



*Delegation to the EU-Kazakhstan, EU-Kyrgyzstan, EU-Uzbekistan and EU-Tajikistan
Parliamentary Cooperation Committees and for relations with Turkmenistan and Mongolia*

DCAS_PV(2023)0506

MINUTES

of the meeting of 5 June 2023, 18.00-19.15

Brussels

The meeting opened at 18.00 on Monday, 5 June 2023, with Thierry Mariani (Acting Chair) and Tomáš Zdechovský (DCAS Chair) presiding.

1. Adoption of the draft agenda

The draft agenda was adopted.

2. Approval of the draft minutes of the meeting of 20 March 2023

The minutes were adopted.

3. Election of the new Delegation Chair

- The acting Chair reminded that, following the resignation of Mr Fulvio Martusciello from his position, the Delegation has to elect a new Chair.
- The acting Chair informed that Mr Martusciello remains as full Member of the Delegation.
- The acting Chair reminded that the quorum, according to article 218/2 of the Rules of Procedure, is 5 Members and that the EPP Group is putting forward the candidacy of Mr Tomáš Zdechovský.

- If there are no other candidates, the acting Chair reminded that it is understood that Mr Zdechovský has signed the corresponding declarations concerning financial interests and code of conduct (a formality that must be mentioned).
- The acting Chair asks whether Mr Tomas Zdechovský accepts the nomination. Nominated candidate Mr Tomas Zdechovský accepted his nomination.
- The acting Chair proposes to proceed to electing Mr Tomas Zdechovský per acclamation.
- After the election, the acting Chair invited Mr Zdechovský to assume the Chairmanship.

4. Communications by the Chair

- The new Chair showed his gratitude for the election and congratulates Mr Martusciello for his Chairmanship, and introduced himself.
- The Chair informed that the Conference of Presidents has authorized two requested DCAS outgoing missions for the second half of the year: to Mongolia in week 44 and to Kyrgyzstan in week 51. Further communication will follow in due time.
- The Chair also informed that the incoming Parliamentary Cooperation Committee with Kazakhstan is now scheduled for the month of October, to be confirmed by the Kazakh Majlis.
- The Chair stated the Members of the Delegation that Mr Tomas Tobè, Chair of the Committee for Development, has asked the Delegation for the relations with Central Asia - as well as to other Delegations - to appoint a Member to monitor the implementation of the principle of policy coherence for development (PCD) in the countries covered by the Delegation.

This Member will be part of network to will facilitate the screening and treatment of PCD issues in different policies and initiatives in support of DEVE's Standing Rapporteur for PCD, Ms Janina Ochojska.

The Chair invited Members who are interested to express their interest either at this moment of the meeting or later by writing to the Secretariat.

5. Briefing and exchange of views on the 6th EU-Turkmenistan Inter-Parliamentary Meeting (Ashgabat and Mary, 19-21 June 2023), with H.E. Mr Sapar Palvanov,

Ambassador, Mission of Turkmenistan to the European Union

Mr Palvanov started his speech with gratitude to the Members and gave detailed information about the upcoming visit of the EP to Turkmenistan. Then he continued about Taliban's situation in Afghanistan, which included Turkmenistan's position on ongoing events in the region: "We considered it necessary to support the efforts of Afghan authorities and the Afghan movement to ensure security, tourism, and crime; it's important to combine approaches and efforts across countries in this issue. A solution to the Afghan issue is impossible without the involvement of the political forces of Afghanistan and without dialogue with Afghan authorities. We deeply believe that effective contact with Kabul will significantly reduce levels of violence and security threats in the region. We sent medical staff to Afghanistan, especially women; now we have 500 patients, and we will continue this project. We are ready to cooperate with the EU and other international organizations for the implementation of joint projects, including economic projects for the territory of Afghanistan. We have had TAPI projects for 5–6 years and have tried to communicate with the Taliban in order to secure them. It's not just beneficial for the Taliban forces; it will be beneficial for the nation and the population of Afghanistan, and it can also provide jobs there."

