



*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)2310

MINUTES

of the meeting of 23 October 2023, 17.30-19.00

Room: SPINELLI 1E1

Brussels

The meeting opened at 17.30 on Monday, 23 October 2023, with Tomáš Zdechovský (Chair) presiding.

1. Adoption of agenda

The draft agenda was adopted.

2. Approval of minutes of meetings of:

- 18 September 2023 PV – PE746.559v01-00

The minutes were adopted.

3. Chair's announcements

The Chair began the meeting by thanking the participants for attending and then briefly gave an overview of the upcoming activities of the Delegation during autumn 2023. The activities will include the upcoming 20th EU-Kazakhstan Parliamentary Cooperation Committee and the initiative by the EUSR for Central Asia on Women Leaders in week 46, and the mission to Kyrgyzstan during 18-20 December 2023.

4. Preparation of the 16th EU-Mongolia Inter-Parliamentary Meeting (Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, 30 October – 1 November 2023)

a) Briefing and an exchange of views with H.E. Mr Luvsanjandán Bold, Ambassador, Mission of Mongolia to the European Union

H.E. Mr Luvsanjandán Bold, Ambassador, Mission of Mongolia to the European Union, firstly expressed his gratitude for the EU-Mongolia relationship that is based on the principles of democracy, human rights, and rule of law. He then gave an overview of the recent economic and social developments in Mongolia. Next year, Mongolia will hold its Parliamentary elections with new Constitutional reforms that have been introduced. The new reforms include an increase of the Parliament Members from 76 to 126, proportional voting, and overseas Mongolian citizens being allowed to vote.

Ambassador Bold stated that the Covid-19 pandemic had substantial impact on the Mongolian economy, resulting in the economy shrinking for the first time, but that it has now recovered and is back on pre-pandemic levels again. Ambassador Bold informed that the Mongolian Government is also planning to implement a long-term vision for 2050, which will include Mongolia's economic targets and development for the next 30 years.

The Chair thanked Ambassador Bold for the overview and opened up the floor for questions. MEP Thierry Mariani asked three questions. The first question was related to the uranium mine projects led by the French Orano Group, and if there was any update of the current state of play. The second question was if there was new information regarding the new Agreement between the Mongolian Government and the satellite company Thales to establish a satellite communication system to transfer access to Internet in Mongolia. The third question inquired by MEP Mariani was about the current state of play regarding the Agreement between Russia and China to build a gas pipe called "Siberia 2" to transport gas through Mongolia, and whether or not the project had been confirmed by the Mongolian Government.

Regarding the first question, Ambassador Bold replied that since France is an important Member State in the EU, the project is well-received by the Mongolian population. He also stressed the importance to boost EU-Mongolia investment and economic cooperation. Concerning the second question, Ambassador Bold replied that Mongolia is embarking on a strategic cooperation with the company Thales to launch its own satellite named Chinggis, which will give an important boost for Mongolia's security and development. In regards to the last question, Ambassador Bold replied that the discussion is still on-going with Russia and China about "Siberia 2" and that nothing is yet finalized.

Chair Zdechovský asked about the social situation in Mongolia and the actions the Mongolian Government is taking to address alcoholism, drugs, and child abuse. Ambassador Bold replied that the Government is paying a lot of attention to these social problems, such as the Parliament having sessions on child abuse and child protection.

In camera

b) Briefing and an exchange of views with H.E. Axelle Nicaise, Head of EU Delegation in Mongolia (*via remote connection*) and with Ms Nicoletta Pusterla, Deputy Head of Division, EEAS

This point was in camera.

5. Preparation of the 20th EU-Republic of Kazakhstan Parliamentary Cooperation Committee (Brussels, Belgium, 13 November 2023)

Chair Zdechovský began by announcing that preparations for the upcoming 20th EU-Republic of Kazakhstan Parliamentary Cooperation Committee in Brussels on 13 November 2023 are underway. He expressed his appreciation to Mr Almas Dissyukov, Counsellor from the Mission of Kazakhstan to the European Union, who participated in place of the absent Ambassador. The Chair then extended an invitation to the Counsellor to provide an overview of the current situation in Kazakhstan.

a) Briefing and exchange of views with Mr Almas Dissyukov, Counsellor, Mission of Kazakhstan to the European Union

Mr Dissyukov initiated his speech by expressing his appreciation to the Chair and the Kazakh Ambassador, who was absent due to attendance at the 19th EU-Central Asia Ministerial meeting in Luxembourg. He then proceeded to highlight several key points. In terms of recent achievements, Mr. Dissyukov discussed the progress made in EU-Central Asia relations and the domestic situation in Kazakhstan. Kazakhstan places great value on its collaboration with the EU, emphasizing the significance of the EU-Kazakhstan Parliamentary Cooperation Committee. MEP Karsten Lucke's contributions were also acknowledged by Mr Dissyukov. He commended Lucke for his role in enhancing political instruments, strengthening the connection between the EU and Central Asia, and supporting inter-regional processes.

This year marked the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Kazakhstan and the EU. The expansion of visa facilitation for Kazakh citizens, initiated by the European Commission, was welcomed by Mr. Dissyukov, who emphasized its potential to strengthen state-to-state ties and people-to-people connections. Regarding trade and investment, Mr. Dissyukov highlighted the potential for increased cooperation in various fields, including critical raw materials, green hydrogen, transport, logistics, digitalization, aviation, education, and research. He also mentioned Kazakhstan's participation in the Raw Materials Week 2023. Both Kazakhstan and the EU have set ambitious goals to achieve carbon neutrality, and Kazakhstan's green transformation requires substantial investments. The establishment of the European Investment Bank office in Kazakhstan was seen as a step towards these objectives.

