



## **Compilation of EU Statements on Tibet (2000- 2011)**

*Document provided by the Brussels Office of the International Campaign for Tibet*

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### **A - European Council/Presidency of the Council of the European Union/European Commission**

#### **Four official and specific EU Statements on the sino-tibetan dialogue rounds (by chronological order)**

#### **\*12 September 2002, Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the visit by representatives of the Dalai Lama to China**

On behalf of the European Union, the Presidency welcomes that representatives of the Dalai Lama are currently visiting China. The EU has long encouraged both sides to enter into dialogue. The EU hopes that this visit will pave the way for direct dialogue between Beijing and the Dalai Lama leading to a peaceful and lasting solution to the Tibetan question. The EU will follow the visit with great interest.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and the EFTA countries members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this declaration.

**\*17 September 2004, EU statement on the visit of the Dalai's Lama's envoys to China**

The European Union welcomes the fact that the representatives of the Dalai Lama are at present visiting China for the third time, since resumption of the contacts in September 2002.

The EU has been looking forward to a third visit and hopes that it will encourage the start of meaningful and direct dialogue between Beijing and the Dalai Lama's representatives, leading to a peaceful and sustainable solution for Tibet.  
The EU will follow this visit with great interest.

**\*6 July 2005, Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on Tibet**

The European Union welcomes the fourth round of talks between the envoys of the Dalai Lama and members of the Chinese Government that took place at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Berne, Switzerland on 30 June and 1 July 2005.  
The EU strongly supports the continuation of dialogue which it hopes will bring about serious negotiations leading to a peaceful and sustainable solution for Tibet that both sides agree upon.

The Acceding Countries Bulgaria and Romania, the Candidate Countries Turkey and Croatia\*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Serbia and Montenegro, EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this declaration.

\* Croatia continues to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

**\*22 February 2006, Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on resumption of direct talks between the Chinese government and envoys of the Dalai Lama, with alignment of third countries of 24 February 2006**

The European Union welcomes the arrival in China on 14 February of a delegation of envoys of the Dalai Lama who will conduct a fifth round of talks with the Chinese Government.

The EU strongly supports this dialogue and hopes that both parties will be willing to address in good faith substantive issues in order to find pragmatic solutions which can contribute to a peaceful and sustainable settlement for Tibet that both sides agree upon.

The Acceding Countries Bulgaria and Romania, the Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia\* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Montenegro, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this declaration.

\* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

### **Other statements by the EU Presidency**

#### **\*29 October 2009, Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union regarding the recent executions of two Tibetans**

The European Union condemns the recent executions of two Tibetans, Mr Lobsang Gyaltzen and Mr Loyak.

On the basis of its principled opposition to the death penalty, the EU, on 8 May 2009, called for a commutation of the death sentences handed down by Lhasa Intermediate People's Court to several Tibetans, among them Mr Lobsang Gyaltzen and Mr Loyak, following the Lhasa riots in March 2008.

The EU respects China's right to bring those responsible for the violence to justice but reaffirms its longstanding opposition to the use of the death penalty under all circumstances. The EU also recalls that in case the death penalty is maintained, internationally recognised minimum standards must be respected. These include all possible safeguards to ensure a fair trial and adequate representation. The EU reiterates its concerns about the conditions under which the trials were conducted, especially with regard to whether due process and other safeguards for a fair trial were respected. The EU calls on China to commute all sentences of death imposed on persons for their alleged involvement in the Lhasa riots in March 2008.

The EU continues to call on the Chinese authorities to abolish the death penalty completely and, as a first step, to establish a moratorium as urged by the United Nations General Assembly in its resolutions 62/149 and 63/168.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia\* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of Moldova align themselves with this declaration.

\* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

#### **\*11 June 2008, US and EU issue joint statement supporting Tibetan-Chinese dialogue and calling for human rights improvements**

##### **2008 U.S. - EU Summit Declaration (excerpt)**

"We offer our deepest condolences to the people of China for the earthquake victims in Sichuan. Recognizing China's growing role as an engaged member of the international community, we will continue our constructive engagement and will encourage China to assume a greater role in helping to tackle issues of global concern, such as the international financial and trading system, climate change, sustainable development and the proliferation

of weapons of mass destruction. We also encourage greater regional integration as a means for promoting prosperity and stability in East Asia. We are concerned about the recent unrest in Tibet and urge all sides to refrain from further violence. We welcome China's recent decision to hold talks with the Dalai Lama's representatives. We encourage both parties to move forward with a substantive, constructive and results-oriented dialogue at an early date. We urge China to take substantive steps to allow its citizens to enjoy internationally recognized human rights. We encourage China to address its poor human rights record."

The full text of the declaration can be found at  
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2008/06/20080610-8.html>

### **\*19 March 2008, Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the EU on the situation in Tibet**

Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the EU on the situation in Tibet

The EU is deeply concerned about the ongoing reports of unrest in Tibet and conveys its deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims. The EU is urgently seeking further clarification of the situation from the Chinese Government.