Then he stated their position on the war in Ukraine: that Turkmenistan will never support any kind of violence and will always call on the parties to approach them to resolve any kind of issue peacefully. They will take a position of neutrality, but that doesn't mean Turkmenistan stands back and just watches. He continued, "We have opened more opportunities for the Ukrainian business community in Turkmenistan; big Ukrainian companies started implementing bigger projects in Turkmenistan that cost about a billion dollars, which means it can be helpful for the Ukrainian economy. We also continue to work with the Embassy in Turkmenistan; we ensure our humanitarian convoys meet their needs; we try to communicate with them in order to get a list of their needs; and we try to send humanitarian convoys in a systematic way. I see that some colleagues make a decision that Turkmenistan stands for the Russian position. If you look at our actions in the international community, it will also prove that Turkmenistan will try to be more innovative, be more helpful, and find some peaceful solutions. Because, for example, to send a humanitarian convoy to Ukraine, you think that Russians like it; to open more business opportunities for Ukraine's business, no. On the energy field, we try to initiate dialogue on energy, to talk about energy that Turkmenistan has and energy resources that the EU needs. We try to make a step, but Russians don't like it. We have our own way for development in Turkmenistan; that's how I want to present our position in a proper way."

The Chair thanked the Ambassador and asked if anyone had a question. The Ambassador answered five questions from the Members. The first one was about trade. He answered that trade turnover in Central Asian countries has increased, and the region itself has become more united. Specific problem: good mechanism in the region is consulting CA leaders; we see good results from that. Turkmenistan started to export electricity to Kyrgyzstan, and we increased the value of exporting electricity to Uzbekistan. Further, we also see increasing trade cooperation with the EU and Member States. During the visit, you will get more detailed and

wider information on human rights. Regarding human rights issues in Turkmenistan, you have to study the culture of Turkmenistan.

Third question: what is your relationship with Turkey? Historically, it has a strong tie with Turkey and Turkmenistan, with the same language and culture. We are members of Turkic states. I'm sure that it will get stronger with this bilateral tie and in economic fields as well. Recently, Turkmenistan ratified this trilateral agreement: Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Turkmenistan. I think it's a good tendency in all fields. Also, if we are to make steps towards Europe in the energy field, we have to have strong ties with Azerbaijan and Turkey; without these countries, it's impossible.

New City is the province centre, and only national companies are contracted; other foreign companies are partners on elements, but in Ashgabat, the French company is the leader in this field, followed by Italian and Turkish companies. If we try to rely on Turkmen companies rather than these foreign companies, we see real results."

The fourth question was about a solution for Turkmenistan to export gas. Turkmenistan has a deal with the EU, and they consider the EU and Member States as an organization as a reliable partner in energy in any economic situation. Turkmenistan looks towards the EU, but they need some steps from the EU and Member States towards Turkmenistan. Nowadays, they try to reach some agreements on that, and they finally decided to have a meeting in June on energy issues. Turkmenistan started the practice of exporting gas to Azerbaijan, and it works.

The last question was about sanctions against Russia, and the Ambassador stated that he first heard Turkmenistan could be involved in a previous EU meeting, but there is no information on that involvement. He continued that Turkmenistan has a stable turnover with Russia and a stable but a little bit increasing turnover with the EU. He said, "I feel very comfortable here, especially in this forum on that topic. I got no response or request from an EU organization on that topic. Turkmenistan was and will be a recognized member of the international community. We will respect all EU sanctions, even US sanctions. We will continue our relationship with Iran."

In camera

6. Briefing and exchange of views on the 6th EU-Turkmenistan Inter-Parliamentary Meeting (Ashgabat and Mary, 19-21 June 2023) with Mr Luc Devigne, Deputy Managing Director for Russia, Eastern Partnership, Central Asia, Regional cooperation and OSCE (EEAS)

Chair started by stating Turkmenistan is the only Central Asian country without a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement with the EU. The European Parliament made the ratification of this Agreement, which was signed already in 1998, conditional on progress in human rights and fundamental freedoms, a position it reaffirmed for the last time in a resolution of March 2019. Despite the country's isolation, the EU opened a delegation in Turkmenistan in July 2019. They asked Mr Luc Devigne for more information.

Mr Luc Devigne continued by showing his gratitude to members and stating that it is useful in this regard to visit Turkmenistan by yourself. In camera, he raised five points on: 1 Domestic situation: Aspects on Human Rights, Economic situation, Relation with the EU and Regional policy.

7. Any other business

No other business.

8. Date and place of next meeting

To be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 19.15.

