

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

DELEGATION TO THE EU-KAZAHSTAN, EU-KYRGYZSTAN AND EU-UZBEKISTAN PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION COMMITTEES AND FOR RELATIONS WITH TAJIKISTAN, TURKMENISTAN AND MONGOLIA

Report by Mrs Ona JUKNEVICIENE, Chair of the delegation, for the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Development Committee on the proceedings of the 5th meeting of the EU-Kazakhstan Parliamentary Cooperation Committee

Astana

16 May 2005

Introduction

The European Parliament delegation met with their Kazakh parliamentary counterparts at the 5th EU-Kazakhstan Parliamentary Cooperation Committee (separate report). They also held a series of bilateral meetings in Almaty and the new capital Astana.

The European Parliament delegation was led by the Co-Chair of the EU-Kazakhstan Parliamentary Cooperation Committee, Mrs Ona JUKNEVICIENE (ALDE, Lithuania). Other members were Mr Martin CALLANAN (EPP-ED, United Kingdom), Mr Alojz PETERLE (EPP-ED, Slovenia) and Mr Peter OLAJOS (EPP-ED, Hungary).

The delegation expressed concern about the apparent increased authoritarian tendencies of the Kazakh government. The parliamentary elections of September 2004 had been severely criticised by international observers. Recent events in Ukraine and Kyrgyzstan appeared to have pushed the authorities along the path of repression rather than encouraging them to liberalise. The government of President Nazarbayev was determined that it would not permit a Ukrainian scenario to develop and would crack down on any possibility of crowds of protesters massing in the capital to exert pressure on the authorities. The members were in particular disturbed to view a classified internal government letter which gave detail of plans to deal with any outbreak of disturbance along the lines of what occurred in Kyiv. The letter requested the procurement of additional military equipment including rubber sticks, special carbines and grenades.

Recent disturbing developments included the closure in January 2005 of the main opposition party Democratic Choice of Kazakhstan (DCK), its leader Galimzhan Zhakiyanov having already been imprisoned. The authorities had accused the DCK of being an extremist organisation that could cause "mass disturbances". There was also concern over proposed amendments to legislation governing NGO activity in Kazakhstan which threatened to establish effective governmental control over the actions on non-profit organisations dedicated to building civil society in the country. The opposition newspaper "Respublika." which published many articles critical of government policies and officials, was also closed.

Saturday 14 May - Arrival of delegation

Sunday 15 May 1030hrs-1145hrs
Briefing by the Commission
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Almaty

Present at the meeting were Ambassador Alan WADDAMS, Head of the European Commission Delegation to Kazakhstan and Mr John PENNY, Head of the Political and Economic Section.

The delegation was informed of the very close ties between Kazakhstan and Russia and it was noted that Kazakhstan had been the last of the Soviet republics to declare independence. President Nazarbayev recently declared that Russia was his country's first partner, followed by China, the United States (especially oil and gas investment) and the EU. This represented a "multi-vectoral" foreign policy.

The parliamentary elections of September 2004 were adjudged by international observers to have been deeply flawed. The opposition party Democratic Choice of Kazakhstan (DVK) party was rumoured to have had the support of 30-40% of the electors, however only one opposition candidate had been elected. In January 2005 the authorities had closed down the DVK. Kazakhstan had a presidential government with little democracy or political pluralism. Parliament was weak and there were few checks and balances.

It appeared that draft amendments to current legislation on NGOs would curtail their room to manoeuvre and would restrict freedoms further. A new law on extremism, which defined the concept very loosely so that it could mean whatever the authorities declared it to be, was a further threat to civil liberties. The judiciary was not independent and was open to corruption. The presidential elections were officially set for December 2006, however it was quite probable that they would be earlier. The post of ombudsman had been created in order to improve the international image of Kazakhstan, however the holder had no real powers and was restricted to dealing with social and economic issues.

