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

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**DCAS\_PV(2023)2003**

# **MINUTES**

**of the meeting of 20 March 2023, 18.00-19.30**

**Brussels**

The meeting opened at 18.00 on Monday, 20 March 2023, with Fulvio Martusciello (Chair) presiding.

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

The draft agenda was adopted.

## **2. Approval of the draft minutes of the meetings of 7 November 2022**

The minutes were adopted.

## **3. Chair's announcements/ Communication by the Chair**

The Chair reminded the Members that the Conference of Presidents has authorised 3 outgoing DCAS visits during the 1<sup>st</sup> Semester 2023:

- Uzbekistan, in Tashkent and Nukus, 3-5 April;
- Tajikistan, in Dushanbe and Bokhtar (close to the border with Afghanistan), 15-17 May;
- Turkmenistan, in Ashgabat and Mary, 19-21 June (this mission was authorised for December 2022 and had to be postponed; a revised authorization is on its way).

Moreover, although not yet fully confirmed, the Parliamentary Cooperation Committee with Kazakhstan is scheduled to take place in Brussels either on 5 or 8 June. Central Asia is clearly very much at the centre of political attention in Brussels - mostly but not only due to its complicated and sometime controversial position on the Russian war in Ukraine and the

European Parliament has to play its role in this strategic relation.

**4. Briefing and exchange of views on the 16th EU-Republic of Uzbekistan Parliamentary Cooperation Committee (Tashkent and Nukus, 3-5 April 2023), with H.E. Mr Dilyor Khakimov, Ambassador, Mission of Republic of Uzbekistan to the European Union**

The Chair thanked H.E. Ambassador Khakimov from the Mission of Republic of Uzbekistan to the European Union for his participation to the meeting and the whole Uzbek Embassy in Brussels for the cooperation extended to organize the forthcoming visit of the European Parliament to his beautiful country.

The Chair reminded that the draft programme of meetings for the upcoming DCAS visit has not yet been made available by the Uzbek Authorities. The Chair also reminded that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the last DCAS visit took place in 2018, while the Uzbek Parliament visited Brussels in January 2022.

Since then, the Covid-19 pandemic, the Taliban take over in Afghanistan, the war against Ukraine, and outbreak of a difficult situation in the autonomous Republic of Karakalpakstan, the forthcoming constitutional changes, and the conclusion of the negotiations in June 2022 of an Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (EPCA), are all elements that have drastically shaped a very different international landscape, both for the EU and Uzbekistan. Therefore, the forthcoming PCC will provide an excellent opportunity for a joint assessment of those developments.

The Chair gave the floor to the Uzbek Ambassador regarding the Referendum, which will take place at the end of the month, and for his expectations of the Delegation to Uzbekistan.

H.E. Ambassador Dilyor Khakimov started his presentation by thanking the opportunity to speak in front of an important House of Democracy, as it was underlined by the DCAS Chair Mr Martusciello, and stated that, indeed, Uzbekistan is very much looking forward to the upcoming event. Ambassador stated that they were still waiting for the program from Oliy Majlis, the Uzbekistan's Parliament, which is hosting this meeting.

H.E. Ambassador Dilyor Khakimov gave an overview of Uzbekistan's Constitutional Reform and the GSP+ negotiations with the European Union, which they eagerly await to complete this year and stated will be the foundation for bilateral cooperation.

The Government of Uzbekistan is discussing the implementation of society by using ICT platforms, to which all citizens of Uzbekistan can provide their own responses. Then the Ambassador continued to discuss Nukus, Karakalpakstan, and the Aral Sea's situation by answering DCAS Chair's and Mr Moreno Sánchez's questions.

After the re-election, a second National Plan was put forward by the Uzbek President Mirziyoyev for the re-election that included several priorities, one of which was Constitutional Reform.

Minister of Emergency State, Committee of National Affairs have organized, taken a lot of efforts and investments, they will continue these efforts, and they have considered the Cabinet

of Government, the Agencies following previous Governments.