**ПРИСЪСТВЕН ЛИСТ/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/
 ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/KATASTAΣH ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/
 LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/POPIS NAZOČNIH/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU REĢISTRS/DALVIŲ SĀRAŠAS/
 JELENLÉTI ÍV/REĢISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŚCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/
 LISTA DE PREZENTĀ/PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/NÄRVAROLISTA**

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Tomáš Zdechovský
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Bouλευτές/Members/Députés/Zastupnici/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselők/Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputati/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Engin Eroglu, Eugen Jurzyca, Thierry Mariani, Francisco José Millán Mon, Niklas Nienass, Róza Thun und Hohenstein
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Zamjenici/Supplenti/Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantysnariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/Namestniki/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
Maria da Graça Carvalho, Karsten Lucke

209 (7)	
216 (3)	
56 (8) (Точка от дневния ред/Punto del orden del día/Bod pořadu jednání (OJ)/Punkt på dagsordenen/Tagesordnungspunkt/Päevakorra punkt/Σημείο της ημερήσιας διάταξης/Agenda item/Point OJ/Točka dnevnog reda/Punto all'ordine del giorno/Darba kārtības punkts/Darbotvarkēs punktas/Napirendi pont/Punt Aģenda/Agendapunt/Punkt porządku dziennego/Ponto OD/Punct de pe ordinea de zi/Bod programu schôdze/Točka UL/Eesityslistan kohta/Punkt på föredragningslistan)	
Katarína Roth Neved'alová	5-6

Наблюдатели/Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaatiejad/Παρατηρητές/Observers/Observateurs/Promatrači/Osservatori/Nověrotáji/Stebétojai/Megfigyelők/Osservaturi/Waarnemers/Obserwatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelia/Opozovalci/Tarkkailijat/Observatörer

По покана на председателя/Por invitación del presidente/Na pozvání předsedy/Efter indbydelse fra formanden/Auf Einladung des Vorsitzenden/Esimene kutsel/Mε πρόσκληση του Προέδρου/At the invitation of the Chair/Sur l'invitation du président/ Na poziv predsjednika/Su invito del presidente/Pēc priekšsēdētāja uzaicinājuma/Pirmininkui pakvietus/Az elnök meghívására/ Fuq stedina tāc-'Chairman'/Op uitnodiging van de voorzitter/Na zaproszenie Przewodniczącego/A convite do Presidente/La invitación președintelui/Na pozvanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan

H. E. Sapar Palvanov, Turkmen Ambassador

Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nõukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/Conseil/Vijeće/Consiglio/Padome/Taryba/Tanács/Kunsill/Raad/Conselho/Consiliu/Svet/Neuvosto/Rådet (*)

Комисия/Comisión/Komise/Komissionen/Kommission/Komisjon/Επιτροπή/Commission/Komisija/Commissione/Bizottság/Kummissjoni/Commissie/Komisja/Comissão/Comisie/Komisia/Komissio/Kommissionen (*)

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Luc Devigne, Liga Jermacane, Dietmar Krissler

Други институции и органи/Otras instituciones y organismos/Ostatní orgány a instituce/Andre institutioner og organer/Andere Organe und Einrichtungen/Muud institutsioonid ja organid/Λοιπά θεσμικά όργανα και οργανισμοί/Other institutions and bodies/Autres institutions et organes/Druge institucije i tijela/Altre istituzioni e altri organi/Citas iesidades un struktūras/Kitos institucijos ir įstaigos/Más intézmények és szervek/Istituzzjonijiet u korpi oħra/Andere instellingen en organen/Inne instytucje i organy/Outras instituições e outros órgãos/Alte instituições și organe/Iné inštitúcie a orgány/Muut toimielimet ja elimet/Andra institutioner och organ

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

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PPE	Anna Kaczmarek
S&D	Jurgen Siil, Andraz Tavcar
Renew	Olinka Harmegnies
Verts/ALE	Tessel Giele
ID	Tamara Volokhova
ECR	Jan Dinga
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DG EXPO	
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Vita Grifita, Niccolò Rinaldi, Narangoo Munkhdelger	
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Dimitrios Athanasiadis, Leonards Bunga, Lucia Majerikova, Maria Maseda Varela, Ludovica Serafini, Ondrej Soika	

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