



CHINA'S "GREEN DEVELOPMENT" PLAN FOR 2030 : MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO THE PARIS CLIMATE CONFERENCE

Summary of parliamentary exchanges between the French Senate and the National People's Congress of China on climate change

June 2015

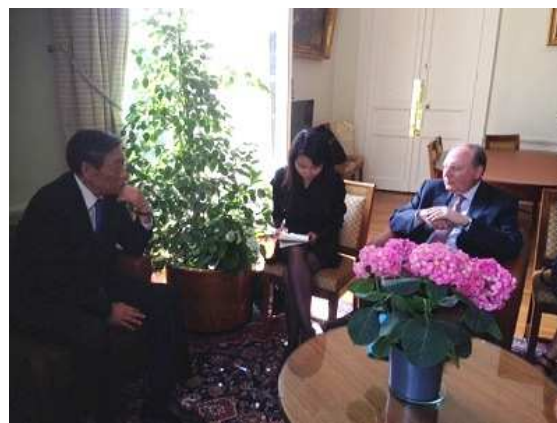
I. France-China friendship group: discussions on climate issues

Invited by the France-Republic of China inter-parliamentary friendship group, a Chinese delegation led by President Mr Chi Wanchun, member of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) of China, Vice-president of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and President of the France-China friendship group, was welcomed for three days in Paris from **June 15 to 17, 2015**.

The delegation also included two Members of Parliament (MPs), Mr Wang Longde, member of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) of China, Vice-president of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Health, and Mr Meng Wei, Vice-president of the Commission for the Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources.

The delegation was first received by Mr Didier Guillaume, President of the friendship group, and then met with Mr Hervé Marseille, Vice-president of the Senate and Vice-president of the France-China friendship group. Their discussions focused on the **preparation of the Paris Conference in December 2015**.

At the lunch hosted by the friendship group in honour of the delegation, participants discussed France and China's respective efforts in **reducing greenhouse gases**.



Mr Chi Wanchun and Mr Hervé Marseille

On June 16, the delegation of Chinese MPs and the friendship group proceeded to open the new session of the **Grand Committee between China's NPC and the French Senate** on the two countries respective positions on climate change in the context of the Paris Conference in December 2015 and efforts to reach a general agreement in Paris on the one hand, and health insurance legislation on the other.

Chaired by Mr Chi Wanchun and Mr Didier Guillaume, the meeting was attended by Messrs Wang Longde and Meng Wei, MPs, Mr Jean-Pierre Raffarin, President of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Armed Forces and Vice-president of the friendship group, Ms Josette Durrieu and Ms Gisele Jourda, Vice-presidents, Mr Jean-Marie Bockel and Mr Jean-Yves Leconte, and Mr Zhang Wei, parliamentary counsel to the Embassy of China.

After a presentation by Mr Jean-Pierre Raffarin, President of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Armed Forces and Defence, on **Chinese world-wide investments, economic development in China, and the French presence**, Mr Jérôme Bignon followed by Mr Jérôme Durain, President of the Working group on international negotiations on Climate and the Environment and Vice-president of the Senate's France-China friendship group, delivered a presentation on the two selected themes. In particular, the Parliamentarians had a lengthy discussion on the preparation of the COP21 to be held in Paris in December 2015 and which the Senate has largely been involved in.



Mr Didier Guillaume and Mr Chi Wanchun

Beyond the shared consensus on the objectives of the Paris Conference, China has showed genuine progress in recent years. The recent thorough changes in its legislation on the protection of the environment ("**green development**"), its quantified and dated commitments, including in terms of renewable energy and the country's "national contribution" in view of the negotiation process on climate in December 2015, were emphasised. The Chinese representatives stressed their recent progress in reducing CO2 emissions, saying that they were aware that any effort on their part, given their country's size and industrial development, was a **breakthrough for the whole world**.

The delegation was also received by Mr Stéphane Crouzat, diplomatic advisor to the Minister of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy, in order to take stock of the progress of preparations for the COP21 and of the French and Chinese parties' respective positions. The Chinese effort towards reforestation amounting to over 1.5 million hectares was noted with interest.