**5. Briefing and exchange of views on the 10th EU-Republic of Tajikistan Parliamentary Cooperation Committee (Dushanbe and Bokhtar, 15-17 May 2023), with H.E Mr Erkinkhon Rahmatullozoda, Ambassador of the Mission of Republic of Tajikistan to the European Union**

H.E. Ambassador Erkinkhon Rahmatullozoda from the Mission of the Republic of Tajikistan to the European Union, remarked that the PCC is the continuation of a bilateral comprehensive dialogue and an opportunity to reiterate mutual commitment to further enhance the European Union's and Tajikistan's engagement on issues of regional and international importance. Ambassador also noted that the promotion on Inter-Parliamentary ties makes an undoubtedly significant contribution to the enrichment of the content for the Tajikistan and European Union Partnership.

Tajik Ambassador started his overview with stating that 2021 was a leap in economic relations compared to the previous years, and Tajikstan strove to develop it. Together with the European Union, Tajikistan fulfilled this acceptance to finalize the pre-entry procedure for GSP+. A successful GSP+ application would mobilize the potential to increase trade flows between Tajikistan and the European Union and also to upgrade positive political cooperation.

Tajikistan and the European Union share a common regional and international issues: fighting against everything from drug smuggling to terrorism and extremism to maintaining security and stability in Afghanistan. To create a security belt from Afghanistan remains relevant; it does not imply isolation of Afghanistan but is a set of preventive measures against potential threats as well as social and economic development of border regions.

H.E. Ambassador Rahmatullozoda also mentioned that Tajikistan expect the European Union's assistance to secure its border with Afghanistan, and were looking forward to expanding external assistance to strengthen the borderline, and hoped for the contribution from development Partners, including the European Union. Desiring to enhance people-to-people contact as important for economic, humanitarian, cultural, and other reasons, it is time to launch negotiations on the facilitation of Visa issues that will reduce costs and reduce the duration of Visas issuance process.

H.E. Tajik Ambassador continued with questions about the current border situation, whether it has improved or not, and the construction of a border belt. He answered that they had good bilateral economic engagement and cooperation in the past. Local authorities are very important to creating an atmosphere of interaction between the Taliban and Afghanistan, especially in the beginning, when we are trying to do something at a local level.

*In camera*

**6. Briefing and exchange of views on the 16th EU-Republic of Uzbekistan Parliamentary Cooperation Committee (Tashkent and Nukus, 3-5 April 2023) and on the 10th EU-Republic of Tajikistan Parliamentary Cooperation Committee (Dushanbe and Bokhtar, 15-17 May 2023) with Mr Dietmar Krissler, Head of Division for Central Asia, EEAS.**

This point was *in camera*.

**7. Any other business**

There is no other business.

**8. Date and place of next meeting**

Next DCAS meeting is planned at the end of May, to prepare the visit to Turkmenistan.

The meeting closed at 19.20.

**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/  
 LISTĀ DE PREZENTĀ/PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/NÄRVAROLISTA**

Бюро/Mesa/Předsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Predsjedništvo/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/Biuras/Elnökség/Prezydium/Birou/Predsednictvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
Fulvio Martusciello (Chair)
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Bouλευτές/Members/Députés/Zastupnici/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselők/Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputati/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Zamjenici/Supplenti/Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantysnariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/Namestniki/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
Karsten Lucke, Christian Sagartz, Javier Moreno Sánchez

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 Ağenda/Agendapunt/Punkt porządku dziennego/Ponto OD/Punct de pe ordinea de zi/Bod programu schôdze/Točka UL/Esityslistan kohta/Punkt på föredragningslistan)

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

Muzaffar Mukaramov (Uzbek Embassy), Bakhtiyor Turayev (Uzbek Embassy)

По покана на председателя/Por invitación del presidente/Na pozvání předsedy/Efter indbydelse fra formanden/Auf Einladung des Vorsitzenden/Esimehe kutsel/Με πρόσκληση του Προέδρου/At the invitation of the Chair/Sur l'invitation du président/ Na poziv predsjednika/Su invito del presidente/Пēc 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. Dilyor Khakimov, Uzbek Ambassador, H.E. Erkinkhon Rahmatullozoda, Tajik 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 (\*)

