

*Delegation for relations with India***D-IN_PV(2013)0123****MINUTES**

of the meeting of 23 January 2013, from 15:00 to 16:00
Brussels

The meeting opened at 15:05 on Wednesday, 23 January 2013, with Graham Watson (Chair) in the chair.

1. Adoption of the draft agenda (PE497.309)

The draft agenda was adopted with the addition of an item on violence against women in India, which had been requested by Mr Leinen.

2. Adoption of the draft minutes of the meeting of 28 November 2012

The draft minutes were adopted without amendment.

3. Chair's announcements

Sir Graham Watson welcomed all those present. These included Ms Kristine de Mulder, Director General of Europalia International, who would be giving a presentation on Europalia India; Mrs Pooja Kapur and Ms Soumya Chandrashekharachari from the Indian Embassy; Ms Maria Castillo Fernandez, the Head of the India Unit at EEAS and Mr Giuseppe Busini who was replacing Richard Wilkinson and would take over his responsibilities for relations with the EP.

4. Presentation by Europalia on "Europalia-India"

Sir Graham then invited Ms de Mulder to take the floor. He noted that she would speak on the Europalia India programme that would run from 4 October 2013 to 26 January 2014. He informed members that Ms De Mulder had been DirectorGeneral of Europalia International since March 2003 and had had responsibility for a series of major arts festivals dedicated to Italy, Russia, Europe, China and Brazil.

Ms de Mulder opened with an overview of the concept of Europalia, which was a biannual arts festival that had been established in 1969. Each festival focussed on a particular culture or country and involved a multidisciplinary programme of several hundred artistic events taking place mainly in Belgium and neighbouring countries.

The festivals generally attracted up to one and a half million visitors. They took up to 36 months to prepare and were based on a Framework Agreement with the country. They were co-financed by the country and by Europalia. Recent festivals had gone beyond European countries and had focussed on Russia, China and Brazil.

The central theme of the upcoming exhibition was "Encounters of India" and there were seven "clusters" or subjects. These clusters were "the body in Indian art"; "Indomania"; "India tomorrow"; the "Living Tradition"; water; Bollywood and the Indian diaspora. The festival would open on 4 October 2013 at the Bozar with an exhibition on "The Body in Indian Art", which would be opened by President Mukherjee and the Belgian royal family. The second main exhibition would also be at the Bozar on "Indomania" and would be centred on how Indian art had influenced European art. In the week of 20 October 2013 there would be a Bollywood festival at Place Flagey. There would be artistic events at a total of 150 places in Belgium and neighbouring countries.

Ms de Mulder assured Mrs Kolarska Bobinska that the delegation could be informed of new developments regarding Europalia in the coming months. She informed Mr Pirker that Europalia provided excellent opportunities for developing business contacts and that many chambers of commerce were involved. She stressed to Mr Newton Dunn that one of the main aims of the exhibition was to showcase the great diversity of India and the wide range of cultures.

Sir Graham underlined that cultural understanding was essential to the development of a long term relationship and he asked Ms de Mulder to keep the delegation informed about developments.

5. Delegation activity in 2013

Sir Graham then announced the proposal for the delegation to travel to India in week 18. No definite preparations could be made until the Conference of Presidents made a decision about the 2013 programme of delegation activity. Quotas for travel needed to be clarified. He noted the proposal of Mr Leinen to travel to either Assam or Orisha and the suggestions of Kolkata or Bangalore by the EU Delegation in Delhi.

Mr Leinen repeated his proposal and referred to the "clashes" taking place in both regions.

Mrs Collin-Langen expressed an interest in participating in the delegation visit. Sir Graham noted that members who wished to participate should inform their political advisers.

Mr Newton Dunn was keen to visit EU-funded development projects in order to evaluate the effects of EU assistance.

discrimination and the situation of women in India. She wanted the visit to focus on social and cultural issues.

Mr Leinen wanted to address the situation of women in India.

Sir Graham thanked the members. He also gave details of the suggestions of the EU Delegation which had - *inter alia* - proposed the following:

- a meeting with the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Secretary Generals to discuss existing EP/Indian Parliament cooperation and to promote the creation of the Friendship Group;
- a working dinner or similar event with the FICCI Forum of Parliamentarians; a presentation by ECHO covering such themes as nutrition in India, the Dalits or ECHO projects in India;
- the participation of MEPs in the "EU in your school" initiative within the framework of the 50th anniversary of the EU-India relations;
- migration and mobility themed meetings;
- the environment and a visit to an EU supported eWaste project;
- a human rights roundtable on the theme of women's rights.

These were all "helpful and useful suggestions" he noted.

Mr Pirker argued that the priorities should be the same as on the visit in the previous year with which he had been very happy. India represented a huge market for investment by European business and it was essential to strengthen the "economic bridges". He was also interested in spending a day or half a day in which the delegation might look at the "cultural specificities" of India.

