

EU - MONGOLIA JOINT COMMITTEE: AGREED MINUTES

Brussels, 11 December 2015

The EU and Mongolia held their 16th Joint Committee meeting on 11 December 2015 in Brussels. The Mongolian Delegation was headed by Mr. S. Bayartsogt, Minister and Chief of the Secretariat of the Cabinet Office of the Government of Mongolia. The European Union's delegation was headed by Mr. U. Astuto, Managing Director a.i. for Asia and Pacific Department of the European External Action Service.

Both sides re-affirmed the importance of further enhancing their relations and welcomed the positive developments in bilateral cooperation since the last Joint Committee held in Ulaanbaatar in 2013.

Both sides exchanged information on the current state of EU-Mongolia relations including their respective political, social and economic situations as well as regional and global issues. Both sides expressed satisfaction about the milestones achieved in their bilateral relations, and highlighted high level meetings including the official visit of the President of Mongolia, Tsakhagiin Elbegdorj to the European Parliament in June 2015.

The EU acknowledged the positive role Mongolia is playing in its region and reiterated its support and assistance in organising and hosting the ASEM Summit in Ulaanbaatar in 2016. The EU welcomed a number of recent positive steps in the human rights field, including Mongolia's parliamentary vote to abolish the death penalty, and looked forward to closer cooperation with Mongolia following its election to the UN Human Rights Council. A dedicated EU-Mongolia Human Rights Dialogue was launched in order to enhance cooperation in this area. Both sides noted with satisfaction that the conclusion of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement ratification process is at its final stage and they look forward to its swift entry into force. The Mongolian side emphasised the importance of an EU presence in Ulaanbaatar for further expanding bilateral relations and cooperation.

The Subcommittee on Trade and Investment reviewed the state of trade and economic cooperation with a focus on the diversification of Mongolia's economy, including "GSP+" implementation, investment opportunities and cooperation on raw materials and its processing technology. The two sides discussed the assessment process for granting Market Economy Status to Mongolia. The EU appreciated Mongolia's ratification process of the Trade Facilitation Agreement. The Mongolian side expressed its interest to cooperate with the EU in implementing environmentally friendly standards and norms in construction, urban development, agriculture and the food production sector. Both sides agreed on the need to provide a transparent and

predictable environment for business and investors. The EU highlighted the advantages linked to an open business environment and to implementation of WTO obligations. The Joint Committee was briefed on the outcomes of the discussion held during the Subcommittee.

Both sides discussed the way forward regarding development cooperation. They agreed to establish a working group under the Joint Committee to review and discuss development cooperation priorities and their implementation in the medium term. The EU took note of the request by Mongolia for technical assistance regarding security issues for the preparation of the ASEM summit to be held in Ulaanbaatar in 2016.

The EU and Mongolia agreed to hold their next Joint Committee meeting in 2016 in Ulaanbaatar.

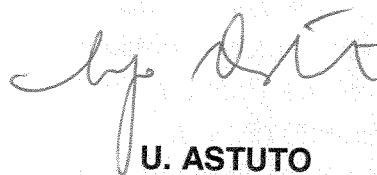
FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF
MONGOLIA



S. BAYARTSOGT

MINISTER, CHIEF OF THE
CABINET OFFICE OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF MONGOLIA

FOR THE EUROPEAN EXTERNAL
ACTION SERVICE



U. ASTUTO

MANAGING DIRECTOR FOR ASIA
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