The EU calls for restraint on all sides. We urge the Chinese authorities to refrain from using force against those involved in unrest and call on demonstrators to desist from violence.

The EU stresses the importance it attaches to the right of freedom of expression and peaceful protest. We call on Chinese authorities to respond to the demonstrations in accordance with internationally recognised democratic principles.

The EU firmly supports peaceful reconciliation between Chinese authorities and the Dalai Lama and his representatives. The EU urges the Chinese government to address the concerns of Tibetans with regard to issues of human rights.

The EU encourages both sides to enter into a substantive and constructive dialogue with a view to reach a sustainable solution acceptable to all that would fully respect the Tibetan culture, religion and identity.

The Candidate Countries Turkey, Croatia\* and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, the Countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidates Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this declaration.

\* Croatia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process

### **\*10 March 2005, EU Urges Unconditional Talks on Tibet and Offers to Become More Involved**

(see: <http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/eu-urges-unconditional-talks-tibet-and-offers-become-more-involved>)

**Siim Kallas** (on behalf of Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner)  
Vice-President of the European Commission and Commissioner for Administrative Affairs,  
Audit and Anti-Fraud  
Statement on the situation in Tibet  
European Parliament  
Strasbourg, 10 March 2005  
SPEECH/05/164

The situation in Tibet remains high on the political and human rights agenda of EU-China relations. The EU is concerned about the preservation of the cultural, religious and linguistic identity of the Tibetan people, and more in particular about the restrictive conditions imposed by central authorities for the exercise of religious freedom in the Tibet Autonomous Region.

Recently, some Tibetan monks have been sentenced, allegedly for possessing portraits of the Dalai-Lama. We heard that some have been detained and beaten. We are also still waiting, in spite of continuous requests, for information on the whereabouts of the Dalai-Lama's choice as the 11th Panchen Lama, Gedhun Choekyi Nyima.

We have seized every opportunity to regularly raise these concerns with our Chinese interlocutors. We did it at the highest political level, as it has been recently the case at the occasion of the 7th bilateral Summit held in The Hague on December 8, 2004. We did it also regularly in the framework of the ongoing bilateral dialogue on human rights. During the last session of this dialogue held in Luxembourg on 24/25 February this year, the issue has been again extensively addressed. We have also brought to the attention of the Chinese authorities the situation of Tibetan individuals, together with individuals from all over China, who have been sentenced for having freely expressed their opinion or their belief. The case of Tenzin Deleg Rinpoche has become emblematic. We fully share the view that the European Parliament has recently expressed in January in a resolution on Tibet and we will continue urging the Chinese authorities to release this monk at the earliest possible date.

We do hope that a solution compatible with the Chinese sovereignty and the respect of the Tibetan population will be found soon. In our view, to reach this ultimate goal, there is no other alternative but a peaceful process based on dialogue. We have called for years, and will continue to call, for such a dialogue. We therefore fully support the consultations which has been taking place over the past years between Beijing and the representatives of the Dalai-Lama. We welcome the fact that the two Special Envoys of the Dalai-Lama have been able to visit China last September for the third time since the resumption of the contacts in September 2002. We met, as we often did in the past, Kelsang Gyaltsen, one of the two Dalai-Lama's Special envoys, upon his return from China and we felt encouraged by his positive assessment of the visit. We understand that progress have been made to narrow the gap between the existing respective positions and we hope that these developments will encourage the start of a meaningful and direct dialogue between Beijing and the Dalai-Lama which will hopefully lead to the recognition of a genuine autonomy of the Tibetan region. We firmly believe that only such a direct dialogue can be productive to a lasting solution of the Tibetan issue. In our view, the opening of a direct dialogue should not be made subject

to any precondition. On the other hand, the respective parties should refrain from taking any step which would compromise the establishment of a climate of confidence which appears as indispensable if a solution were to be reached. In all circumstances, we would condemn violence from any quarter as a solution to the problem of Tibet. The Commission would certainly be prepared to become more involved in the finding of a solution if it were the wish of the parties most concerned.

We will, no doubt, continue to pay the greatest attention to the situation in Tibet and to press for conditions which allow the Tibetans to fully exercise their basic political, religious and cultural rights and permit the cultural identity of Tibet to be preserved.

**\*13 June 2003, Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the Deportation of 18 Tibetan Asylum Seekers from Nepal to China**

Brussels, 13 June 2003  
10492/03 (Presse 168)  
P67/03

Declaration by the Presidency on behalf of the European Union on the Deportation of 18 Tibetan Asylum Seekers from Nepal to China

The EU is seriously concerned over the recent decision by His Majesty's Government of Nepal to forcefully return 18 Tibetan asylum seekers from Kathmandu to China. Such a deportation order against a group of asylum seekers that also included eight minors, while access to them by UNHCR was denied, clearly violates humanitarian principles and contravenes international law.