Mrs Kolarska-Bobinska agreed that it was important to look at cultural issues. She also asked about the current state of play of the EU-India FTA.

Mrs Castillo Fernandez of the EEAS stressed that negotiations were going ahead and there was a major effort to address the outstanding issues. She expressed "cautious optimism" about the outcomes and pointed to the reforms that had been introduced in India in recent months.

Mr Angourakis was keen to learn about current thinking in India on foreign policy issues. He proposed meeting with the Foreign Affairs Committee in the Indian Parliament. He was also interested in meeting members of the Social Affairs Committee and representatives of trade unions.

Sir Graham thanked members for the proposals and promised to take them forward. He referred to the recent European Parliament resolutions on the situation of women in India and on caste discrimination. He stressed that this was not a case of the Parliament "ganging up on India". He noted that there was evidence of caste

discrimination in around 25 countries and the issue had been taken up by the United Nations. Indeed the UN had identified the situation of Roma in Europe as being an example of caste discrimination. He emphasised, too, that violence against women was a worldwide phenomenon but there had been particular horror about the recent gang rape case in Delhi. He hoped that time could be found during the next delegation visit to discuss the issues with Indian MPs.

6. **Any other business**

Mrs McIntyre raised the issue of the death penalty in India and noted the concerns expressed by many of her constituents of Sikh origin. She had written to the Ambassador but there had not been a response and she wanted the matter to be put on the agenda of a subsequent meeting.

Mrs Kapur of the Indian embassy referred to a letter from Prime Minister Singh to former President Buzek in which it was stressed that India was a country governed by the rule of law and that the death penalty was only used in the "rarest of rare" cases. The European Parliament should respect the principle of non-interference in India's internal affairs. She noted that there was currently a big debate in India on the death penalty and, indeed, there had been calls for the death penalty to be imposed on those guilty of the recent gang rape in Delhi.. She promised to follow up Mrs McIntyre's letter.

Mrs Kolarska-Bobinska was concerned that there would be increased calls for the wider use of the death penalty in the aftermath of the Delhi rape case.

Mr Pirker stressed that the EU should not be seen to be preaching to India and holding itself up as the only model of a society. It needed to be more accepting and not jeopardising its contacts with India.

Mrs Castillo Fernandez stressed that the EU had set out a strong and principled position of opposition to the death penalty in all circumstances. It was closely following the debate about capital punishment in India. The human rights dialogue with India that had been postponed would have been an opportunity to address the issue. She also noted that the Indian Foreign Minister would be meeting Lady Ashton on 30 January and the Joint Commission would take place on 4 February. The EU-India summit would take place in the spring but it was essential to synchronise this with the conclusion of the FTA negotiations.

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

Sir Graham thanked the members and noted that the next delegation meeting was scheduled to take place in Brussels on 20 March at 1500hrs.

The meeting closed at 15.05.

ПРИСЪСТВЕН ЛИСТ/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/
ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/ΚΑΤΑΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/
LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU REĢISTRS/DALYVIŲ SARAŠAS/JELENLÉTI IV/
REĢISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŚCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/LISTĀ DE PREZENTĀ/
PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA

Бюро/Mesa/Predsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Проефрејо/Bureau/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/Мέλη/Members/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselők/ Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Birgit Collin-Langen, Jo Leinen, Anthea McIntyre, Bill Newton Dunn, Silvia-Adriana Țicău

187 (2)
193 (3)

49 (6) (Точка от дневния ред/Punto del orden del día/Bod pořadu jednání (OJ)/Punkt på dagsordenen/Tagesordnungspunkt/Päevakorra
punkt/Hμερήσια Διάταξη Σημείο/Agenda item/Point OJ/Punto all'ordine del giorno/Darba kārtības punkts/Darbotvarkēs punktas/
Napirendi pont/Punt fuq l-agħenda/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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Наблюдатели/Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaatlejad/Παρατηρητές/Observers/Observateurs/Osservatori/ Novērotāji/Stebētojai/Megfigyelők/Osservaturi/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/Mε 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 pozvanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan

Mulder - Tesch (Europalia International)

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/Commission/Commissione/Komisija/Bizottság/Kummissjoni/Commissie/Komisja/Comissão/Comisie/Komisia/Komissio/Kommissionen (*)

Европейска служба за външна дейност/Evropská služba pro vnější činnost/EU-Udenrigstjenesten/Europäischer Auswärtiger Dienst/Euroopa väliseenistus/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 veiksmų tarnyba/Európai Kültügyi Szolgálat/Servizz Ewropew ghall-Azzjoni Esterna/Europese dienst voor extern optreden/Europejska Służba Działań Zewnętrznych/Serviço Europeu para a Acção Externa/Serviciul european pentru acțiune externă/Europska služba pre vonkajšiu činnosť/Evropska služba za zunanje delovanje/Euroopan ulkosuhdehallinto/Europeiska avdelningen för yttre åtgärd (*)

