



## **DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA**

(39 members)

### **Chairmen**

1980-1982	Mr Gilles MARTINET	(PSE, France)
1983-1984	Mrs Marie Jacqueline DESOUCHES	(PSE, France)
1984-1986	Mr Enzo BETTIZA	(LDR, Italy)
1986-1989	Mr Geoffrey HOON	(PSE, United Kingdom)
1989-1994	Mr Enzo BETTIZA	(PSE, Italy)
1994-1996	Mr Stefano DE LUCA	(UPE, Italy)
1997-1999	Mr Per GAHRTON	(Green, Sweden)
1999-2001	Mr Per GAHRTON	(Green, Sweden)
2002-2004	Mrs Elly PLOOIJ-VAN GORSEL	(ELDR, Netherlands)
2004-2009	Mr Dirk STERCKX	(ALDE, Belgium)

### **EU-China relations**

EU-China relations were established in 1975 and have evolved into a wide ranging and strategic partnership. The 1985 EU-China Trade and Cooperation Agreement provides the current framework for this relationship. In 2007 negotiations began in order to upgrade this into a Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA). This will reflect the depth and extent of the relationship which currently encompasses 33 sectoral dialogues and agreements, ranging from environmental protection to education and culture.

The EU is seeking to broaden and deepen its dialogue with China both bilaterally and on the world stage, for example by cooperation on global challenges such as climate change. It supports China's transition to an open society based upon the rule of law and respect for human rights. It is encouraging the ongoing integration of China into the world economy and trading system and supports the process of economic and social reforms. It also seeks to raise the EU's profile in China and to aid mutual understanding. These objectives are bolstered by the EU's programme of assistance to China.

The most significant event in the calendar of regular meetings is the EU-China summit. This normally take place annually, however the meeting scheduled for December 2008 in France was postponed by the Chinese because of their displeasure about the meeting between President Sarkozy and the Dalai Lama. As a consequence there will be two summits in 2009. The most recent summit took place on 20 May 2009 in Prague and there will be a further meeting - currently scheduled for 30 November - in Beijing.

The EU is China's largest trade partner and China is the EU's second largest partner. In 2008

imports to the EU from China were EUR 248 billion compared to EUR 75 billion in 2000. Exports to China increased from EUR 26 billion to EUR 78 billion over the same period. This trade deficit is a significant factor in the relationship and the cause of much concern.

### **Activities of the European Parliament delegation**

The interparliamentary meetings (IPMs) between the European Parliament and the National People's Congress of China have taken place since 1980.

The European Parliament delegation for relations with China is the second largest interparliamentary delegation. It has 39 full members and an equal number of substitutes. Three quarters of these members are eligible to travel to China every year.

Since 2007 it has been standard practice for two IPMs to take place every year - one in Europe and one in China. The Bureau of the European Parliament delegation makes an additional annual visit to China. The importance of the European Parliament in the development of the EU-China relationship is widely recognised: e.g. in the Commission Communication of October 2006 which stated that "*the European Parliament plays a central role and should expand co-operation with the Chinese National People's Congress*".

The members of the Chinese delegation on their visits to Europe generally hold meetings in Brussels or Strasbourg as well as a day-long visit to a nearby region. This is followed by a visit lasting two to three days to another EU member state which is largely organised by the MEPs from that country who belong to the delegation.

On its visits to China the European Parliament delegation travels to Beijing and one other region.. The regional visit is linked to a specific theme: e.g. during the visit to the Three Gorges Dam in 2006 the delegation focused on energy and environment issues and during the visit to Shanghai and Hangzhou in 2008 the emphasis was on social and employment issues.

The focal point of the visits in both China and Europe is the formal interparliamentary meeting between the members of the European Parliament and their counterparts in the National Peoples Congress (NPC). These follow an agreed agenda and are made up of two sessions of three hours (totalling six hours). Regular themes on the agenda have been the state of EU-China relations, global politics, climate change, market access, intellectual property rights, social and economic issues, human rights, and - most recently - the global financial and economic downturn. These mirror the discussions held between China and the Commission and Council.