Mr Dissyukov underscored the importance of connectivity between the EU and Kazakhstan, as well as the broader Central Asian region. He highlighted that, according to a recent European Bank for Reconstruction and Development study, the Central Trans-Caspian Network has been identified as the most sustainable transport link bridging Europe and Central Asia. Efforts to increase cargo flows and the upcoming EU-Central Asia Investment Forum were also discussed. Mr Dissyukov confirmed significant changes in Kazakhstan's political system, including constitutional reforms and the empowerment of citizens in decision-making processes.

In terms of foreign policy, Kazakhstan aims to strengthen its role in Central Asia and promote the region on a global scale. The country plays a leadership role in regional dialogue and international cooperation.

Lastly, the Chair thanked Mr Dissyukov and asked if anyone had a question. The Chair inquired about the release of an internal investigation report concerning the January events in 2022. Mr Dissyukov mentioned that the investigation is ongoing, and updates can be found through news reports and online sources.

In camera

- c) Briefing and an exchange of views with Ms Helen Gonnord, Desk officer for Kazakhstan, EEAS (via remote connection)

This point was in camera.

6. Any other business

No other business.

7. Date and place of next meeting

The date for the next DCAS meeting will be announced later.

The meeting closed at 19.00

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

Бюро/Меса/Председништво/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Predsjedništvo/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/Biuras/Elnökség/Prezydium/Birou/Predsedništvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
Tomáš Zdechovský (Chair)
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Bouλευτές/Members/Députés/Zastupnici/Deputati/Deputati/Nariai/Képviselők/Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputati/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Thierry Mariani

209 (7)
216 (3)

56 (8) (Точка от дневния ред/Punto del orden del día/Bod pořadu jednání (OJ)/Punkt på dagsordnen/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 Agénda/Agendapunt/Punkt porządku dziennego/Ponto OD/Punct de pe ordinea de zi/Bod programu schôdze/Točka UL/Eesityslistan kohta/Punkt på föredragningslistan)

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Наблюдатели/Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaatlejad/Παρατηρητές/Observers/Observateurs/Promatrači/Osservatori/Nověrotáji/Stebětajai/Megfigyelők/Osservaturi/Waarnemers/Obserwatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelia/Opažovalci/Tarkkailijat/Observatörer

По покана на председателя/Por invitación del presidente/Na pozvání předsedy/Efter indbydelse fra formanden/Auf Einladung des Vorsitzenden/Esimene kutsel/Με 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 pakvetus/Az elnök meghívására/ Fuq stedina tač-'Chairman'/Op uitnodiging van de voorzitter/Na zaproszenie Przewodniczącego/A convite do Presidente/La invitación al presidente/Na pozvanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan

H.E. Luvsanvandan Bold (Ambassador), H.E. Axelle Nicaise (EU Ambassador), Almas Düssukov (Counsellor)

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/Europas Ārējās darbības dienests/Europos išorės veiksmų tarnyba/Európai Külügyi Szolgálat/Servizz Ewropew ghall-Azzjoni Esterna/Europese dienst voor extern optreden/Européjska Služba Działań Zewnętrznych/Serviço Europeu para a Ação Externa/Serviciul european pentru acțiune externă/Europska služba pre vonkajšiu činnost/Europska služba za zunanje delovanje/Euroopan ulkosuhdehallinto/Europeiska avdelningen för ytter åtgärd (*)

Helen Gonnord, Nicoletta Pusterla

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 iestādes 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/Partecipanti ohra/Andere aanwezigen/Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Altı particanı/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/Fraktsionide sekretariaat/Γραμματεία των Πολιτικών Ομάδων/Secretariats of political groups/Secrétaire des groupes politiques/Tajništva klubova zastupnika/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko grupu sekretariáts/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	Olinka Harmegnies
Verts/ALE	
ECR	
ID	Tamara Volokhova
The Left	
NI	

Кабинет на председателя/Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelár predsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinett des Präsidenten/Presidendi kantslej/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/Kancelár generálního tajemníka/Generalsekretærens Kabinet/Kabinett des Generalsekretärs/Pesekretáři býro/Γραφείο του Γενικού Γραμματέα/Secretary-General's Office/Cabinet du secrétaire général/Ured glavnog tajnika/Gabinetto del Segretario generale/Generalsekretärs kabinets/Generalinio sekretoriaus kabinetas/Főtitkári hivatal/Kabinet tas-Segretarju Ĝeneral/Kabinet van de secretaris-generaal/Gabinet Sekretarza Generalnego/Gabinete do Secretário-Geral/Cabinet Secretar General/Kancelária generálneho tajomníka/Urad generalného sekretarja/Pääsihteerin kabinetti/Generalsekretarerens kansli

Генерална дирекция/Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/
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Direktorat Generali/Directoraten-generaal/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direcții Generale/Generálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni
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DG PRES	
DG IPOL	
DG EXPO	Ieva Valutyte
DG EPRS	
DG COMM	
DG PART	
DG PERS	
DG INLO	
DG TRAD	
DG LINC	
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Vita Grifita, Maggie Huynh, Niccolò Rinaldi, Nadia Sabattini	
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Leonards Bunga, Ondrej Soika	

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