Busini - Castillo

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 ohra/Andere instellingen/Inne instytucje/Outras Instituições/Alte instituïii/Iné inštitúcie/Druge institucije/Muut toimielimet/Andra institutioner/organ

Други участници/Otros participantes/Ostatní účastníci/Endvidere deltog/Andere Teilnehmer/Muud osalejad/Επίσης Παρόντες/Other participants/Autres participants/Altri partecipanti/Citi klátesošie/Kiti dalyviai/Más résztvevők/Parteicipanti ohra/Andere aanwezigen/Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Altí participantí/Iní účastníci/Drugi udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare

Kapur - Soumya (Indian Embassy). Fozie (Pakistan Embassy). Sjödin (Human Rights Watch). Hillmann - Terry - Bartl - Mantel - Sanchez - Sharma - Eberlen - Razumkova - Datar - Bernhard (MEP's assist.).

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/Secrétaire des groupes politiques/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko grupu sekretariáts/Frakcijų sekretoriai/Képviselőcsoporthoz titkársága/Segretarijat gruppi političi/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secr. dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupín/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristöt/Gruppernas sekretariat

PPE	Mitsopoulos - Marciniaik
S&D	Williams
ALDE	Pondelek
ECR	
Verts/ALE	De Fabrins
GUE/NGL	
EFD	Gerasimos
NI	

Кабинет на председателя/Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelář předsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinett des Präsidenten/Presidenti kantselei/Γραφείο Προέδρου/President's Office/Cabinet du Président/Gabinetto del Presidente/Priekšsēdētāja kabinets/Pirmininko kabinetas/Elnöki hivatal/Kabinet tal-President/Kabinet van de Voorzitter/Gabinet Przewodniczącego/Gabinete do Presidente/Cabinet Președinte/Kancelária predsedu/Urad predsednika/Puhemiehen kabinetti/Talmannens kansli

Кабинет на генералния секретар/Gabinete del Secretario General/Kancelář generálního tajemníka/Generalsekretærens Kabinet/Kabinet des Generalsekretärs/Peasekretáribüro/Γραφείο Γενικού Γραμματέα/Secretary-General's Office/Cabinet du Secrétaire général/Gabinetto del Segretario generale/Generálsekretára kabinet/Generalinio sekretoriaus kabinetas/Főtitkári hivatal/Kabinet tas-Segretarju Generali/Kabinet van de secretaris-generaal/Gabinet Sekretarza Generalnego/Gabinete do Secretário-Geral/Cabinet Secretar General/Kancelária generálneho tajomníka/Urad generalného sekretarja/Pääsihteerin kabinetti/Generalsekretærrens kansli

Генерална дирекция/Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/
 Directorate-General/Direction générale/Direzione generale/Generaldirektoráts/Généralinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/Direttorat
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 Pääosasto/Generaldirektorat

DG PRES	
DG IPOL	
DG EXPO	Yan
DG COMM	
DG PERS	
DG INLO	
DG TRAD	
DG INTE	
DG FINS	
DG ITEC	
Правна служба/Servicio Jurídico/Právní služba/Juridisk Tjeneste/Juristischer Dienst/Öigusteenistus/Νομική Υπηρεσία/Legal Service/ Service juridique/Servizio giuridico/Juridiskais dienests/Teisēs tarnyba/Jogi szolgálat/Servizz legali/Juridische Dienst/Wydział prawny/ Serviço Jurídico/Serviciu Juridic/Právny servis/Pravna služba/Oikeudellinen yksikkö/Rättsjänsten	
Секретариат на комисията/Secretaría de la comisión/Sekretariát výboru/Udvalgssekretariatet/Ausschussekretariat/Komisjoni sekretariaat/Γραμματεία επιτροπής/Committee secretariat/Secrétariat de la commission/Segreteria della commissione/Komitejas sekretariāts/Komiteto sekretoriatas/A bizottság titkársága/Segretarjat tal-kumitat/Commissie secretariaat/Sekretariat komisji/Secretariado da comissão/Secretariat comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottsekretariatet	
Boden	
Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Bonjθóć/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asystent/Pomočník/Avustaja/Assister	
Mollet	

- * (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Président/Priekšsēdētājs/Pirmiņķas/Elnök/President/Voorzitter/Przewodniczący/Președinte/Predsednik/Puheenjohtaja/Ordförande
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- (M) = Член/Miembro/Člen/Medlem./Mitglied/Parlamendiilige/Mélioč/Member/Membre/Membro/Deputāts/Narys/Képviselő/Membra/Lid/Czlonék/Membro/Člen/Poslanec/Jäsen/Ledamot
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