The EU expresses its regrets over the fact that repeated appeals by EU Missions in Kathmandu to release the asylum seekers from prison and to process them in accordance with established practice and in cooperation with UNHCR were ignored by HMG without offering any explanation or justification for the harsh measures now taken against this group. Respect for international norms and human rights is one of the fundamental pillars of cooperation between the EU and Nepal as it is for all of the EU's development partners.

The Acceding Countries Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia, the Associated Countries Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey and the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area align themselves with this declaration.

**\*29 March 2002, European Union Urges China To Begin Dialogue with the Dalai Lama**

(see: <http://www.savetibet.org/media-center/ict-news-reports/european-union-urges-china-to-begin-dialogue-with-dalai-lama>)

The European Union's External Affairs Commissioner, Chris Patten, today urged China to begin dialogue with the exiled leader of Tibet, the Dalai Lama. Mr. Patten, who is on a visit to China, made this statement in Shanghai. He said he would like to see discussions between

the Chinese leadership and the Dalai Lama, according to a Radio Australia report. The former Hong Kong governor said such talks would promote reconciliation and enhance China's image internationally.

Mr. Patten began an official visit to China on 28 March, during which he is scheduled to meet senior leaders in Beijing, give a keynote speech at the Central Party School in Beijing, and address leading members of the business community in Shanghai. Mr. Patten was quoted by Radio Australia as saying that while there was no argument in Europe that Tibet was a Chinese province, there were concerns about whether Tibetan linguistic and cultural traditions were being preserved.

Before leaving for China, Commissioner Patten told the media in Brussels on 27 March, 2002, "I am looking forward immensely to this trip. ...The range of issues of mutual interest for China and the European Union expands every year, and encompasses everything from reform of China's social security and local governance structures, through sustainable development, to peace and stability on the Korean peninsula. My program will allow us to explore these and other issues in greater depth, and identify further concrete areas for co-operation."

The International Campaign for Tibet Europe has consistently urged the European Union to be proactive in urging China to begin negotiations with the Dalai Lama. Although he has twice been to China since becoming a commissioner, this is Patten's first official visit at the invitation of the Chinese government.

In Beijing, Commissioner Patten will pay calls on President Jiang Zemin, as well as senior Ministers and policy makers. He will sign two financing agreements concerning two new co-operation projects: the European Study Centres Programme, and the Energy/Environment Programme. He will also discuss the Commission's Country Strategy Paper on co-operation with China with several Ministers responsible for implementing projects associated with it. At the Central Party School he will give an address on 'Developing Europe's External Policy in the Age of Globalization'.

In Shanghai, he is scheduled to visit the China Europe International Business School (CEIBS) to meet students and EU project managers. CEIBS, which was funded in part by the EU, was recently voted one of the 50 best Business Schools in the world (and the second in Asia) by the Financial Times, less than 10 years after its inauguration. The Commissioner will visit the Shanghai Stock Exchange, address students at the prestigious Fudan University and, give a speech before leading members of the Shanghai business community at a reception organized with the European Chamber of Commerce. After Shanghai, he will visit Nanjing, Suzhou and Angzhou for the first time. Commissioner Patten is one of eight EU Commissioners visiting China in 2002. The annual EU-China Summit will be held in Copenhagen in September.

Mr. Patten is visiting Singapore after his China visit.

**\*23 March 1999, Humanitarian aid news in brief: Tibet, Cambodia, Bolivia,**

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/99/194&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

*(link to various Council declarations and press releases on Tibet:  
<http://www.consilium.europa.eu/moresearchresultsregistry.aspx?search=tibet&lang=en>)*

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## **B- European Parliament**

**\*25 October 2011, European Parliament resolution on Tibet, in particular self-immolation by nuns and monks, P7\_TA(2011)0474,**

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=MOTION&reference=P7-RC-2011-0540&language=EN>

**\*7 April 2011, European Parliament resolution on the ban of the elections for the Tibetan government in-exile in Nepal, P7\_TA(2011)0158,**

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&reference=P7-TA-2011-0158&language=EN&ring=B7-2011-0268>

**\*25 November 2010, European Parliament resolution on Tibet - plans to make Chinese the main language of instruction (RC/840848EN.doc),**

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&reference=P7-TA-2010-0449&language=EN&ring=P7-RC-2010-0637>

**\*10 April 2008 - European Parliament resolution on the 2008 Tibet Uprising and the repression by the Government of PRC (P6\_TA(2008)0119),**

[http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2008-0119+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN#def\\_1\\_2def\\_1\\_2](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2008-0119+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN#def_1_2def_1_2)

**\*15 February 2007, European Parliament resolution on Dialogue between the Chinese Government and Envoys of the Dalai Lama (P6\_TA(2007)0055),**

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&reference=P6-TA-2007-0055&language=EN&ring=P6-RC-2007-0051>

**\*26 October 2006, European Parliament resolution on Tibet (P6\_TA(2006)0465),**

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&reference=P6-TA-2006-0465&language=EN>