President Nazarbayev had been influenced by events in Georgia and Ukraine and these developments had encouraged him to continue to pursue an authoritarian policy. He claimed that the fall of former Kyrgyz President Akayev was a result of corruption, poverty and a weak government and that the situation was very different in Kazakhstan.

Kazakhstan wanted to be part of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and had ambitions to chair the OSCE in 2009. It was likely to join the WTO at the same time as Russia in 2006-2007. The Kazakh government was keen to develop the Single Economic Space with Russia, Belarus (and possibly Ukraine). The EU was interested in stability in Kazakhstan, although it possessed limited leverage. President Nazarbayev's strong desire for international acceptance and recognition was one of the only levers that the EU had over his government. The Union was keen to promote trade, particularly in oil and gas.

There was strong economic growth of 10% per annum with annual income at US\$3000 per capita. A new middle class was being created and the relative prosperity of the country made a repeat of the current Kyrgyz or Uzbek scenarios unlikely. In view of this relative wealth a question mark hung over whether EU aid was really needed, particularly as the government was spending more to build the new capital of Astana than it did on health or education. TACIS assistance to improve government and administration was nevertheless still needed. There was strong environmental legislation in place, however the level of implementation was patchy.

Sunday 15 May 1200hrs-1340hrs

**Working lunch with EU Member State ambassadors
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Almaty**

**Sunday 15 May 1400hrs-1530hrs
Meeting with EIDHR project representatives
Polyton Discussion Centre, Almaty**

The delegation met with representatives of projects that were supported by the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR). These included journalists' organisations, human rights groups, a legal aid office, a women's organisation, a body supporting pensioners' interests, and an organisation of sociologists and political scientists. In general the speakers gave a dispiriting picture of developments in Kazakhstan. Many considered that the situation of political freedoms was deteriorating and that the government was bringing pressure to bear on the opposition and opposition media.

One speaker stated that only eight of the 2160 means of mass communication in the country could be classed as representing an opposition viewpoint and that the authorities were aiming to close down the free press completely. Only 5% of the population received the free press. There was little discussion of corruption in the country. Pressure was brought to bear on possible opponents of the government through the secret services and offices of the Public Attorney. Opposition voices were also stifled though oppressive legislation such as the draft Law on Extremism and the chances of democratisation were slim.

One speaker argued that the situation of the environment was even more parlous than that of democracy. People in areas that were environmentally damaged received no compensation. In particular there were cases of genetic mutation of animals and children. There was no open debate on this subject.

A minority voice was expressed by one representative who considered that society was moving in the right direction and that economic conditions had improved. She argued in favour of stability and a "Latin American" rather than an "American" model for political development. In her view the government approach was the appropriate one for Kazakhstan.

The EP delegation argued that a democratic and pluralistic system, in which no person or group held all the power, was the best way of organising a country.

**Sunday 15 May 1530hrs-1715hrs
Meeting with representatives of opposition parties
Hyatt Regency Hotel, Almaty**

The delegation met with the following representatives of opposition parties: Asylbek KOZHAKMETOV (chairman of the former DVK); Zhamarkha TUYAKBAI (Chairman of the Coordinating Council of Democratic Forces and President of "For Fair Kazakhstan" Election Bloc and Former Parliament Speaker); Ermurat BAPI (former Republican People's Party of Kazakhstan "RNPK), Zauresh BATTALOVA (Senator); Alikhan BAIMENOV (Co-Chair "Ak Zhol" political party); Karlygash ZHAKIANOVA (wife of imprisoned DVK leader Galymzhan ZHAKIANOV); Oraz ZHANDOSOV and Altynbek SARSENBAYEV, (Co-Chairs of "True Ak Zhol" Party); Serkibolsyn ABDILIN (Chairman of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan); Tolen TOKHTASYNOV (Deputy Chairman of the Communist Party of Kazakhstan).

The delegation was given a gloomy picture of political repression with the imprisonment of many leading opposition figures. One speaker stated that the authorities wished to create a

"closed dictatorship". Another considered that since 1994 the country had been ruled by one man. Many speakers called for international organisations, notably the European Union and the European Parliament, to support them and the cause of human rights in Kazakhstan. There was a feeling that international observers were not properly monitoring the situation. It was now impossible to maintain a real dialogue internally about the future course of the country and it might only be possible at international level.

