



Delegation for relations with Japan

D-JP_PV(2011)1026**MINUTES**

of the preparatory meeting in view of the 33rd EU-Japan Interparliamentary meeting
26 October 2011, from 15.00 to 18.30
Strasbourg

The meeting opened at 15.10 on Wednesday, 26 October 2011, with Johannes Cornelis van Baalen (Chair) in the chair.

I Introductory remarks

Chair Mr Van Baalen opened the preparatory meeting in view of the 33rd EU-Japan Interparliamentary meeting at 15hrs05 by again welcoming the DIET delegation.

II Adoption of the draft agenda

The draft agenda was adopted as tabled.

III a) Exchange of views on the EU-Japan Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

The Chair welcomed also Mr Bruno Julien-Malvy, representative of the European Commission, DG Trade, and invited him to comment on the EU-Japan Free Trade Agreement (FTA) and in particular starting the scoping exercise.

Mr Julien-Malvy referred to the recent visit of a delegation of the INTA committee to Japan, where in depth talks had taken place on the issues on tariffs as well as non-tariff barriers and the challenge a comprehensive FTA presents for Japan. He also pointed out the importance of the entering into force of the EU-Korea FTA and the economic effects this had for Japan, in particular in the field of the automobile and electronics sectors.

The opening of Government procurement markets will have substantial effects, as shows the scoping exercise also for services, investment and intellectual property. The FTA with Japan should be more than a simple “tariff plus” exercise, with more of a political choice. For the EU it would be important to conclude a general Cooperation Agreement hand in hand with the

FTA.

Mr Kazak, having participated in the INTA delegation to Japan, commented on the high level talks they had had in Japan.

Mr Caspary, having also taken part in these talks, referred to the European Parliament's position on the EU-Japan FTA, pointing out the not very convincing results in the field of non-tariff barriers. The scoping exercise is in his view not producing the preliminary results the resolution had been requesting. As actually all involved resources are concentrated on the scoping exercise, the very negotiating process has come to a standstill.

Mr Julien-Malvy responded to the above mentioned, substantially Mr Caspary's statement.

Mr Harbour intervened on the non-tariff barriers issue, and laid out in detail the position his committee had taken when on the spot. Mr Julien-Malvy also replied to a question tabled by Mr Gollnisch, for more precise information concerning the FTA.

The Chair indicated that he would organise a Hearing with High Level witnesses from Japan precisely on the above topics.

Mr Murata took the floor for the Japanese side, raising the TPP as a topic of highest importance for the Japanese side, commenting on the NTB situation.

H.E. the Ambassador added to this commenting also on the EU-Japan exercise of scoping, on NTB's and on the prior interventions by Mr Caspary, Mr Gollnisch and Mr Harbour, also mentioning their dialogue with EU business groups.

Deputy Chair Mrs Kalniete shortly intervened as well, before the Chair raised the European side's fear that the Japanese side would not give sufficient consideration to NTB's. Mr Harbour commented on this issue of standards by referring to medical devices and equipment, asking for mutual recognition of standards as well having joint standards when creating new standards. Standard collaboration should be a main tool in the field.

Mrs Schaldemose pointed towards the objective of confidence building via a Common Standards "exercise".

Mrs Ebata drew some conclusions from the experience of having worked on medical projects.

After an intervention of Mr Otani, Mr Harbour commented on the Trans-Pacific Partnership, asking for the Japanese position on it, the Chair concluded this debate on Free Trade and proposed a short break.

Mr Murata explained the different options for Japan to participate in the TPP negotiations.

III b) Exchange of views on human rights

Mrs Lochbihler, Chair of the Human Rights subcommittee, introduced into the debate, by making reference to several human rights problems within the EU: Roma rights, antiterrorist measures i.a. and the International Criminal Court in The Hague as a point of interest in common for the European Union and Japan, notably with regard to its financing.

The continued use of the death penalty in Japan is of an ongoing concern for the EP, and it would be an important step to introduce a formal moratorium on executions as a first step toward abolition of the death penalty, as well as to ensure that the death penalty is not imposed in cases where an accused prisoner was incompetent due to a serious mental disorder at the time of the crime.

She also pleaded for assuring that a sentence of death is not carried out if the prisoner has a mental disorder or disability that significantly impairs his or her capacity to decide on appeals, to assist their legal counsel or to appreciate the reason for the imposition of the death penalty and to end the possibility of prisoners with current applications for retrial being liable to execution before their appeal is heard, and to end the practice of not giving notice of the date of an execution to the prisoner and his or her family significantly in advance of the event.

She raised as well violence against women as a general topic. Citing the cases of “comfort women”, she reiterated the demand that Japan should immediately implement effective administrative mechanisms to provide full reparations to all survivors of sexual slavery. In particular, the Diet should make a full apology to survivors, including, accepting Japan’s full responsibility for the crimes, acknowledging that the crimes amount to crimes under international law, acknowledging the harm suffered by survivors, denouncing all forms of sexual violence against women and expressing sincere remorse to survivors for the crimes,

and she asked for the DIET members to comment on the above.

Mr Zasada intervened mentioning several topics, notably:

- the death penalty and the more than 100 prisoners still on the death row,
- the still existing problem of dealing with "comfort women",
- the refugees and asylum seekers policy,
- the Justice system of having suspect detention up to 23 days on police hold without judge intervention.