**\*7 September 2006, European Parliament resolution on EU-China Relations - mentioning Tibet - (P6\_TA(2006)0346),**

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&reference=P6-TA-2006-0346&language=EN>

**\*15 December 2005, European Parliament resolution on Tibet and Hong Kong (P6\_TA(2005)0533),**

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2005-0533+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

**\*27 October 2005, European Parliament resolution on the case of Tenzin Delek Rinpoche (P6\_TA(2005)0416),**

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&reference=P6-TA-2005-0416&language=EN>

**\*13 January 2005, European Parliament resolution on Tibet (P6\_TA(2005)0010),**

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2005-0010+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

**\*18 November 2004, European Parliament resolution on Tibet, the case of Tenzin Delek Rinpoche,**

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P6-TA-2004-0067+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

**\*12 November 2003, Resolution adopted by the European Parliament Forum on Tibet,** <http://www.friendsoftibet.org/databank/tibetexile/tibete37.html>

**\*19 December 2002, European Parliament resolution on the human rights situation of Tibetans (P5\_TA(2002)0632),**

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P5-TA-2002-0632+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

**\*11 April 2002, European Parliament resolution on the Commission communication to the Council and the European Parliament on a EU Strategy towards China: Implementation of the 1998 Communication and future steps for a more effective EU policy (COM(2001) 265 - C5-0098/2001 - 2001/2045(COS)) - including Tibet - (P5\_TA(2002)0179),**

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P5-TA-2002-0179+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

**\*15 February 2001, European Parliament resolution on freedom of religion in the People's Republic of China - including Tibet - (B5-0106),**

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P5-TA-2001-0099+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

**\*6 July 2000, European Parliament resolution on the Western China Poverty Reduction Project and the future of Tibet (B5-0608),**

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P5-TA-2000-0328+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

**\*13 April 2000, EP resolution on Human Rights in Tibet (B5-0343),**

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P5-TA-2000-0170+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN>

**\*20 January 2000, European Parliament resolution on the human rights situation in China - including Tibet - (B5-0050),**

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P5-TA-2000-0026+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

**Older EU Parliament Resolutions on Tibet and/or human rights in China:**

**Resolution on the situation in Tibet:** Join resolution replacing Docs. B2-1008, 1013, 1027, 1053 and 1070/87

[EN 198710](#) [DE 198710](#) [FR 198710](#)

**Resolution on the sentence of death in Tibet on Lobsang Tensing, a 22 year old student:** B3-551/90

[EN 199003](#) [DE 199003](#) [FR 199003](#)

**Resolution on the human rights situation in Tibet:** B3-1625/92

[EN 199211](#) [DE 199211](#) [FR 199211](#)

**Resolution on the situation in Tibet:** A3-0369/92

[EN 199212](#) [DE 199212](#) [FR 199212](#)

**Resolution on repression in Tibet and the exclusion of the Dalai Lama from the World Conference on Human Rights:** B3-0858, 0862, 0872, 0903 and 0929/93

[EN 199306](#) [DE 199306](#) [FR 199306](#)

**Resolution on the detention of the Tibetans Gendun Rinchen, Loosang Yontam and Damchoe Pemo and other violations of human rights in Tibet:** B3-1257 and 1307/93

[EN 199310](#) [DE 199310](#) [FR 199310](#)

**Resolution on the sentence of up to 15 years' imprisonment pronounced against five Tibetans in China for 'counter-revolutionary activities':** B4-0275/94

[EN 199410](#) [DE 199410](#) [FR 199410](#)

**Human Rights; Resolution on Tibet:** B4-0768 and 0826/95

[EN 199505](#) [DE 199505](#) [FR 199505](#)

**Tibet: Resolution on the situation in Tibet and the disappearance of the six-year old Panchen Lama:** B4-0963, 0979, 0983, 1003, 1007 and 1011/95

[EN 199507](#) [DE 199507](#) [FR 199507](#)

**Human Rights; Resolution on the selection of the Panchen Lama and religious freedom in Tibet:** B4-1499, 1516, 1522, 1544 and 1556/95

[EN 199512](#) [DE 199512](#) [FR 199512](#)

**Human Rights; Resolution on the resolution on China and Tibet submitted to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and the position of the EU countries:** B4-0514, 0520 and 0525/96

[EN 199604](#) [DE 199604](#) [FR 199604](#)

**Human Rights; Religious Freedoms in the People's Republic of China:** B5-0106, 0116, 0124, 0142 and 0145/2001

[EN 200002](#) [DE 200002](#) [FR 200002](#)

**Resolution on human rights in Tibet:** B4-0636 and 0647/96

[EN 199605](#) [DE 199605](#) [FR 199605](#)

**Tibet; Resolution on Tibet:** B4-0199, 0220, 0240, 0258 and 0261/97

[EN 199703](#) [DE 199703](#) [FR 199703](#)