There was a need for a "road map" to facilitate the process of political reform in the country. In particular international bodies should be pressing for a specific date for the presidential elections. The opposition parties wanted to be represented on the Central Election Commission, which had been totally discredited at the last elections.

The representatives were highly critical of the September 2004 parliamentary elections and were scathing about the democratic legitimacy of the Kazakh parliament. One noted that the constitution of 1995 had limited the powers of the parliament and that it was no longer a fully-fledged branch of power. It was noted that the "current illegitimate parliament" contributed to a worsening of the situation. Speakers wanted the MEPs to take a firm message to their Kazakh counterparts that the government that they supported must respect the commitments that it had made on human rights and democracy.

Mrs JUKNEVICIENE expressed the delegation's concern and underlined that it would take back the message of the opposition to the European Parliament. Mr CALLANAN considered that the situation had deteriorated since his last visit to the country three years ago. Mr PETERLE expressed his pessimism about having a meaningful dialogue with the Kazakh parliament.

The delegation then travelled to Astana by air.

Monday 16 May 1000hrs-1100hrs
Meeting with Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Alexey VOLKOV
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Astana

Mr VOLKOV stressed that the EU was a key political and economic partner of Kazakhstan. A Department of European Integration had recently been established to put EU-Kazakh relations on a permanent basis. He referred to the structures already in place that had been established within the framework of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) and expressed his broad satisfaction with them and EU-Kazakhstan relations.

Mr Volkov noted that a draft was being prepared setting out a "new concept" of foreign policy for Kazakhstan. Strategic partners would be Russia, China and the United States, as well as the EU. In his view economic reality made the EU Kazakhstan's most important trading partner.

The Minister stated that according to social and economic benchmarks Kazakhstan was ten times more prosperous than neighbouring states and was an island of stability in an ocean of poverty. Projects within the CIS were underway such as a Customs Union. Astana enjoyed high level relations with Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan with which it had much in common. They should be collaborating as closely as possible in areas such as the environment, transport and energy. They faced common threats such as extremism and drug trafficking. Central Asia had 50 million inhabitants and its countries could be key players in the world. He considered that the people of the region shared a common mentality with the people of the EU.

Mr Volkov noted that there were currently seven candidates for the presidential elections in Kyrgyzstan. In his view Mr Bakiyev was a representative of the old regime. He was not

sure what effect Mr Kulov's time in prison would have on him. In his view the situation in Uzbekistan was more complex. It had only been possible for Kazakhstan to reach agreements at the highest level with its neighbour. The border problem between the two countries had only recently been resolved. He was concerned that the situation in Turkmenistan could deteriorate as it was in a bad situation and Tajikistan was also not back on its feet since its civil war.

The Minister stressed the goal of Kazakhstan to be a member of the WTO. He accepted that in order to do secure the chairmanship of the OSCE in 2009 it needed to meet the standards required by that organisation. He stressed the importance of confidence building measures and stressed that there were 120 different ethnic and religious groups in the country, which needed to work together. In response to the concerns expressed by the delegation about the low level of democracy in the country he argued that Kazakhstan faced many threats. He considered that the anti-extremism law was justified and the need for it had been shown by recent events in Uzbekistan where religious extremism had proved to be a threat to the established order.

Monday 16 May 1100hrs-1200hrs

Meeting with Mrs Elizabeth WEBSTER, Second Secretary, United States Embassy, United States Embassy Branch Office, Astana

Mrs Webster noted that economic growth in Kazakhstan was strong, however this had not been matched by progress towards genuine democracy. Since the elections of September 2004 the government had become more authoritarian and the OSCE recommendations had been totally ignored. The government's aim was apparently a "managed economy" on the lines of Singapore.

