

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

PE/III/DELE-XXI/PV/08/05

MINUTES of the meeting of Wednesday 14 December 2005

STRASBOURG

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The Chairman, Mr STERCKX, opened the meeting at 1620hrs.

1. Adoption of draft agenda (PE 365.478)

The draft agenda was adopted without amendment.

2. Approval of minutes of meetings of 28 September 2005 (PE 362.421)

The minutes of the meeting of 28.09.2005 were adopted with amendment.

3. Chairman's announcements

Mr Sterckx noted that the Commission had been invited to the meeting; however they had been unable to attend. He stressed that Mr Moran of the Commission should be invited to the next meeting. In addition they should be asked for briefing on EU actions in China in the last year, detailing where the budget had been spent.

He informed members of the timetable for the report by Mr Belder on China. It would be considered by the Foreign Affairs committee at its meeting of 21-23 February 2006. The deadline for amendment was 7 March 2006. It would be adopted in committee on 20-21 March and voted in plenary in May 2006. He also noted that an urgency debate on the human rights situation in Hong Kong and Tibet was taking place on the following day.

Mr Sterckx informed members about the 4th ASEP (ASEAN/European Parliament) taking place in Helsinki in May 2006. A seven member ad hoc delegation would be travelling composed of members of the Korean Peninsula, Japan and China delegations. He would be travelling as chair of the China delegation and the ALDE representative. Finally he referred members to the dossier with press cuttings on recent developments in EU-China politics.

4. Discussion of activities for 2006

Mr Sterckx introduced the draft calendar of activities for 2006. He noted that the 23rd IPM was scheduled to take place in China from 20-25 November 2006, other dates earlier in the autumn having proved impossible. A request had been made to the European Parliament's decision making bodies for authorisation for two IPMs to take place every year, however if this were approved it would only take place from 2007 onwards. A Bureau visit to China was being planned for 17 to 21 April 2006. Mr Sterckx also announced that no preparatory meetings and internal delegation meetings could take place in Strasbourg without special authorisation. He also noted that the next EU-China summit was scheduled to take place in the second half of 2006 in Finland.

Mr Sterckx then invited members to make proposals for the visit to China in November 2006.

Mr Stevenson suggested travelling to Guangzhou province and to observe the wild animal market where instances of animal cruelty had been alleged. He also proposed visiting the region of the Three Gorges Dam to observe the changes that had taken place since the construction of the dam.

Mr Manders stressed the need for a balanced programme that included cultural elements and insights into daily life. It was important to meet a true cross section of people.

Mrs Batzeli called for attention to be paid to aspects such as energy (particularly renewable energy); social security systems and public health; the implementation of the Lisbon Strategy; and agricultural issues, including rural discontent.

Sir Robert Atkins supported the proposal to visit the Three Dams region and the effects of pollution in the area. He also wanted the delegation to examine the effects of economic growth on the Chinese countryside. Sir Robert also expressed a desire to visit Tibet.

Mr Mavrommatis wanted delegation meetings to continue to take place in Strasbourg. He recognised the importance of environmental issues but also wanted the delegation to have practical contact with the Chinese people.

Mr Piki recognised that it might not be possible to travel to Tibet in 2006. He accepted that relations with China should not be aggravated on this issue but referred also to the large number of letters that he received from NGOs on the matter.

Mrs Trüpel underlined the importance of energy policy and the energy mix. She highlighted the importance of exchanges between research centres in China and the EU and also mentioned the Erasmus Mundi programme.

Mr Hoppenstedt pointed to the question of urbanisation and the increased use of nuclear energy. He also referred to pollution and emissions and the effect on the country. Mr Sterckx informed him that three quarters of the full members of the delegation would be able to travel to the IPM.

Mrs Rouré recognised that a visit to Tibet, although desirable, would be a lengthy undertaking and that it might be more realistic to postpone it until 2007.

Mrs Corbey believed the delegation should focus on areas where EU-China cooperation could open up new perspectives and she highlighted the issues of sustainable fishing; climate change; trade relations with reference to the car sector; and intellectual property.