**Human Rights; Resolution on the appointment of an EU special representative for Tibet:** B4-0076 and 0097/98

[EN 199801](#) [DE 199801](#)

**Human Rights; Resolution of Human Rights in Tibet:** B4-0511, 0537 and 0538/98

[EN 199805](#) [DE 199805](#) [FR 199805](#)

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**\*24 November 2011, Written question on self-immolation by young Tibetan monks, Question for written answer E-010915/2011 to the Commission Rule 117 Ramon Tremosa i Balcells (ALDE), Edward McMillan-Scott (ALDE), Kristiina Ojula (ALDE) and Thomas Mann (PPE).**

**\*9 November 2011, Written question on EU-China Relations, Question for written answer E-009951/2011 to the Commission Rule 117 Morten Løkkegaard (ALDE), Subject: EU-China relations – Tibet.**

**\*7 September 2011, Written question on human rights in Tibet tabled by MEP Cristiana Muscardini (PPE).**

**\*2 September 2011, Answer to written question on Clashes at Kirti and risk of a new massacre in Tibet tabled by MEP Mara Bizzotto (EFD).<sup>1</sup>**

**\*31 March 2009 – AFET - Hearing on “TIBET:AN UPDATE ON THE CURRENT SITUATION AFTER THE BREAKDOWN OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH CHINA”.**

Programme:

-Tibet: A view from the outside – A historical and cultural perspective

Speaker: Dr Katia Buffetrille, ethnologist and tibetologist, l'Ecole pratique des hautes études (EPHE), University of Paris

-Evaluation of the state of negotiations between the Envoys of H.H. the Dalai Lama and the Government of the People's Republic of China

Speaker: Mr Kelsang Gyaltsen, Envoy of H.H. the Dalai Lama and senior member of the Tibetan delegation

-"The Memorandum on Genuine Autonomy": an analysis of the Chinese response, and a consideration of the document from an international legal perspective

Speaker: Dr Michael C. van Walt van Praag, Executive President of Kreddha, the International Peace Council for States, Peoples and Minorities, professor of international law and legal advisor to the Office of H.H. the Dalai Lama and the Central Tibetan Administration

**\*26 July 2010 - Question for written answer to the Commission - Rule 117 - Mario Mauro (PPE)**

“The Tibetan Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (TCHRD) has denounced the arrest, torture and sentencing to imprisonment or re-education through labour of three brothers and three cousins from the same Tibetan family. The Centre mentions unjustified sentences and a personal vendetta conducted by local police officers, to the detriment of six members of the Samdrup family in Gonjo County in the prefecture of Chamdo in Tibet Autonomous Region. On 7 August 2009, Jigme Namgyal and Rinchen Samdrup, directors of an environmental NGO, were arrested. The two brothers had accused members of the local police of illegally hunting certain animals belonging to endangered species.

On 3 January 2010, Karma Samdrup, a brother of the two men previously arrested, was taken into custody by the Chinese police on a charge of pilfering certain artefacts from Xinjiang in 1998. The arrest took place after Karma had visited his brothers in prison and spoken out in their defence.

Three cousins of the brothers were likewise arrested. Sonam Choephel, after having organised a petition in defence of Rinchen Samdrup in Beijing; in March, Rinchen Dorje, a Buddhist monk, was arrested on the basis of vague accusations, and his current

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<sup>1</sup> List of governments' statements on self-immolations and crisis at Kirti Monastery: <http://www.savetibet.org/resource-center/maps-data-fact-sheets/government-statements-tibet-immolations-and-crisis-kirti-monastery#Poland>

whereabouts are unknown. On 5 July 2010, a sixth member of the Samdrup family, Tashi Topgyal, was arrested in Lhasa, where he was seeking information about Rinchen Dorje.

**1. Is the Commission aware of these events?**

**2. What measures will the Commission take to help this Tibetan family whose members have been imprisoned, tortured and sentenced by the Chinese police?"**

**\*21 September 2010 - Debates - Strasbourg - EU-China summit on 6 October 2010 (debate)**

Statements on Tibet:

Ioannis Kasoulides, on behalf of the PPE Group: "...In our relationship with China, we pursue our mutual interests but also our values. In the context of political dialogue and on an equal footing, the EU encourages China's transition to an open society based on the rule of law and respect for human rights. We advocate human rights for the people of **Tibet** and other Chinese provinces, but with full respect for the territorial integrity of China. We welcome the recent agreements with Taiwan, but in respect of the one China policy...";

Niccolò Rinaldi, on behalf of the ALDE Group: "...Trade policy represents a crucial factor in this combined effort, even if something is not working properly, and even if it is true to say that over the last five years, the European trade deficit has tripled. This is not sustainable for the European Union but perhaps inevitable, due to China's constant social and environmental dumping, its world record for counterfeit medicines, its market that is closed to services, its unwillingness to take part in the Anti-Counterfeiting Trade Agreement (ACTA) and its instinctive reaction to conduct a closed policy, even with regard to human rights: from the oppression of **Tibet**, which is culturally, spiritually and ethnically stifled, to this obstinate refusal to recognize the de facto sovereignty of Taiwan, the repression of freedom of expression in the media and on the Internet and the shameful systematic use of the death penalty...";