Official lunch hosted in honour of President Chi and the Chinese delegation by the friendship group in the presence of Mr Didier Guillaume, President of the friendship group, Mr Mathieu Darnaud (The Republicans), Ms Josette Durrieu (Socialist Group, SOC), Ms Gisèle Jourda (SOC), Mr Antoine Lefevre (The Republicans), Mr Hervé Marseille (Union of Democrats and Independents - UC, UDI-UC) and Mr Yves Pozzo di Borgo (UDI-UC), Vice-presidents; Mr Jérôme Durain (SOC) and Mr Philippe Kaltenbach (SOC), secretaries; Mr Henri Cabanel (SOC), Mr Yvon Collin (European Democratic and Social Rally, RDSE), Mr Bertrand Hure (The Republicans), Mr Philippe Leroy (The Republicans), Mr Franck Montaugé (SOC), Mr Louis Negre (The Republicans), Mr Cyril Pellevat (The Republicans) and Mr Jean-Claude Requier (RDSE), members.

II. Cooperation program on environmental issues

As part of a cooperation program on environmental issues, a delegation of twenty-one Chinese senior officials, gathered by the Ministry of Environmental Protection, invited by the Ecole nationale d'Administration (ENA) and led by Mr Zhai Qing, Vice-Minister of Environmental Protection for the Government of the People's Republic of China, was received at the Senate **on June 9, 2015** by two Vice-presidents of the France-China friendship group, Mr Jérôme Bignon, President of the Working group on international negotiations on Climate and the Environment, and Mr François Aubey.

Recalling the Senate's primary role in the climate negotiations of the Paris Conference (COP21) in December, Mr Jérôme Bignon emphasised the **considerable challenge of those negotiations** and the urgent need to deal with today's climate issues, stressing the collective historical role played by the participating countries.

He went on to state that the international context had changed since the signing of the Kyoto Protocol in December 1997. While around forty countries were involved in the 1997 negotiations, about 195 countries as well as the European Union, are expected to attend the COP21 in a new spirit of participation. He applauded the mandatory nature of the agreement, emphasising the **political and financial solidarity between the participating countries**. Finally, as part of the preparatory work of the Conference, he lamented that many countries had not yet paid their contribution, since the March 31 deadline had since expired. He mentioned that the Senate would review the Chinese contribution with great interest¹, and expressed his gratitude to the Government for taking responsibility and committing to the environmental question.

As President of the Working Group on International Negotiations on Climate and the Environment, created four years ago, Mr Jérôme Bignon explained **the Senate's active role in international negotiations**. He stressed that the group's work was one of communication and raising awareness on environment-related issues. He concluded by invoking **the spirit of solidarity essential to successful negotiations**.

Mr François Aubey thanked the delegation members for their involvement on environmental issues. He was pleased that by hosting the COP21, the French State expressed a strong symbol, and stressed that France was a leading country in the field of renewable energy and energy saving, citing the use of biomass energy, the setting up of solar panels in many municipalities, the effective rainwater recovery system, and the development of "clean transport".

Mr Zhai Qing thanked the Senators for their welcome and expressed admiration for their involvement. He then applauded the French Government's efforts in organising the COP21 in Paris and stressed **the Chinese Government's strong commitment to the COP21 objectives**. He said that the new five-year plan included the goal of saving energy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and that the Chinese programme would be defined prior to the COP21.



Mr Jean-Pierre Raffarin, Mr Chi Wanchun and Mr Didier Guillaume

Mr Jérôme Bignon concluded by applauding the **strengthening dialogue with China on environmental issues**, expressing the hope that international actors at the Paris Climate Conference in 2015 would reach a constructive agreement and generate hope for future generations.

CHINA'S CONTRIBUTION FOR THE COP21

China now amounts to almost 1/5th of the world population (1.4 billion inhabitants) and its rapid economic growth has been accompanied by a significant increase in its emissions of greenhouse gases. **In 2006, China became the world's first greenhouse gas emitter**. Today, amidst a slowing of its economic growth and an overhaul of its business model, the country wishes to become a global leader in the energy transition.