The US had concerns about new legislation and also the restrictions on freedom of assembly. She believed that the new laws had already been in the pipeline before the recent events in Kyrgyzstan and she warned that the new law on NGOs would decimate any foreign assistance. Mrs Webster underlined that the EU needed to work together with the United States to promote democracy and human rights in the country. Ironically the government did not need to implement repressive measures as President Nazarbayev enjoyed a fair degree of popularity and would probably win a free and fair election because of the significant economic growth which had trickled through to the majority of the population. However his repressive policies were forcing his political opponents into an underground opposition.

The trend was towards greater state involvement in the economy and control over large companies such as gas and the railways. It was extremely hard to determine the actual ownership of companies. There were no legal requirements to separate public and private interests. In addition government tax inspectors were able to examine records whenever they wished with some firms being inspected every week. US aid was concentrating on support for small and medium enterprises and there were regular meetings with those responsible for TACIS.

Monday 16 May 1200hrs-1815hrs

**EU-Kazakhstan Parliamentary Cooperation Committee
Majlis Parliament, Astana**

The delegation attended the Parliamentary Cooperation Committee - a separate record of proceedings will be prepared. The joint recommendations are attached

Following the Parliamentary Cooperation Committee the delegation left Astana for Almaty.

Monday 16 May 0900hrs-1945hrs

Working breakfast with OSCE Ambassador Mr Ivar VIKKI

Hyatt Regency Hotel, Almaty

Mr VIKKI noted the findings of the international observers stating that the September 2004 elections had been seriously flawed and he underlined that the opposition was virtually non-existent. He pointed to the legislation that had been introduced; stressing that the draft law requiring NGOs to be headed by Kazakhs and for their financial aspects to be cleared by the authorities was targeted against human rights organisations. In his view the Election Law which placed limits on the freedom of assembly at the time of elections was completely unnecessary. Although it was claimed that 95% of the media was private, Mr Vikki noticed that it was largely pro-government. Two opposition newspapers had been closed down recently and would reopen under new numbers and titles.

There had been some progress in the promotion of the rule of law and penitentiary reforms. Prison conditions were now closer to international standards and there was an open-ended moratorium on the death penalty.

Mr Vikki noted a speech by Mr Nazarbayev on 18 February 2005 in which he had set out a social programme to raise wages. The President had promised to modernise Kazakhstan in line with western standards but following the example of South East Asia and "oriental wisdom". His government would "go gradually" on the course of reform "according to its traditions". It regularly underlined the need for stability in a county which was very multiethnic.

The ambassador updated the delegation on the situation in Uzbekistan but confessed that his knowledge was limited. He noted that the country was divided between the regions of Tashkent, Samarkand/Bukhara and Fergana. President Karimov came from Samarkand and regarded the Fergana region as a hotbed of Islamic extremism.

Following this meeting the delegation departed from Almaty and travelled overland to Bishkek (separate report).

Final Conclusions

of the Vth EU-Republic of Kazakhstan Parliamentary Cooperation Committee meeting in Astana on 16 May 2005

The EU-Kazakhstan Parliamentary Cooperation Committee, at its Vth meeting in Astana on 16 May 2005, discussed mutually agreed agenda items and adopted the following conclusions

