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*Delegation for relations with the countries of Southeast Asia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)*

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DASE\_PV(2023)0323

# MINUTES

**of the meeting of 23 March 2023, 13.00-14.00**

**Brussels**

The meeting opened at 13.00 on Thursday, 23 March 2023, with Marianne Vind (Vice-Chair) presiding.

**1. Adoption of the draft agenda.**

The draft agenda was adopted without comments.

**2. Adoption of the minutes of the meeting of 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022**

The minutes were adopted without comments

**3. Chairman's announcements**

None.

**4. Exchange of views on the Implementation of ILO Conventions in Southeast Asia with**

- Mr Tim de Meyer, Senior Adviser in the ILO Department on International Labour Standards
- Mr. Son Tran, Deputy Director of the Vietnam Worker Defenders
- Mr Jordi Curell, Director International Affairs, DG Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion

After the opening remarks on the topic by the Chair, Ms. Vind, the speakers gave their 10 minutes presentation and answered to the questions from the floor. The exchange of views on

the Implementation of ILO Conventions in Southeast Asia with three external expert speakers made the following remarks.

ASEAN countries have serious shortcomings when it comes to labour rights protection. ASEAN members still need 46 ratifications of fundamental ILO conventions, representing about a third of those required for universal ratification.

On average, there are 19 ratifications of ILO conventions in ASEAN countries, compared to 22 in Asia-Pacific, 41-42 worldwide, and 75-76 in OECD countries.

Ratification situation regarding governance conventions dealing with essential institutions around policy, labour inspection, and tripartite consultation is even more deplorable in global comparison. None of the ASEAN countries has ratified the ILO convention on labour inspection in agriculture.

The percentage of workers in the informal sector is above world average, especially affecting women who tend to be employed in low-skilled labour with precarious working conditions like in textile and garment. Nonetheless, women participation in the labour force is low, especially in Indonesia.

On the positive side, there has been a joint-commitment recently to improve occupational security and health, conditions for migrant workers, as well as to fight child labour.

Cambodia has been especially indicated ILO supervisory systems for serious violations of labour rights, including for arbitrary arrest and detention, as well as murder of labour activists and leaders.

Vietnam did not submit the annual report to the ILO for seven years. Vietnam passed a new labour code in 2019 that was adopted in 2021, but until now no independent trade unions exist. The Vietnam General Confederation of Labour is part of the government-controlled Vietnam Fatherland Front. A large number of activists in Vietnam have been arrested and there are currently more than 300 jailed activists.

The panellists largely agreed that the EU should leverage its considerable trading power to convince ASEAN countries to improve compliance with ILO conventions as well as to release political prisoners. It is the obligation of the EU to act as a responsible global power, supporting universal values, sustainable global development, and a rules-based global order. However, ratification and compliance should not be a sole precondition for starting the negotiations.

The EU promotes labour rights through incorporation in trade agreements, funding of projects globally through NDICI/MIP, and human rights dialogues. As an example, Human Rights dialogues were instrumental in convincing Thailand to implement the ILO forced labour protocol and C188 on work in fishing.

Overall, committing the region as a whole is difficult due to its diversity in many respects, especially as ASEAN is committed of its mutual non-interference and geopolitical neutrality.

## **5. Any other business**

None.

## **6. Date and place of next meeting**

The date of the next meeting will be announced by the DASE secretariat in due time.

The meeting closed at 14.00.

**ПРИСЪСТВЕН ЛИСТ/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/  
ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/KATAΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/  
LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/POPIS NAZOČNIH/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU REĢISTRŠ/DALYVIŲ SAŖAŠAS/  
JELENLÉTI ÍV/REGĪSTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŠCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/  
LISTĂ DE PREZENȚĂ/PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/NÄRVAROLISTA**

<p>Бюро/Mesa/Předsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Predsjedništvo/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/ Biuras/Elnökség/Prezydium/Birou/Predsednictvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)</p>
<p>Marianne Vind</p>
<p>Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Βουλευτές/Members/Députés/Zastupnici/Deputati/Deputāti/ Nariai/Képviselők/Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter</p>
<p>Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Zamjenici/ Supplenti/Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantysnariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/ Namestniki/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter</p>