Mr Turmes argued that there should be three or four working groups which could look at issues such as resource management; WTO matters and intellectual property rights; and foreign policy and Tibet/Taiwan issues. He stressed the importance of cooperation on energy and the environment and the need to receive information from the Commission on these issues.

Mrs Ayala highlighted transport and communications, including ports. He also stressed the need to examine internal and external emigration; innovation and technology, and media issues such as the internet, TV and radio.

Mr Calabuig supported the call for more frequent visits. He believed the delegation should examine how reciprocity was working in EU-China trade and cooperation between companies on both sides.

Mr Bushill-Matthews welcomed the idea of working groups to examine matters such as the environment, sustainable development and urbanisation.

Mr Martin supported the proposals on working groups and believed they should examine separate issues such as the environment, the economy and human rights.

Mr Hoppenstedt asked the Commission to provide a list of its activities during the last year and for details of what it was doing. It was agreed that the secretariat would request this information.

Mrs Doyle supported the endeavours to increase the frequency of the visits. She stressed the need to travel outside the cities. It was important to have a clear brief from the Commission on budget lines and she called for the delegation to visit an EU-funded project, as well as possibly a wild animal market and Tibet.

Mr Sterckx agreed that the Commission would be asked to provide a preparatory note and that a request would be made for the next meeting to be longer. He also believed that the delegation should examine the run-up to the EU-China summit in Finland. A letter would also be prepared requesting authorisation for a Bureau visit to China in April.

5. Other business

There was no other business

6. Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the delegation was scheduled to take place in Brussels on 22 February at 1615hrs. The Commission would be invited and a request would be made for this meeting to be extended.

The meeting closed at 17h15.

ANNEXE/ALLEGATO/BIJLAGE/ANEXO/BILAGA

DELTAGERLISTE/ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KATAΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/LIITE RECORD
OF ATTENDANCE/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/LISTE DE PRESENCE/ELENCO DEI

PRESENTI/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA DE PRESENCAS/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA

Til stede	Formandskabet/Vorstand/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Ufficio di Presidenza/Mesa/Puhemiehistö/J.L. Presidium: (*) STERCKX (P), DEHAENE (1VP), ROURE (2VP)
Anwesend	Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Μέλη/Members/Diputados/Députés/Deputati/Leden/Deputados/Jäsenet/Ledamöter: ATKINS, BATZELI, CALABUIG RULL, CORBEY, FAJMON, HOPPENSTEDT, JORGENSEN, KIRKHOPE, LAPERROUZE, MANDERS, MAVROMMATIS, OLBRYCHT, TRÜPEL, TURMES
Παρόντες	Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suplentes/Suppléants/ Membri supplenti/Plaatsvervangers/Membros suplentes/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter:
Present	AYALA SENDER, BUSHILL-MATTHEWS, DOYLE, HÄNSCH, HUGHES, KARAS, LANGEN, LAVARRA, MARTIN, MITCHELL, STEVENSON
Presentes	
Présents	
Presenti	
Aanwezig	
Lasna	
Närvarande	
Art. 178,2	
Art. 183,3	ATTARD-MONTALTO
Endv. Deltog/Weitere Teiln./ Συμμετείχαν επίσης/Also present Participaron igualmente/ Participaient également/ Hanno partecipato altresì/ Andere deelnemers/ Outros participantes/ Muut osallistujat/ Dessutom deltog	
(Dagsorden/Tagesordnung Pkt/Ημερήσια Διάταξη Σημεί/Point OJ/Punto OG/Agenda Punt/Ordem do dia Punto/punto orden del dia/Esityslist Kohta/ Föredragningslista punkt):	

- * (P) = Formand/Vorsitzender/Πρόεδρος/Chairman/Président/Presidente/Voorzitter/Presidente/Puhemies/Ordförande
(VP) = Næstform./Stellv. Vorsitz./Αντιπρόεδρος/Vice-Chairman/Vice-Président/Vicepresidente/Varapuhemies/Ondervoorz./
Vice-Pres./Vicepres/Vice ordförande.