1. Stresses the importance to Kazakhstan and the EU of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) as a means of developing and deepening their relationship and notes the general progress recorded in the different areas of cooperation after a mid term period confirmed by authoritative international bodies.
2. Takes note of the effective functioning of the institutional structures established by the PCA as a means of conducting EU-Kazakhstan relations within a structured pattern of formal dialogue and exchange of information. Welcomes in particular the regular meetings of the Cooperation Committees, Cooperation Councils, and various expert meetings involving both the EU and Kazakhstan, and notably the interparliamentary dialogue. Considers nonetheless that the PCA institutions could be used efficiently to implement political decisions and to obtain more concrete results in the various fields of cooperation.
3. Takes account of the findings of the international election observation mission with respect to the 2004 legislative elections and urges the Kazakhstan authorities to implement the OSCE recommendations in preparation for the forthcoming elections and also with a view to the Kazakhstan bid for the OSCE chairmanship in 2009.
4. Underlines the need to ensure real and genuine political pluralism and recommends changes in the legislation in order to avoid any closure of political parties and NGOs which is unacceptable to international standards.
5. Stresses the importance of a fully independent judiciary that is free from external influence.
6. Underlines that it is imperative to create the conditions in which a free media can operate in an unrestricted manner: in particular believes that arbitrary closure of newspapers is contrary to the principle of freedom of expression and international standards.
7. Welcomes the introduction by Kazakhstan of a moratorium on executions and the extension of this moratorium: welcomes too the signing of the international Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the international Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
8. Notes the need to develop the investment climate in Kazakhstan and to further develop the legislative base to improve the investment climate, taking into account the importance of direct foreign investments for the economic progress of Kazakhstan: encourages European business circles to develop economic and financial relations with the countries of Central Asia.

9. Encourages the creation of a stable tax environment for business, which would enhance Kazakhstan's attractiveness as a place to invest and as a trading partner.
10. Underlines that economic reforms must be accelerated and the permitted functions of the state should be limited.
11. Underlines the efforts of Kazakhstan to fulfil the obligations of the World Trade Organisation, harmonisation and of the legal and regulatory framework and the customs legislation, to ensure the transition to a market economy. Actively supports the WTO accession process and proposes an approximation of EU standards in accordance with PCA provisions.
12. Points out the very positive development of the banking sector and stock exchange market in Kazakhstan and its crucial potential role in promoting the economic diversification of the country and to modernise the economy by a better reliance on market forces for investment and the accelerated development of the financial market.
13. Considers that more attention must be paid to the situation of the health and education system and the enhancement of cooperation with the EU on the basis of the Tempus programme.
14. Looks forward to Kazakhstan becoming a full and committed partner in the "Environment for Europe" process and playing a key role in regional environmental cooperation in Central Asia. Notes the need for joint efforts to deal with regional and global ecological problems, such as inadequate water resources, desertification, soil erosion, and industrial pollution and for this to be supported by effective environmental legislation.
15. Welcomes the new orientation towards regional cooperation to tackle issues of common concern and applauds the stated support of Kazakhstan for this approach; urges the kazkh authorities to take further steps to implement this cooperation.
16. Is highly concerned by the fact that, in spite of the initiatives launched - including the Aral Sea Basin Programme - the results are far from satisfactory and considerable commitment is needed both from the countries concerned, and from international organisations to stop further degradation of this unique ecosystem and strengthen its rehabilitation.
17. Notes its concern about the continuing need for rehabilitation of the Semipalatinsk region; expresses ongoing support for the Semipalatinsk Relief and Rehabilitation Programme (SRPP).
18. Notes the potential of the Kazakh sector of the Caspian Sea and the role of the country as a major new oil-producing area, recognises nevertheless that offshore production presents climatic and geological challenges and considers that Kazakhstan should establish a suitable balance between the export of the products and internal demand for them.
19. Considers that cooperation must be enhanced to aim at the further integration of Kazakhstan's energy markets into those of the EU.
20. Recommends stepping up the struggle against organised crime, trafficking in humans and drugs and supports the work of the Central Asia Drug Action Programme

(CADAP) in the fight against drugs and the allocation of a budget to finance a programme to ensure interception of illicit drugs along the major routes as well as modernisation and improvement of the effectiveness of border and cross-border cooperation between the border and customs guards of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.