<p>209 (7)</p>
<p>216 (3)</p>
<p>Saskia Bricmont</p>
<p>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/Τοčka dnevnog reda/Punto all'ordine del giorno/Darba kārtības punkts/Darbotvarkēs punktas/Napirendi pont/Punt Agenda/Agendapunt/Punkt porządku dziennego/Ponto OD/Punct de pe ordinea de zi/Bod programu schôdze/Τοčka UL/Esityslistan kohta/Punkt på föredragningslistan)</p>

Наблюдатели/Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaatlejad/Παρατηρητές/Observers/Observateurs/Promatrači/Osservatori/Novērotāji/Stebėtojai/Megfigyelők/Osservatori/Waarnemers/Obszerwatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelia/Opazovalci/Tarkkailijat/Observatörer

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/Πεε priekšsēdētāja uzaicinājuma/Pirmininkui pakvietus/Az elnök meghívására/ Fuq stedina tač-'Chairman'/Op uitnodiging van de voorzitter/Na zaproszenie Przewodniczącego/A convite do Presidente/La invitația președintelui/ Na pozvanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan
Tim de Meyer, Son Tran, Jordi Curell

Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nöukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/Conseil/Vijeće/Consiglio/Padome/Taryba/Tanács/Kunsill/Raad/Conselho/Consiliu/Svet/Neuvosto/Rådet (*)
Комисия/Comisión/Komise/Kommissionen/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 vnější činnost/EU-Udenrigstjenesten/Europäischer Auswärtiger Dienst/Euroopa välisteenistus/Ευρωπαϊκή Υπηρεσία Εξωτερικής Δράσης/European External Action service/Service européen pour l'action extérieure/Europiska služba za vanjsko djelovanje/Servizio europeo per l'azione esterna/Eiropas Ārējās darbības dienests/Europos išorės veiksmy tarnyba/Európai Külügyi Szolgálat/Servizz Ewropew għall-Azzjoni Esterna/Europese dienst voor extern optreden/Europejska Służba Działañ Zewnętrznych/Serviço Europeu para a Acção Externa/Serviciul european pentru acțiune externă/Európska služba pre vonkajšiu činnost/Evropska služba za zunanje delovanje/Euroopan ulkosuhdehallinto/Europeiska avdelningen för yttre åtgärd (*)
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/Istituzjonijiet u korpi oħra/Andere instellingen en organen/Inne instytucje i organy/Outras instituições e outros órgãos/Alte instituții și organe/Iné inštitúcie a orgány/Muut toimeilimet ja elimet/Andra institutioner och organ

Други учасници/Otros participantes/Ostatní účastníci/Endvidere deltog/Andere Teilnehmer/Muud osalejad/Επίσης παρόντες/Other participants/Autres participants/Drugi sudionici/Altri partecipanti/Citi klātesošie/Kiti dalyviai/Más résztvevők/Partecipanti oħra/Andere aanwezigen/Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Alți participanți/Ini účastníci/Drugi udeleženci/Muut osallistajat/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/Secrétariat des groupes politiques/Tajništva klubova zastupnika/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko grupu sekretariāts/Frakciju sekretoriai/Képviseletcsoportok titkársága/Sekretariat gruppi politici/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secretariado dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupin/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliitisten ryhmiin sihteeristö/De politiska gruppernas sekretariat

PPE	
S&D	Paolo Alberti, Andras Tavit
Renew	Alessia Centoni
Verts/ALE	
ID	Christophe Rairie
ECR	Tomasz Blachozicz
The Left	
NI	Barbara Gatto

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Генерална дирекция/Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/ Directorate-General/Direction générale/Glavna uprava/Direzione generale/Generāldirektorāts/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/ Direttorat Generali/Direktoraten-generaal/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	Antoine Ripoll
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Airis Meier, Samuel Cantell, Cristina Stanculescu	
Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asyistent/Pomočnik/ Avustaja/Assistenten	
Bettina Sturm	

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