José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra (PPE): "...Garton Ash, a brilliant British analyst, said that relations with China pose four problems, all of which begin with the letter 't': trade, Taiwan, **Tibet** – and here, I would like to remind the House of the suspension of the EU-China summit in 2008 – and lastly, Tiananmen, in reference to the human rights issue...";

Csaba Sándor Tabajdi (S&D): "...on the subject of human rights: it is right that we speak out for **Tibetan** autonomy, for the cause of minorities, but let us not forget that 700 million rural dwellers and 200 million guest workers have no healthcare, no social security and no pension, and their children's schooling has not been resolved...";

Roberta Angelilli (PPE): "...We are, in fact, subject to its will. We have chosen not to make a choice, not to lay down genuine and far-sighted conditions with regard to the economy, trade and even less in terms of human rights. We draw a merciful veil over the human rights issues, lest we have to face up to the facts of **Tibet**, the world record for capital punishment and the human rights record in general. Even if we timidly lay down certain conditions, we then let China systematically trample all over them...";

László Tőkés (PPE): "...Our statements must reflect a stronger and more defined common position in order to provide a meaningful engagement on issues such as freedom of the press and religion, discrimination against ethnic minorities, the issue of **Tibet**, the Uighurs and the death penalty. I therefore ask the EU representatives to ensure a better integration of human rights issues into EU-China relations...";

Helga Trüpel (Verts/ALE): "...I would like to make it equally clear that human rights are universal. China is still failing to comply with human rights standards and there is no press freedom there. For this reason, we must continue to express our criticism of the Chinese Government. I am of the opinion that we should not lift the arms embargo. We must condemn the Laogai or forced labour camps. We must call for an end to the ban on trade unions and for cultural autonomy for the many minorities, in particular, the **Tibetans** and the Uighurs...".

### **\*23 September 2010 – Debates – Strasbourg – Import of Laogai-made goods into the EU (debate)**

Statements regarding Tibet:

Michael Gahler, on behalf of the PPE Group: "...Will the European Union now insist that China should move swiftly to permit the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture to visit the prisons of his choice, particularly in Xinjiang and **Tibet**?...";

Nick Griffin (NI): "...The British Government has tried to jail me three times under anti-free-speech laws that state that telling the truth is no defence. So I am very sympathetic to Chinese, and especially **Tibetan**, dissidents forced into slave labour in Communist prison camps...".

### **\*12 October 2010 – Parliamentary questions (E-5656/2010) – Answer given by Mr De Gucht on behalf of the Commission**

"...As concerns the question on **Tibet**, the EU has a firm policy of raising concerns relating to human rights at all levels and relevant fora. This is a primary issue in the foreign policy of the EU. This also pertains to questions relating to **Tibet**. At the same time, trade and economic instruments can help pursue human rights and democracy goals. The more the EU works with China to open for foreign trade and investment, the more the EU and China's economies interact, the more the EU helps stimulate development towards democracy and respect for human rights. That does not mean that trade and economic efforts should stand alone. On the contrary, and it is essential that trade, economic, and foreign policy instruments all aim to expand the EU's goals of democracy and human rights....".

**\*6 December 2010 - EP's Sub-Committee on Human Rights (DROI) discussed the situation of human rights in China.**

Summary:

ICT's EU Policy Director Vincent Metten was invited to make an intervention together with Grégoire Thery, Liaison officer to the EU of the the International Federation for Human Rights, and Ngawang Choephel, President of the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organisation. Metten recalled Liu Xiaobo's support for the Dalai Lama's Middle Way Approach. He explained that Liu Xiaobo was convinced that a negotiated solution to the Tibet issue is not only a fundamental right of the Tibetans, but it is also in the interest of the Chinese people because as long as the looming crisis is not resolved, it is likely to result in regional tensions. In his intervention on the human rights crisis faced by people in East Turkistan, Mongolia and Tibet, Ngawang Choephel spoke of "cultural genocide" and of the continuing crackdown on Tibetan spiritual leaders, human rights defenders, environmentalists, writers, intellectuals, artists and entrepreneurs in China.

**\*16 December 2010 - European Parliament resolution on the Annual Report on Human Rights in the World 2009 and the European Union's policy on the matter (2010/2202(INI)).**

Paragraphs referring to Tibet:

(The EP):

131. "...urges the Chinese authorities to refrain from their oppressive policy in **Tibet**, which could eventually lead to the annihilation of the **Tibetan** religion and culture;..."

165. "...points out that, despite some steps taken by the Chinese authorities in the right direction (labour reform, Supreme People's Court review of death sentences), the human rights situation continues to deteriorate and is marked by widening social unrest and tightening of the control and repression of human rights defenders, lawyers, bloggers, and social activists, as well as by targeted policies aimed at marginalizing **Tibetans** and their cultural identity; is deeply concerned about the lack of progress of the Sino-Tibetan dialogue;..."