21. Recommends stepping up the fight against corruption and money-laundering at every level and creating a corresponding legal base for the struggle against money laundering.
22. Evaluates positively the cooperation of Kazakhstan with the international anti-terrorist coalition and notes with satisfaction a unity of views on close cooperation and exchange of information concerning criminal cases and extradition procedures.
23. Welcomes the implementation of the TACIS programme in Central Asia based on "dialogue-driven programming"; reiterates the need to increase efficiency of the programmes through a more focused approach in prioritising areas and a effective monitoring mechanism for projects underway.
24. Stresses the needs for European assistance to enhance legislative and administrative reform in line with PCA provisions, strengthening the country's capacities in drafting laws and implementing regulations, contributing to the process of rationalisation and restructuring of public administrations, improving and developing public governance, and assisting in implementing sounder public expenditure management.
25. Notes the advantage of direct air transport between the EU and key cities in Kazakhstan, including Astana, Almaty and Atyran.
26. Recommends the continuation of the Central Asian dialogue with the EU, which started in December 2004 in Bishkek.
27. Invites the EU-Kazakhstan Cooperation Council to follow up on these conclusions where appropriate.

Astana, 16 May 2005

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Delegations to the Parliamentary Cooperation Committees UE-Kazakhstan, UE-Kyrgyzstan and UE-Uzbekistan and Delegation for Relations with Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Mongolia

5th PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION COMMITTEE

EU-KAZAKHSTAN

FACTFINDING MISSION TO KYRGYZSTAN

15-20 May 2005

List of Participants in Protocol Order (13)

Members (5)

	Group	Country
Ms Ona JUKNEVICIENE, Chair	ALDE	Lithuania
Mr Jas GAWRONSKI	PPE-DE	Italy
Mr Alojz PETERLE	PPE-DE	Slovenia
Mr Martin CALLANAN	PPE-DE	United Kingdom
Mr Peter OLAJOS	PPE-DE	Hungary

EP Delegation Staff (3)

Mr Tim BODEN	Administrator
Ms Claudia SCHWENDENWEIN	Assistant
Ms Nekane AZPIRI	Secretary

Political Group Advisor (1)

Mr Niccolo RINALDI	ALDE
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Interpreters (English and Russian) (3)

Mr Martin WOODING	English booth, Head of Interpreters
Mr Alexey FOKIN	Russian booth
Ms Tatiana LYSHCHENKO-ENTINA	Russian booth

European Commission (1)

Mr Reinhold HACK	Head of Unit, Interinstitutional relations, RELEX
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PPE-DE Group of the European People's Party (Christian Democrats) and European Democrats

ALDE Group of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe

UEN Union for Europe of the Nations Group

**Fifths Meeting of the Committee on Parliamentary Cooperation
«Republic of Kazakhstan-European Union»**

Astana, Kazakhstan

16 May, 2005

From Kazakhstan's side:

- 1. DYACHENKO**
Sergey Aleksandrovich Deputy Chairman of Mazhilis of Parliament of Republic of Kazakhstan – Co-Chairman of the Committee on Parliamentary Cooperation “RK-EU” from Kazakhstan's side
- 2. ZHUMABAYEV**
Yermek Zhianshinovich Chairman of the Committee on Legislation and Judicial Reform of the Senate of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- 3. UTEBAYEV**
Musiraly Smailovich Chairman of the Committee on Economy, Finance and Budget of the Senate of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- 4. YELEUBAYEV**
Uzakkali Bialayevich Member of the Committee on Agrarian issues of Mazhilis of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- 5. ITEMGENOV**
Nurlan Gaisanovich Member of the Committee on Legislation and Judicial Reform of Mazhilis of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- 6. ITEGULOV**
Maral Sergazievich Member of the Committee on Finances and budget of Mazhilis of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- 7. RAKHMANBERDIEV**
Orynbai Member of the Committee on International Issues, Defense and Security of Senate of the Republic of Kazakhstan
- 8. RAKHMETOV**
Yerzhan Orazovich Member of the Committee on Economical Reform and Regional Development of Mazhilis of the Republic of Kazakhstan

From European side:

- 1. YUKNEVICHYENE**
Ona Chairman of the Delegation of the European Parliament on Relations with Central Asian countries and Mongolia (Lithuania, member of bloc Alliance of liberals and democrats for Europe, ALDE), Co-Chairman of the Committee of Parliamentary Cooperation “EU-RK”

- 2. GAVRONSKI
Ias** Member of European Parliament (Italy, ENP-ED-
christan democrats)

