

*Delegation for relations with Japan*

D-JP\_PV(2009)1209

**MINUTES  
of the PREPARATORY MEETING  
in view of the  
31st EP - JAPAN INTERPLIAMENTARY MEETING  
of 9 December 2009, from 16.30 to 18.00  
BRUSSELS**

The meeting opened at 16.38 on Wednesday, 9 December 2009, with Johannes Cornelis van Baalen (Chair) and Ms Wakako Hironaka, head of the Japanese Delegation, in the chair.

### **1. Adoption of draft agenda**

The agenda was adopted with a few amendments suggested by the Japanese Delegation.

In addition to the agenda suggested by the European side, the Japanese Delegation proposes as topics the following: the issue of the environment; the East Asian Community - sharing experience gained through European enlargement; and aspects of security policy.

Mr van Baalen agreed with the topics proposed by the Japanese side. With regard to the creation of an East Asian Community, he pointed out that this process would be different from the European Union's integration. He believed that the common market could be reached but not complete integration: one of the factors would be China which would not like to lose its sovereignty in the region. He explained that the EU delegated powers in some issues to its institutions. He was reticent about the creation of similar institutions in the Far East. Regarding the environmental aspect, he considered that the EU and Japan could work jointly but they would also need the US and China as allies. Speaking about the security aspects, he asked if Japan would agree to send troops into conflict areas such as Afghanistan and Iraq. He underlined the close cooperation EU - NATO.

The Japanese Delegation expressed their consent with the views expressed by Mr van Baalen. Ms Hironaka said that the creation of an East Asian Community represents a very ambitious plan but they are optimistic and the future can bring solutions for its achievement.

## **2. Communications by the Chairs**

Mr van Baalen welcomed the Japanese Delegation, emphasizing the commitment of the European Parliament to the issues of common interest with the Japanese counterparts such as: environment, climate change, trade, economic and financial crisis and security concerns.

Ms Hironaka thanked the welcome and she underlined that they should include as topics for discussion at the next IPM issues which trigger the interest of both sides: environment could be one of them. The parliamentary contacts represent a good opportunity to strengthen EU - Japan relations. She stressed that the United States as well as the European Union represent key priorities for the new Administration of Japan.

With regard to the date of the 31st EU - Japan IPM, the Japanese side confirmed the period of 1-3 June 2010.

### **3. Discussion with the Japanese delegation in view of the preparation of the 31st Interparliamentary Meeting EU - Japan, 31 May - 3 June 2010, Brussels (tbc) on the following topics:**

- Climate change;*
- Security issues;*
- Human rights;*
- Economic and financial issues - combating the crisis*

A general discussion took place on the issues mentioned above and on the issues considered on the agenda of interests by the Japanese side.

#### **Climate change**

Ms Hironaka highlighted that Japan became the environmental leader in the area: the Japanese government committed itself to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 25% of their 1990 levels by 2020. An issue very much debated in Japan concerns the methods applied to achieve the target of 25%. It is a very sensitive topic supported by the international community but not by the industrial companies in Japan. She promised to prepare a complete report of the situation for the Interparliamentary meeting of June 2010.

Mr Matsuyama proposed the EU - Japan Scientific Technical Agreement and its impact on the environment as a topic for discussion in June 2010.

Mr Boguslaw Liberadzki (S&D, PL) emphasised the importance of the Copenhagen Conference outcome. He asked the Japanese Delegation about the costs generated by the 25% reduction and if they thought to apply Europe's method with regard to transports: i.e. an additional tax in order to keep a low level of pollution.

Ms Hironaka informed the delegation that Japan pays 2% of its GDP for the reduction of pollution.

Mr Yutaka Banno considered that they have to pay attention to the currency used in the scheme for the calculation of the costs generated by the projects in climate change field.

#### **Security issues**

Mr Yutaka Banno highlighted the importance of revising Japan's security policy. One of the concerns is the presence of the US military airfield in Okinawa. He considered that Japanese civil society should also be consulted in this matter.

Mr. Koichiro Ichimura considered the US military presence in Okinawa as a very sensitive subject which should be approached calmly.

Ms Hironaka emphasized that the opinions on this subject are very different in the Japanese political environment; there isn't a common position.