Following the visits to China a report is prepared by the Chair that is circulated to the Foreign Affairs Committee and other organs of the Parliament dealing with foreign affairs. The Delegation Chair will also usually report back in person to the Foreign Affairs Committee or another committee.

In addition to the interparliamentary meetings with the Chinese there are regular meetings of the European Parliament delegation in Brussels and Strasbourg, totaling some 33 in the course of the 2004-2009 legislature. At these meetings a range of subjects that impact on the EU-China relationship have been discussed, including human rights, Tibet, animal welfare, development issues, climate change, cultural exchanges and trade policy. Guest speakers from the Chinese

embassy, political groups, the EU institutions, universities, NGOs and think tanks have been invited. These meetings also serve to assist with preparation for the interparliamentary meetings.

In addition to the formal meetings, the delegation Chair regularly meets separately with the Chinese ambassador and other representatives of the embassy, as well as other individuals and groups involved in EU-China relations.

### **Future activities**

A visit to China has been tentatively scheduled for the week of 26 October 2009, subject to the agreement of the new delegation and the Chinese hosts.

## **Map of China**



### **Activities during the 2004-2009 legislature**

### Main delegation activities

- 22nd EU-China IPM	October 2005	Brussels and Prague
- Bureau visit	April 2006	Beijing, Xi'an, Lijiang and Kunming
- 23rd EU-China IPM	November 2006	Beijing and Yichang/Wuhan/Three Gorges Dam
- Bureau visit	March 2007	Hong Kong and Macao
- 24th EU-China IPM	June 2007	Beijing and Tibet
- 25th EU-China IPM	September 2007	Strasbourg and Athens
- Bureau visit	May 2008	Beijing and Inner Mongolia
- 26th EU-China IPM	June 2008	Brussels and Romania
- 27th EU-China IPM	November 2008	Beijing and Shanghai/Hangzhou
- Bureau visit	April 2009	Beijing and Guangdong province
- 28th EU-China IPM	April 2009	Brussels

### Other activities in the European Parliament

April 2005	Representatives of National People's Congress, Foreign Affairs Committee
May 2006	His Holiness the Dalai Lama, Foreign Affairs Committee
March 2008	Mr Karma Chopel, Speaker of the Tibetan Government-in-exile, Foreign Affairs Committee
December 2008	His Holiness the Dalai Lama, plenary session of European Parliament

## **Meetings during previous legislative period**

- 1st interparliamentary meeting	June 1980	Strasbourg
- 2nd interparliamentary meeting	September 1981	Beijing
- 3rd interparliamentary meeting	October 1983	Strasbourg
- 4th interparliamentary meeting	April 1984	Beijing
- 5th interparliamentary meeting	October 1985	Strasbourg, Venice
- 6th interparliamentary meeting	May 1986	Beijing
- 7th interparliamentary meeting	September 1988	Beijing
- 8th interparliamentary meeting	December 1988	London, Derby, Strasbourg
- 9th interparliamentary meeting	September 1991	Beijing, Lhasa, Chengdu, Guangzhou
- 10th interparliamentary meeting	Oct/Nov 1992	Madrid, Lisbon, Strasbourg, Barcelona
- 11th interparliamentary meeting	November 1993	Beijing, Shanghai
- 12th interparliamentary meeting	February 1995	Brussels, Strasbourg, Athens
- ASEP I	April 1996	Strasbourg
- 13th interparliamentary meeting	May/June 1996	Beijing, Xian
- 14th interparliamentary meeting	April 1997	Brussels
- 15th interparliamentary meeting	May/June 1998	Beijing, Shenyang, Dalian, Macau, Hong Kong
- 16th Interparliamentary meeting	December 1999	Strasbourg
- 17th Interparliamentary meeting	Oct/Nov 2000	Beijing, Yichang, Guiyang, Hong Kong
- 18th Interparliamentary meeting	September 2001	Brussels, Glasgow, Edinburgh
- Meeting with Tibetans	March 2002	Brussels
- 19th Interparliamentary meeting	July 2002	Beijing, Lhasa, Xigatse
- 20th Interparliamentary meeting	November 2003	Brussels, Rotterdam, Venice
- 21st Interparliamentary meeting	March 2004	Beijing, Shanghai, Zhengzhou

## **Secretariat (as of September 2009)**

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