China was **the 41st country to submit its contribution, on June 30**, showing its intention to fight climate change in view of the COP21. The country has indeed set the following goals for 2030:

- **Peaking C02 emissions around 2030**, and trying to achieve this earlier;
- **20% non-fossil fuels** in its energy mix by 2030;
- Decreasing carbon intensity by 60-65% compared to 2005 levels;
- Increase its forest stock volume by approximately 4.5 billion m³ compared to 2005 levels.

1. China submitted its contribution on June 30, 2015.

China's main objective is to significantly reduce the use of coal to produce electricity. This energy source represents 80% of China's electricity today. **In 2014, the share of coal has decreased in its energy mix** for the first time in 35 years (by about 3%). Today, some coal-fired plants are closing down and one third of new power plant projects are being frozen.

Regarding renewable energy, China hopes to embrace these new technologies and new markets. Since 2012, **China has been the leading country in wind power installation and solar heating systems**, among others. It is also the world's largest investor in renewable energy and the world's largest employer in the sector.

China is now facing three major environmental problems – **air pollution, water pollution and soil contamination** – leading it to adopt a much stricter and more specific environmental legislation in the spring of 2014.

These three types of pollution cause significant public health risks and are already impacting society. For example, children's life expectancy has been reduced by an estimated 5.5 years in Northern China².

In a 2007 study, the World Bank estimated the costs of environmental degradation (air and water) to be 5.7% of the Chinese GDP for 2003. China is also setting up five-year plans presenting the socio-economic framework of the country, in which environmental issues are now fully addressed. The 12th 2011-2016 Five-Year Plan provided for a reduction in the country's energy and carbon intensity, and a 15% target for renewables in primary energy consumption by 2020.

The 13th Plan should be even more ambitious, given the decreases already observed in 2014 and China's international commitments.

Seven regional "carbon markets" were also open in the country as part of a trial in 2013. Carbon markets apply the "polluter pays" principle and establish a carbon price. The market sets an upper ceiling for emissions and allocates carbon emission allowances to companies. At the end of the year, those who have emitted more buy additional allowances, while those who have emitted less sell them or stock them for later years. If this is successful, China plans to **open a national carbon market by 2016**. It should be noted that carbon price in China is higher than in the EU.

China's contribution to the COP21 also comes in the wake of **the agreement signed between China and the United States in November 2014**, in which the country had already committed to quantified efforts similar to those in its recent contribution. The world's two largest emitters are therefore committed to fighting against climate change and reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases by 2030.

2. Study of the journal "Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences", 2013

Composition of Chinese and French delegations

- **Mr Didier Guillaume (SOC)**, *President of the friendship group;*
- Mr Jérôme Bignon and Mr Mathieu Darnaud (The Republicans), Ms Josette Durrieu and Ms Gisèle Jourda (SOC), Mr Antoine Lefevre (The Republicans), Mr Hervé Marseille (UDI-UC), Mr Yves Pozzo di Borgo (UDI-UC) and Mr Jean-Pierre Raffarin (The Republicans), *Vice-presidents;*
- Mr Jérôme Durain and Mr Philippe Kaltenbach (SOC), *Secretaries;*
- Mr Henri Cabanel (SOC), Mr Yvon Collin (RDSE), Mr Bertrand Hure (The Republicans), Mr Philippe Leroy (The Republicans), Mr Franck Montaugé (SOC), Mr Louis Negre (The Republicans), Mr Cyril Pellevat (The Republicans) and Mr Jean-Claude Requier (RDSE), *Members.*

- **Mr Chi Wanchun**, *President of the France-China friendship group of the National People's Congress of China, Vice-president of the Committee on Foreign Affairs;*
- **Mr Wang Longde**, *Vice-president of the Committee on Education, Science, Culture and Health;*
- **Mr Meng Wei**, *Vice-president of the Committee on Environmental Protection and Natural Resources;*
- **Mr Zhai Qing**, *Vice-Minister of Environmental Protection of the Government of the People's Republic of China*

Composition of France-China friendship group: http://www.senat.fr/groupe-interparlementaire-amitie/ami_584.html