- 3. CALLANAN
Martin** Member of EP on relations with Central Asian
countries and Mongolia (Great Britain, ENP-ED,
Christian democrats)

- 4. OLAJOSH
Peter** Member of the delegation EP on relations with
Central Asian countries and Mongolia (Hungary,
representative of the group ENP-ED Christian
democrats)

- 5. PETERLE
Aloiz** Member of the delegation EP, private representative
of the acting Chairman of OSCE on Central Asia
(Slovenia, ENP-ED, Christian democrats)

- 6. LEUVEN
Van Peter** Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of
Netherlands in RK, representing Active
chairmanship in Council

- 7. PENNY
John** Advisor of the Representative Office of European
Commission in RK, representing European
Commission

International Affairs and Protocol Department

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
EUROPEAN UNION-REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN PARLIAMENTARY
COOPERATION COMMITTEE

Fifth Meeting
Monday 16 May 2005
ASTANA

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Opening of the meeting and introductory statements by:
The Chair of the House of Representatives of the Republic of Kazakhstan
Mrs Ona JUKNEVICIENE, chair of the European Parliament delegation
The representative of the Presidency-in-office of the Council
The representative of the European Commission
2. Approval of the minutes of the fourth meeting of the Parliamentary Cooperation Committee (Strasbourg, 2-3 July 2003)
3. Exchange of views on the development of relations between the European Union and Kazakhstan since the fourth meeting of the Parliamentary Cooperation Committees:
 - operation of the partnership and cooperation agreement
 - economic and financial relations
 - democratisation process (political parties), media freedom, respect for human rights and civil liberties
4. Exchange of views on combating terrorism, organised crime and drug trafficking in Central Asia and the contribution of the European Union
5. Exchange of views on environmental problems and public health in Kazakhstan and in the European Union
6. Exchange of views on the general political situation and inter-state cooperation in Central Asia, in particular the current events in Kyrgyzstan
7. Any other business
8. Date and place of the sixth meeting of the Parliamentary Cooperation Committee

Brussels, 28 April 2005
LMG/nal

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Delegations to the Parliamentary Cooperation Committees UE-Kazakhstan, UE-Kyrgyzstan and UE-Uzbekistan and Delegation for Relations with Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Mongolia

5th PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION COMMITTEE

EU-KAZAKHSTAN

FACTFINDING MISSION TO KYRGYZSTAN

15-20 May 2005

FINAL PROGRAMME

Saturday, 14 May

evening arrival in Almaty, delegation is met by Mr Dyachenko, Co-chair from the Kazakhstan Parliament and transport to

*Hyatt Regency Hotel
Akademic Satpaev Avenue, 29/ 6
050040 Almaty KZ
Tel. +7 3272 501234
Fax. +7 3272 508888*

Sunday, 15 May

10.30-11.45 briefing by the Commission in preparation of the PCC

*Hyatt Regency Hotel
Ibrai/Makhambet room*

12.00-13:40 working lunch with EU Member States Ambassadors

*Hyatt Regency Hotel
Abai room*

13.45 depart hotel for

14.00 meeting with EIDHR project representatives

*Polyton Discussion Centre
20/17 Abai Avenue, office 21*

15.10 return to hotel

15.30 meeting with opposition parties

*Hyatt Regency Hotel
Ibrai/Makhambet room*

17.15 depart hotel for airport

18.55 depart to Astana with flight 4L 855

20.40 arrive in Astana and transport to hotel

*Intercontinental Okan Hotel Astana
113 Abai Avenue
473000 Astana KZ
Tel. +7 3172 39 1000
Fax +7 3172 39 1017*

Monday, 16 May

10:00 meeting with Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Alexey Volkov

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

10.45-11.30 meeting with Ms Elisabeth Webster, representative USA Embassy in Astana