- See also: EP Press Release - Human Rights - A silver thread through all external policies: <http://tinyurl.com/3776cs8>

**\* 20 December 2010 - Question for written answer to the Commission - Rule 117 - Elizabeth Lynne (ALDE)**

"In August 2009, two Tibetan environmentalists, Rinchen Samdrup and Jigme Namgyal, were arrested following an attempt to expose officials involved in hunting endangered animals. The Chinese authorities claim that Jigme Namgyal had been illegally collecting

information about the environment, natural resources and religion, organising petitions, and providing propaganda material for supporters of the Dalai Lama. Rinchen Samdrup is in custody but has not been tried. Following the two men's arrest, their brother, Karma Samdrup, lobbied the Chinese authorities for their release. On 25 June 2010 he was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment and deprivation of political rights on charges of robbing graves and stealing cultural artefacts. His supporters say these are old charges that were dismissed by the police 12 years ago. Since his arrest, Karma Samdrup has accused his Chinese captors of beatings, sleep deprivation and other forms of mistreatment. Torture accusations of a similar nature are worryingly commonplace in China. These arrests form part of a wave of recent detentions which appear to be targeting intellectuals, activists and artists. According to the International Campaign for Tibet, many Tibetans have been imprisoned after reporting or expressing views or sharing information on Chinese Government policies and their impact on Tibet. These arrests amount to nothing short of human rights violations. It is essential that this issue be brought to the attention of the international community and that the Chinese Government be pressurised into meeting its human rights obligations. The EU should play a leading role in securing agreement to exert this international pressure.

**Can the Commission confirm whether Baroness Ashton has at any point has raised the issue of recent human rights violations in China?"**

PREVIOUS EP'S RESOLUTIONS ON TIBET (AND CHINA)

**\* 6 September 2007 - European Parliament resolution on the functioning of the human rights dialogues and consultations on human rights with third countries (2007/2001(INI)).**

Paragraph referring to Tibet:

– *Structured dialogue with China*

(The EP):

56. "...Considers that the matters discussed in the successive rounds of dialogue with China, such as ratification of the United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, reform of the criminal justice system, including the death penalty and the system of re-education through work, freedom of expression, particularly on the internet, freedom of the press, freedom of conscience, thought and religion, the situation of minorities in **Tibet** and Xinjiang and in Mongolia, the release of detainees following the events in Tiananmen Square, and workers' and other rights, must continue to be raised in the context of the dialogue, in particular with regard to the application of the recommendations resulting from previous dialogues and seminars on legal affairs; to this end, calls on the Council to consider extending the time period of the dialogue and to allow more time for discussion of the issues raised;..."

**\*13 December 2007 - European Parliament resolution on the EU-China Summit and the EU/China human rights dialogue (P6\_TA(2007)0622).**

Paragraphs referring to Tibet:

G. "...whereas there are continually disturbing reports of political repression, particularly of journalists, human rights activists and members of religious and ethnic minorities, allegations of torture, widespread use of forced labour, frequent use of the death penalty and systematic repression of freedom of religion, speech and the media including the Internet, and the strict controls exercised by the Chinese Government over information about and access to the **Tibetan** areas of China; whereas it is therefore difficult to determine accurately the scope of human rights abuses,...";

(The EP):

10. "...Considers that the matters discussed in the successive rounds of dialogue with China, such as ratification of the ICCPR, reform of the criminal justice system, including the death penalty and the system of re-education through work, freedom of expression, particularly on the Internet, freedom of the press, freedom of access to information, freedom of conscience, thought and religion, the situation of minorities in **Tibet**, the release of detainees following the events in Tiananmen Square, and workers' and other rights, must continue to be raised in the context of the dialogue, in particular with regard to the application of the recommendations resulting from previous dialogues mutually agreed upon by both parties and the seminars on legal affairs;...";

13. "...Regrets that the sixth **Sino-Tibetan** round of talks has brought about no results; calls on the parties to make every effort in order to continue the dialogue and calls on the Chinese government to engage in substantive negotiations taking into due consideration the demands of the Dalai Lama for autonomy for **Tibet**; calls on China to refrain from exerting pressure on states that have friendly relations with the Dalai Lama;...";

14. "...Reiterates its concern over the reports of continuing human rights violations in **Tibet** and in the other provinces inhabited by **Tibetan** people, including torture, arbitrary arrest and detention, repression of religious freedom, arbitrary restrictions on free movement, and rehabilitation through labour camps; deplors the intensification of the so-called 'patriotic education' campaign since October 2005 in **Tibet's** monasteries and nunneries, forcing Tibetans to sign declarations denouncing the Dalai Lama as a dangerous separatist; calls on China to allow an independent body to have access to Gedhun Choekyi Nyima, the Panchen Lama of Tibet, and his parents, as requested by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child;...".

