



# EU - Korean Peninsula relations

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On 1 July, the Delegation for Relations with the Korean Peninsula (DKOR) met to discuss the major recent developments in the region and in the international arena.

DKOR Chair, Lukas Mandl, at the presence of the Vice-Chairs, César Luena and Susana Solís Pérez, presided the meeting and welcomed Director of Disarmament, Arms Control and Non-proliferation at the Austrian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, H.E Ambassador Alexander Kmentt and Director of Open Nuclear Network, Laura Rockwood.

## Strengthening diplomatic ties with the Korean Peninsula

MEPs discussed the importance of strengthening the relations with the Republic of Korea (ROK), which is an important economic and strategic partner of the EU. They also raised questions about how to persuade the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to join diplomatic negotiations.

Some of the areas that called for more attention in terms of EU-Korean Peninsula relations are:

- the current health crisis;
- the environment;
- EU's support, namely the EP, in facilitating the peace process in the region.

The European Parliament is the only EU institution to have contacts with DPRK and is seen as a potential facilitator for a peace process through enhancing diplomacy and dialogue.

Moreover, as some of the EU Member States do not have diplomatic ties with DPRK, MEPs argued that more diplomatic presence could help the peace process.

From the debate it emerged that the EU currently limits itself to a supportive role towards international players, namely the United States, that have a clear policy towards the Peninsula. There is a call for the EU and especially for the EP to establish a clear own position and act as a strong diplomatic player in the region. Better progress is possible through coordination with US, Japan and ROK.

**More information:**

[DKOR website](#)