USA representation in Astana

12.00 5th Parliamentary Cooperation Committee EU-Kazakhstan

*Majilis Parliament
Room A309*

14.00 official lunch with Kazakh parliamentarians

Majilis Parliament

15.00-18.00 Continuation of 5th Parliamentary Cooperation Committee EU-Kazakhstan
Majilis Parliament
Room A309

18.00-18.30 Meeting/cocktail with Speaker of the Kazakh Majilis

18.15 depart for airport

19.55 depart from Astana to Almaty with flight 4L 868

21.35 arrival in Almaty and transfer to hotel
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Akademic Stpaev Avenue, 29 6
050040 Almaty KZ
Tel. +7 3272 501234
Fax. +7 3272 508888

Tuesday, 17 May

08.30-09.00 working breakfast with OSCE Ambassador Mr Ivar Vikki
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Intymak room

09.30 depart to Bishkek by bus

16.00 arrive in Bishkek and depart for Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 hotel
Hyatt Regency Hotel Bishkek
191 Sovietskaya Street
720011 Bishkek KG
Tel. +996 312 66 1234
Fax. +996 312 66 9305

16.05-16.45 meeting with Ms Roza Otunbayeva, Minister of Foreign Affairs a.i.
57 Erkindik Blvd.
4th floor

17.00-18.00 meeting with Kyrgyz Republic President a.i. and Prime Minister Mr Baikiev
White House
6th floor

20.00-21.30 working dinner with Mr Feliks Kulov, 'Ar-Namys' Parly Leader
Hyatt Regency Hotel Bishkek
191 Sovietskaya Street
720011 Bishkek KG

Wednesday, 18 May

08.00-08.45 working breakfast with OSCE Ambassador Muller, German Ambassador H.E. F. Eichinger and French Chargé d'Affaires Mr. Erik Millet and Chargé d'Affaires of the Commission Delegation Office in Bishkek Ms. Carina Skareby
Hyatt Regency Hotel Bishkek („Crostini“ Restaurant)

09.00-09.45 meeting with President of the National Assembly of Kyrgyzstan, Mr Isa Tokeoev and Mr K. Samakov, Chairpoerson of Foreign Affairs committee
78, Pushkina Str.,
Office of Peoples' National Assembly of Kyrgyzstan

10.00-10.45 meeting with Prosecutor General and MP Mr. Beknazarov
Kievskaya/Orozbekova Str., Prosecutor's office

11.00-12.30 meeting with civil society representatives and political activists
Hyatt Regency Hotel Bishkek
Akyn Hall

13.00-14.30 working lunch with American Ambassador H.E. Mr Stephen Young
Hyatt Regency Hotel Bishkek
Restaurant

14.45 depart for airport
16.20 depart Bishkek for Osh with flight QH 011 (flight delayed)
21.00 arrive Osh and transport to hotel

Crystal Hotel
Navoi Str 50A
Osh 714000 KG
Tel. +996 3222 27991
Fax+996 3222 5326

21.30 meeting with representatives of press and media
Crystal Hotel, Conference room

Thursday, 19 May

08.30 meeting with NGO representatives (tbc)
Crystal Hotel, Conference room

10.00 meeting with Mr Anvar Artykov, Governor of Osh
Office of the OSH oblast Governor

11.00 meeting with ethnic minorities
Office of the OSH oblast Governor
Conference room

12.30 meeting TACIS representatives on poverty, drugs and human trafficking
Mr Heikki Auvinen, Team Leader, Tacis Project 'Addressing the social
consequences of transition in the Ferghana Valley in the frame of poverty
reduction Programme' in Batken oblast
NGO 'Golden Goal' implementing EIDHR Project in the South
Office 'Golden Goalr NGO
Kyrgyzstana Str.
3rd floor, Room 1-2

lunch free for own arrangements

15.50 transport to airport

17.25 depart Osh for Bishkek with flight R8 143

18.15 arrive Bishkek and transport to hotel

Hyatt Regency Hote
191 Sovietskaya Street
720011 Bishkek KGI
Tel. +996 312 66 1234
Fax. +996 312 66 9305

Friday, 20 May

individual departures for Europe