Mr Yoshitaka Murata underlined the importance of the North Korea nuclear issue. To restart the negotiations on it jointly with the United States and China is paramount. Mentioning the involvement of Japan in other conflict areas such as Iraq or Afghanistan (with an emphasis on the recent commitment to donate 5 billions Yen for the next five years to Afghanistan), he emphasized the criticism of the international community with regard of the Japanese aid only from a financial point of view. With regard to the US presence in Okinawa, he stressed the existence of a Treaty between Japan and the US which had been concluded in order to maintain peace in the Far East.

Mr Bruno Gollnisch (NI, FR) stressed the European Union's interest in the North Korea issue. He mentioned the ambiguity of the EU's relations with Russia and the similarity with Japan - Russia relations (Northern Territories' dispute). He also believed that an independent policy of Japan vis-à-vis the US would be necessary. With regard to Japan's involvement in the conflict area, he stipulated the Japanese pacific constitution which allows for an armed involvement only within the country. Another controversial issue was the deployment of Japanese naval vessels in order to protect ships from pirates in international waters (Article 9 of Japan's Constitution says that any use of force by Japan except for the purposes of "individual self-defence" — meaning the direct defence of Japan – is prohibited. The ships are initially being deployed under the authority of Article 82 of the Self-Defence Forces Law).

### **Human rights**

Ms Frieda Brepoels raised the question of the death penalty with an emphasis on the death penalty applied in the case of people with mental disabilities. She considered that Japan should abolish capital punishment. She asked also for supplementary details on the situation of "comfort women" and insists that the Japanese Government didn't succeed to apologize for the damage towards those women.

Mr Yutaka Banno and Mr Koichiro Ichimura underlined the fact that public opinion is divided in Japan on the two above mentioned issues.

Mr Yoshitaka Murata considered that the Imperial Army apologized to those women through an official statement.

Mr Van Baalen believed that it is a very sensitive issue which has to be approached diplomatically. He reminded the delegation that the EP also expressed its position through a Resolution adopted in December 2007.

### **Economic and financial issues - combating the crisis**

Mr Malcolm Harbour stressed that the issues of regulatory co-operation should be one of the topics for discussion of the next EU- Japan IPM. He considered this issue very important as long as the new Japanese Government is keen to raise economic cooperation issues between the EU and Japan much higher on the political agenda. He reminded the delegation of the case of the US Delegation, which has established a formal Transatlantic Legislators Dialogue to work on regulatory co-operation issues.

Ms Hironaka emphasized the importance of the economic EU - Japan relations.

All the participants agreed on the importance of EU - Japan economic cooperation and on the necessity of finding solutions to the financial crisis.

Mr van Baalen proposed to invite experts on this issue at the 31st EU - Japan IPM in 2010.

#### **4. Any other business**

No issues were raised under this point.

#### **5. Date and place of the next meeting**

The 31st EU - Japan Interparliamentary meeting will take place from 1 to 3 June 2010 in Brussels.

The meeting closed at 18.02.

**ПРИСЪСТВЕН ЛИСТ/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/  
ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/KATASTAΣH 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/LISTÁ DE PREZENTĀ/  
PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA**

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| Johannes Cornelis van Baalen (P)   |
| Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselők/<br>Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputati/Jäsenet/Ledamöter  |
| Frieda Brepoels, Jens Geier, Bruno Gollnisch, Bogusław Liberadzki, Christel Schaldemose  |
| Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Supplenti/<br>Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantys nariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/Namestníci/<br>Varajäsenet/Suppleanter |
| Malcolm Harbour, Jacek Olgierd Kurski, Georgios Stavrakakis, Derek Vaughan   |

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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 pozvání předsedy/Efter indbydelse fra formanden/Auf Einladung des<br>Vorsitzenden/Esimene kutsel/Με πρόσκληση του Προέδρου/At the invitation of the Chair(wo)man/Sur l'invitation du président/<br>Su invito del presidente/Pēc priekšsēdētāja uzaicinājuma/Pirmininkui pakvietus/Az elnök meghívására/Fuq stedina tač-'Chairman' |
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Op uitnodiging van de voorzitter/Na zaproszenie Przewodniczącego/A convite do Presidente/La invită președintelui/Na pozvanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsuta/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/Komissionen/Kommission/Euroopa Komisjon/Επιτροπή/Commission/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/Αλλα θεσμικά όργανα/Other institutions/Autres institutions/Altre istituzioni/Citas iestādes/Kitos institucijos/Más intézmények/Istituzzjonijiet ohra/Andere instellingen/Inne instytucje/Outras Instituições/Alte instituīji/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/Partecipanti ohra/Andere aanwezigen/Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Altí participanți/Iní účastníci/Drugi udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare

Ms Wakako Hironaka, Mr Yutaka Banno, Mr Yoshitaka Murata, Mr Masaji Matsuyama, Mr Koichiro Ichimura (Diet Members), Norio Maruyama, Miya Shimotomai, Shogo Toyota, Kevin Byrne (Mission of Japan)

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/Secrétaireat des groupes politiques/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko grupu sekretariāts/Frakcijų sekretoriai/Képviselőcsoporth titkársága/Segretarjat gruppi politici/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secr. dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupín/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristöt/Gruppernas sekretariat

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| PPE       |                    |
| S&D       | Evangelos Lepouras |
| ALDE      | Ursula Pondelek    |
| ECR       |                    |
| Verts/ALE |                    |
| GUE/NGL   |                    |
| EFD       |                    |
| NI        | Catherine Salagnac |

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| Кабинет на председателя/Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelár pôrsedsy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinet des Präsidenten/Presidendi 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/Kancelár generálneho tajomníka/Generalsekretærens Kabinet/Kabinet des Generalsekretärs/Peasekretáribüro/Γραφείο Γενικού Γραμματέα/Secretary-General's Office/Cabinet du Secrétaire général/Gabinetto del Segretario generale/Generalsekretära kabinets/Generalinio sekretoriaus kabinetas/Főtitkári hivatal/Kabinet tas-Segretarju Ģenerali/Kabinet van de secretaris-generaal/Gabinet Sekretarza Generalnego/Gabinete do Secretário-Geral/Cabinet Secretar General/Kancelária generálneho tajomníka/Urad generalného sekretarja/Pääsihteerin kabinetti/Generalsekretærarens kansli |               |
| Генерална дирекция/Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/Directorate-General/Direction générale/Direzione generale/Generaldirektoräts/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/Direttorat Generali/Directorate-general/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direcții Generale/Generálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni direktorat/Pääsasto/Generaldirektorat   |               |
| DG PRES<br>DG IPOL<br>DG EXPO<br>DG COMM<br>DG PERS<br>DG INLO<br>DG TRAD<br>DG INTE<br>DG FINS<br>DG ITEC   | Ciril Stokelj |
| Правна служба/Servicio Jurídico/Právni 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/Rättsjänsten  |               |
| Секретариат на комисията/Secretaría de la comisión/Sekretariát výboru/Udvalgssekretariatet/Ausschussekretariat/Komisjoni sekretariaat/Γραμματεία επιτροπής/Committee secretariat/Secrétaireat de la commission/Segreteria della commissione/Komitejas sekretariāts/Komíteto sekretoriatas/A bizottság titkársága/Segretariat tal-kumitat/Commissiesecretariaat/Sekretariat komisi/Secretariado da comissão/Secretariat comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottsekretariatet   |               |
| Alida Nadejde  |               |
| Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Bonθóć/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asystent/Pomočník/Avustaja/Assistenter   |               |
| Kathleen Huygen  |               |

- \* (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Président/Priekšsēdētājs/Pirmininkas/Elnök/Chairman'/Voorzitter/Przewodniczący/Președinte/Predsednik/Puheenjohtaja/Ordförande  
 (VP) = Заместник-председател/Vicepresidente/Místopředseda/Næstformand/Stellvertretender Vorsitzender/Aseesimees/Avtutpróedrosz/Vice-Chair(wo)man/Vice-Präsident/Priekšsēdētāja vietnieks/Pirmininko pavaduotojas/Alelnök/Viči 'Chairman'/Ondervoorzitter/Wiceprzewodniczący/Vice-Präsident/Vicepreședinte/Podpredseda/Podpredsednik/Varapuheenjohtaja/Vice ordförande  
 (M) = Член/Miembro/Člen/Medlem./Mitglied/Parlamendiilige/Méλoς/Member/Membre/Membro/Deputāts/Narys/Képviselő/Membri/Lid/Członek/Membro/Člen/Poslanec/Jäsen/Ledamot  
 (F) = Должностно лице/Funcionario/Úředník/Tjenestemand/Beamter/Ametnik/Υπάλληλος/Official/Fonctionnaire/Funzionario/Ierēdnis/Pareigūnas/Tisztviselő/Ufficjal/Ambtenaar/Urzédnik/Funcionário/Funcionar/Úradník/Uradnik/Virkamies/Tjänstemän