Европейска служба за външна дейност/Servicio Europeo de Acción Exterior/Evropská služba pro vnitřní činnost/EU-Udenrigstjenesten/Europäischer Auswärtiger Dienst/Euroopa väliseenistus/Ευρωπαϊκή Υπηρεσία Εξωτερικής Δράσης/European External Action Service/Service européen pour l'action extérieure/Europska služba za vanjsko djelovanje/Servizio europeo per l'azione esterna/Eiropas Ārējās darbības dienests/Europos išorės veiksmų tarnyba/Európai Külügyi Szolgálat/Servizz Ewropew ghall-Azzjoni Esterna/Europejske dienst voor extern optreden/Européjska Służba Działalń Zewnętrznych/Serviço Europeu para a Ação Externa/Serviciul european pentru acțiune externă/Európska služba pre vonkajšiu činnosť/Evropska služba za zunanje delovanje/Euroopan ulkosuhdehallinto/Europeiska avdelningen för yttrre åtgärd (\*)

Liga Jermacane, Chris Kendall, 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 estructuras/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

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/Tajništvo klubova zastupnika/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politiske gruppe sekretariāts/Frakcijų sekretoriai/Képviselőcsoporthoz titkársága/Segretariat gruppi političi/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secretariado dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupín/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristöt/De politiska gruppernas sekretariat

PPE	Anna Kaczmarek
S&D	
Renew	
Verts/ALE	
ID	
ECR	Jan Dinga
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Кабинет на председателя/Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelář předsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinett des Präsidenten/Presidendi kantslelei/Γραφείο του Προέδρου/President's Office/Cabinet du Président/Ured predsjednika/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/Kabinett des Generalsekretärs/Peasekretäribüro/Γραφείο του Γενικού Γραμματέα/Secretary-General's Office/Cabinet du secrétaire général/Ured glavnog tajnika/Gabinetto del Segretario generale/Generalsekretära kabinets/Generalinio sekretoriaus kabinetas/Főtitkári hivatal/Kabinet tas-Segretarju Ĝenerali/Kabinet van de secretaris-generaal/Gabinet Sekretarza Generalnego/Gabinete do Secretário-Geral/Cabinet Secretar General/Kancelária generálneho tajomníka/Urad generalného sekretarja/Pääsihteerin kabinetti/Generalsekretærerens kansli

Генерална дирекция/Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/ Directorate-General/Direction générale/Glavna uprava/Direzione generale/Generaldirektorāts/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/ Direktorat Generali/Directorate-general/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direcții Generale/Generálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni direktorat/Pääosasto/Generaldirektorat	
DG PRES DG IPOL DG EXPO DG EPRS DG COMM DG PAPA DG PERS DG INLO DG TRAD DG LINC DG FINS DG ITEC DG SAFE	Ieva Valutyte
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Секретариат на комисията/Secretaría de la comisión/Sekretariát výboru/Udvalgssekretariatet/Ausschusssekretariat/Komisjoni sekretariaat/Γραμματεία της επιτροπής/Committee secretariat/Secrétariat de la commission/Tajništvo odbora/Segreteria della commissione/ Komitejas sekretariāts/Komiteo sekretoriatas/A bizottság titkársága/Segretarjat tal-kumitat/Commissiesecretariaat/ Sekretariat komisji/Secretariado da comissão/Secretariat comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottsssekretariatet	
Vita Grifita, Niccolò Rinaldi, Narangoo Munkhdelger	
Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asystent/Pomočník/ Avustaja/Assisternt	
Dimitrios Athanasiadis, Valerio Balzamo, Leonards Bunga, Beniamino Contino, Mareks Gailitis, Tessel Giele, Sophie Guil, Solene Gobale M'Boussa, Grete Elise Rago, Matteo Rebesani, Andraž Žiga Tavčar	

- \* (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chairman/Président/Predsjednik/Priekšsēdētājs/  
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Tjänsteman