a nuclear plant in Maharashtra. She wanted the EP Delegation to enhance its profile and to be the main player in any debate on the agreement.

She also argued that the EP Delegation should be taking up the issue of Bhopal and that the Chair should re-launch the written declaration that he had previously tabled on the subject. She raised, too, the world issue of the walk against world poverty and believed that the EP Indian delegation should be associated in this to draw attention to the plight of Indian farmers. She stated that she would send out further details.

Mr Nair stated that the embassy was happy to respond to Mr Leinen's concerns. He noted the statement of Commissioner de Gucht that the agreement should not result in restrictions on access of poor people to generic medicines. He noted that the Indian government had just commissioned a one year geological survey to determine whether the area in which the nuclear plant would be built was indeed subject to earthquakes. The Indian Parliament would subsequently examine the results of the survey before any further steps were taken. It was clear that India did need energy but it was important to allay the fears of people. The government was adopting a law that would increase the compensation paid to people whose land was taken for development.

Mr Watson noted that the Commission had dropped its insistence on data exclusivity in order not to restrict access to generic medicines. He believed that the most optimistic timescale was for a meeting between Commissioner de Gucht and Minister Sharma to take place before the summer, which could lead to an agreement at the EU-India summit in the autumn. He noted that the EP India delegation did have a role to play in the ongoing debate on the FTA, although the formal role was held by the Trade Committee. He promised to talk to Mr Moreira, the Chair of the Trade Committee.

He referred to the draft report of the Delegation visit and stressed that - although the Lok Sabha had not been in session - it had been possible to meet a large number of politicians, including the members of the Indian Parliament's Trade Committee. This meeting had complemented other meetings on the FTA, such as that with the trade unions.

5. **Future activity of the delegation in 2011**

Mr Watson expressed the hope that it would be possible to host an incoming delegation from the Indian Parliament in Brussels or Strasbourg later in the year, possibly led by Speaker Kumar. The Indian side had given indications that a Friendship Group would be established "before too long".

Mr Watson announced that on 26 and 27 May a number of Indian MPs would be in Brussels as part of a climate conference that he was organising.

He noted too that 15 members had been authorised to travel to India in 2011 - so far only five members had travelled - the chair being "hors quota". The "green week" that was most likely to coincide with the session of the Lok Sabha was week 47/48. Members were invited to consider proposals for places to visit. Mr Watson noted that the Jesuit Refugee Service had proposed that MEPs should travel to Tamil Nadu to examine the situation of Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka.

There would also be the possibility of discussing these issues with the new Managing Director for Asia at the European External Action Service (EEAS) - Mr Isticioaia, who had previously been the Romanian ambassador in China and had been invited to the next meeting of the delegation.

Mr Désir wanted to express his thanks to all involved in the organisation of the recent visit to India. He regretted that there had not been sufficient time with the Indian parliamentarians.

Mr Angourakis expressed his wish to include some of Ms Delli's ideas in the next visit programme and wanted to contact the trade unions and farmers' organisations. He also looked forward to meeting representatives of all the political parties. He stressed the importance of sending official thanks to all those who had received the delegation during the visit. He asked, too, whether the EP resolution on the FTA would be forwarded to the Indian colleagues. He supported Indian efforts to ensure an adequate energy supply but was concerned that the technology being proposed had not been used elsewhere in the world and that the area was subject to earthquakes.

Mr van Dalen agreed that a meeting with the Lok Sabha was of fundamental importance during the next visit. He noted that paragraph 30 of the adopted resolution referred to ILO obligations and that paragraph 34 raised human rights issues, including the position of the Dalits. He stressed that he had good contacts in both these areas and he could assist the delegation in the preparation of a future visit

Mr Newton Dunn noted the proposal of Mrs Delli for organising a seminar. He

understood that delegations did not have the funding for such an event but believed that it would be a good idea for one political group or a combination of political groups to launch such an initiative in the coming months.

Mrs Delli stressed that she was very keen for the delegation to travel to Bhopal, which she had visited for a two week period. It was important that MEPs should learn what was happening in that area. She believed, too, that the European Parliament could provide information about the implications of nuclear power. She also considered that the delegation should visit farmers to examine rural poverty and referred to the many suicides that had taken place.

Mrs Gallo proposed that the issue of copyright should be on the agenda of a future meeting.

Mr Watson thanked members for the proposals, in particular a discussion with the EP Trade Committee. He noted that the EP resolution on the FTA would be sent out with the "thank you" letters.

6. **Any other business**

There was no other business.

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

The next meeting of the delegation was scheduled to take place on Tuesday 21 June.

The meeting closed at 1115hrs.

**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 SAŪAŠAS/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/Predsednictvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
Graham Watson, Charalampos Angourakis, Lena Kolarska-Bobińska
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselők/ Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Peter van Dalen, Karima Delli, Harlem Désir, Satu Hassi, Jo Leinen, Bill Newton Dunn, Silvia-Adriana Ţicău
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Supplenti/ Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantys nariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleantî/Náhradníci/Namestniki/ Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
Marielle Gallo, Joanna Katarzyna Skrzydlewska

187 (2)
Anna Rosbach
193 (3)
49 (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/Darbotvarkés punktas/ Napirendi pont/Punt fuq l-aġenda/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/Stebētōjai/Megfigyelők/Osservatori/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/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 tal-President/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/Nõukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/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 (*)
Европейска служба за външна дейност/Европска служба pro vnější činnost/EU-Udenrigstjenesten/Europäischer Auswärtiger Dienst/Euroopa välisteenistus/Ευρωπαϊκή Υπηρεσία Εξωτερικής Δράσης/European External Action service/Servicio Europeo de Acción Exterior/Service européen pour l'action extérieure/Servizio europeo per l'azione esterna/Eiropas Ārējās darbības dienests/Europos išorės veiksmy 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 actiune externă/Európska služba pre vonkajšiu činnost/Evropska služba za zunanje delovanje/Euroopan ulkosuhdehallinto/Europeiska avdelningen för yttre åtgärd (*)
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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/Partecipanti oħra/Andere aanwezigen/Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Alți participanți/Iní účastníci/Drugi udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare

Nair (Indian Embassy) - Hillman, Grosy (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/Secrétariat des groupes politiques/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko grupu sekretariāts/Fraczijų sekretoriai/Képviselőcsoportok titkársága/Sekretarjat grupi političi/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secr. dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupin/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristö/Gruppernas sekretariat

PPE	Polkowski
S&D	Rouby
ALDE	Pondelek
ECR	De Jong
Verts/ALE	De Fabritus
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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 Generali/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/Direction générale/Direzione generale/Ġenerāldirektorāts/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/Direttorat Ġenerali/Direktoraten-generaal/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direcții Generale/Generálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni direktorat/ Pääosasto/Generaldirektorat	
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Секретариат на комисията/Secretaría de la comisión/Sekretariát 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/Fornand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Président/Priekšsēdētājs/Pirmininkas/  
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