Mrs Jimenez-Becerril Barrio also intervened on the death penalty issue.

Mr Murata responded on the "comfort women" issue referring to all government measures in this regard, recognizing the dreadful facts. In 1993 the Japanese government had made a statement to this effect, offering apologies to the women concerned. A fund had been established and damages had been paid out of this fund. In the Philippines, in Taiwan and in Korea payments took place, using governmental funds as well as Japanese citizens' contributions.

With regard to the death penalty, Mr Murata underlined the shared values, although maintaining the death penalty system, as it has the support of the majority of the Japanese public (85% for, only 5% for the abolition). The death penalty being constitutional, it is made use of with greatest care only. Families of victims of crimes are still giving strong support for maintaining the death penalty.

Mrs Ebata also commented on the death penalty as part of the Japanese judiciary. Abduction

of Japanese citizens by North Korea was another important violation of the human rights she wanted to raise.

Mr Murata cited the Penal Court Rules on the death penalty for disabled, disordered cases.

Chair Van Baalen cited the symbolic gesture of Willy Brandt when making a kneefall on his first state visit to Poland, as an example to deal with historic human rights problems.

He also pointed out that death penalty is not a question for a public request, and he underlined the importance of this dialogue.

Intervened Mrs Jimenez-Becerril Barrio and Mr Zasada on the death penalty, before Mrs Lochbihler concluded the debate by pointing out the leadership Japan could take in this ongoing global debate. She also referred to the usefulness of human rights national institutions such as an ombudsman.

Following Mr Gollnisch adding a declaration on the question of Japan to present its excuse for the war crimes and also concerning the application of the death penalty, the Chair thanked all intervenients before announcing a five-minute break, after a short conclusive remark by Mr Murata with regard to Mrs Jimenez-Becerril Barrio's intervention.

III c) Exchange of views on energy policy /environment

Mr Jan Březina, ITRE rapporteur on the Framework Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community, introduced the topic of Energy Policy and environment, making reference to the Fukushima catastrophe and to several measures of the Kan government, and Mr. Kan's personal vision of "a society without nuclear power plants", leading to great uncertainty in the energy sector while compounding the country's electricity shortfall, further hampering economic recovery. He pointed out that the Framework Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community also included nuclear energy. There was a considerable doubt now about Japan fulfilling its ambitious objectives for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, since increasing the share of nuclear power was part of its strategy for doing so.

Mr Otani briefly commented on the radioactive substance of Fukushima, and the support and help Japan received from all over the world. Japan would like to share all their findings from the Tsunami damages with the international community.

Mrs Ebata also commented on the Fukushima accident, children's exposure to radiation and those children's health, Japan government having set up a 96 billion fund for helping them.

Mr Březina expressed his appreciation of all the immediate measures of the Japanese government with regard to the Fukushima accident.

Mr Van Baalen commented with a view from the Netherlands side, where a new Nuclear Power plant will be constructed in the close future, whereas the Japanese government will take pragmatic attitude, compared to the decision of Germany to unilaterally phase out nuclear energy.

Mrs Kalniete made a reference to the agricultural production of renewables (ethanol), competing with foodstuff production.

Mrs Ebata raised the question of what would be Japanese "best energy mix", renewables still being a minor part in this. For her food security and food safety are an issue in Japan.

Mrs Schaldemose added the experience of Denmark to phase out nuclear in favour of soft energy, although respecting energy every country's right to make its choice.

Mr Gollnisch asked whether the population in Japan had been able to return to their homes after the evacuation, and whether Fukushima reactors are back to production, adding a question on the use of a geothermic energy.

Mr Otani confirmed that a 20 km area around Fukushima is still contaminated, the melt down of the reactors making it impossible so far to put all back to the net. The use of hydro and geothermic energy being very strictly regulated, the percentage of its use could be up to 20% - 25% in the energy mix.

III d) Exchange of views on science & technology

Excusing Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn who unfortunately was not in Strasbourg this time, the Chair opened the debate by giving the floor to Mrs. Ebata.

Mrs Ebata referred to several fields of research cooperation:

- solar energy,
- aviation,
- and more specific projects having been started.

Mr Van Baalen drew the attention to the quality of the research cooperation, thus opening important opportunities for a leading role in technology.

The meeting closed at 17.55.

**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 SAŪŠAS/JELENLÉTI ÍV/
REĢISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŠCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/LISTÁ DE PREZENŤÁ/
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Johannes Cornelis van Baalen, Sandra Kalniete, Artur Zasada
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselők/ Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Zoltán Bagó, Frieda Brepoels, Nessa Childers, Bruno Gollnisch, Teresa Jiménez-Becerril Barrio, Dieter-Lebrecht Koch, Ioan Mircea Pașcu, Oreste Rossi, Christel Schaldemose, Evžen Tošenovský, Giommaria Uggias
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Malcolm Harbour, Csaba Sógor, Derek Vaughan

187 (2)
Jan Březina, Daniel Caspary, Metin Kazak, Barbara Lochbihler
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/Darbotvarkės 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/Stebētāji/Megfigyelők/Osservatori/Waarnemers/Obserwatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelia/Opazovalci/ Tarkkailijat/Observatörer

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Stefan Pfitzner	
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Kathleen Huygen	

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