

TIBET INTERGROUP



**European Parliamentarian Conference on Tibet
7 and 8 November, Brussels**

Conference Declaration – DRAFT

Brussels, 8 November 2007

On the Tibetan Environment

A. Recognizing that the Plateau of Tibet constitutes a fragile high-altitude environment;

B. emphasizing ongoing risks to the health and sustainability of the Tibetan environment that result from Chinese government policies, including reckless resource extraction and timber harvesting, social re-engineering that interferes with traditional livelihoods and practices that protect Tibetan lands and animals and relocate Tibetan nomads and farmers off their lands and into housing compounds, and rapid urbanization and the radical increase of Chinese settlers into Tibet;

C. stressing the impact of global warming on Tibet and, in particular, the melting of mountain glaciers;

D. recognizing the attribution given by Tibetan Buddhists to rivers, lakes and mountains in Tibet as sacred places to be respected and protected;

E. underlining that all sentient beings, including animals and plants, are considered by Tibetan Buddhists as sacred life to be respected and nurtured;

F. highlighting that Tibet is the source of 9 of Asia's great rivers providing water to over one billion people downstream and that Tibet's

environment has a determinant significance for the well-being of the people of Tibet, China and Asia as a whole;



G. emphasizing that the Chinese government's failure to implement genuine autonomy for the Tibetan people withholds the ability of local communities to participate meaningfully in environmental decision-making and to contest environmental projects Tibetans regard as detrimental to their cultural, religious and/or economic interests;

H. stressing the importance His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama has placed on individual and governmental actions to protect the global environment, including the Tibetan environment;

I. appreciating that Chinese President Hu Jintao has made commitments to addressing environmental issues during the October 2007 17th Party Congress.

1. We raise awareness about the spiritual, cultural, economic, and health significance of the Tibetan environment for the Tibetan people, as well for the people of China, for Tibet's immediate neighbours and for the world at large;

2. we engage our Chinese government counterparts and Tibetans in a sincere discussion on how we can support efforts to ensure the protection of Tibet's environment;

3. we commit to ensure full oversight of the environmental impact of European companies involved in operations in Tibet, including those related to heavy industry, infrastructure development, water management and the extractive industries;

4. we are willing to investigate and utilise NGO, governmental and international environmental programs that can be applied to Tibet and that will provide Tibetans with the opportunity to participate in the management of their environment.

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On the Beijing 2008 Summer Olympic Games

- A. Recognizing that previous Olympic Games have contributed to social and political change, and that the 2008 games in Beijing represent an opportunity to contribute to positive change in China and Tibet;
- B. underlining that HH the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan Government in Exile have consistently supported the Chinese people's desire to host the 2008 Olympics;
- C. emphasizing that the Olympic Truce welcomes the increased implementation of projects for peace, development and human understanding through sports and encourages Member States to strengthen their work in this field.
- D. recognizing international parliamentary support for the dialogue between representatives of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Chinese government, and calls for an improvement in the human rights situation inside Tibet.
1. We commit to call upon our governments to ensure that China's actions and deeds actively contribute to the realization of the UN Olympics Truce, as passed by the UN General Assembly on 31 October 2007 (GA/10650);

2. we reaffirm our support for the dialogue between representatives of His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the Chinese government, and our expectation that this dialogue will lead to tangible progress towards a negotiated settlement on the issue of Tibet within the framework of the PRC;



3. we are willing to call on the Chinese authorities to meet directly with His Holiness the Dalai Lama;
4. we support calls by the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture for China to unconditionally release all Tibetans sentenced for the peaceful exercise of freedom of speech, assembly, association and religion, on the basis of vaguely defined political crimes;
5. we encourage China to speed up the ratification of the ICCPR, including the abolishment of administrative sentencing for Re-education through Labour and similar forms of forced re-education;
6. we call on China to promote the freedom of press and independent reporting for international and domestic journalists. This should include all travel to and reporting from Tibetan areas;
7. we support Tibetan Olympic Campaigns **and Team Tibet** in our respective countries in the run up to Beijing 2008;
8. we are willing to sign an official petition to President Hu Jintao urging that all rights to free expression, free religious belief and free association be respected in the run up to the Beijing Games and beyond.