**\*04 December 2008, Dalai Lama addresses the European Parliament**

The Dalai Lama addressed approximately 600 members of European Parliament today during a Plenary Session in Brussels. The Dalai Lama spoke on human values and the fate of Tibet. Commenting on European countries' relations with China, the Dalai Lama said that

while it is important to maintain close ties, "if you are a true friend you will make clear your friend's faults".

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## **C- European Economic and Social Committee**

**\*26 March 2008, Statement by the President of the European Economic and Social Committee, Dimitris Dimitriadis, on the situation in Tibet,**

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=CES/08/26&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

**\*9-17 September 2009, European Economic and Social Committee's mission to Lhasa**

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) recently concluded its visit to China and Tibet and has released their initial findings from the trip to Beijing and Lhasa. The mission, from the 9-17 September, focused on the role and expertise of civil society in increasing knowledge about the economic and social situation in Tibet, as well as exploring possible fields of cooperation, especially in the areas of education, access to employment and healthcare.

President Sepi and his Delegation met with Chinese leaders in Beijing as well as local leaders, NGOs and other civil society organisations working for the economic and social development of the Tibet Autonomous Region in Lhasa. On the 25 September, the Committee released a statement outlining the trip's initial findings:

### **Our fact-finding mission in Tibet: first conclusions and main points for the Committee's incoming Report.**

Following our Delegation's visit to Tibet, which took place between 11 and 15 September at the invitation of the Economic and Social Council of China, I would like to stress a few main points which have characterised this mission and which will be crucial for the future steps and achievements that will follow this visit.

It was my concern to hold a press conference on the day upon our return to Brussels, in order to provide journalists with the most genuine and fresh information, as regards our first impressions of Tibet, and in view of the elaboration of our report which we will finalise in the coming weeks, following the necessary discussions with the members of our Committee as well as further structural analysis of the several social and economic aspects involved. Our report will also incorporate the results of our discussions with representatives of the Tibetans in exile.

It was also my concern to keep our public opinion informed during the whole mission,

through a daily "Tibetan journal" which I published on my blog (<http://eesc.europa.eu/organisation/president/Sepi/blog/index.asp>) regularly from China. For these reasons, I think it is important to reaffirm some of the key points that have emerged so far, in coherence with a "step by step" communication strategy that we considered the best possible approach, in view of the importance and sensitivity of such mission. The EESC Delegation which took part in the visit was composed by other two members of the Committee, Peter Clever (D, Group I) and Sukdev Sharma (UK, Group III), and was accompanied also by two members of the EC Delegation in Beijing.

Our mission was the first visit to Tibet, after the unrest of 2008 in Lhasa, by one of the EU institutions. The purpose of the visit, in the framework of the role and competencies of the European Economic and Social Committee, was to increase our knowledge of the social and economic conditions of TAR (Tibetan Autonomous Regions), in order to develop possible fields of cooperation between our civil societies, and to deepen the activities of the EU-China Round Table.

Among the main conclusions we can claim so far, I would like to mention the following points which represent, in my opinion, the most important elements on which we shall reflect in order to suggest development cooperation projects and ideas:

- Tibet has been characterised by a high level of investments by the central government, mainly on infrastructures and subsidies
- Tibet suffers from a heavy dependence on the central government funding for its development and we could not see the presence of a long term development model aiming at increasing Tibetan economic autonomy
- There is a high level of discrepancy between urban and rural areas. This can be source of tensions, with the Han Chinese tending to be more present in the more developed urban areas and Tibetans predominating in the poorer rural areas of the region.
- The Delegation's concerns about the degree of participation of Tibetans in the region's economic development were strongly highlighted on several occasions during our mission.
- China, as a key global player, has to take on stronger responsibilities in terms of opening up its culture and values. At the same time, the Tibetan culture, which I believe is a strong one, needs to be dynamic in adapting to continuous development which is an undeniable characteristic of our globalised world.
- It is crucial, for a genuine and comprehensive development of Tibet, to seriously invest in the human capital and in a higher degree of participation of the Tibetans in society.

This first and very synthetic analysis is the result of our meetings with several representatives of the TAR local government, members of international and local NGOs and civil society organisations, as well as our direct perception and understanding that was only possible due to the fact that we visited Lhasa with our own eyes.

I would like to conclude addressing our institutional interlocutors and the press in particular, by calling upon their sense of responsibility towards public opinion. To those who could not attend our press conference on 18 September and to those who were not able to fairly listen to and discuss with us the reality of a region that needs to be visited and analysed directly, on the basis of a fact-finding approach far from any pre-existing prejudice.

I firmly believe that the Committee can help improve the situation of people and societies, in terms of human and socio-economic development which cannot be separated from any concern related to the protection of fundamental rights. And this is the reason why we decided to make this visit and start up this difficult work in Tibet.

Mario Sepi  
EESC President

END