

**STANDING  
COMMITTEE**

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**NATO Parliamentary Assembly**

**CHINA: EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE**

**LETTER TO MR. PIERRE LELLOUCHE, PRESIDENT OF THE NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY FROM HUGH BAYLEY, CHAIRMAN OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE ON TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS**



NATO Parliamentary Assembly  
Assemblée parlementaire de l'OTAN

Mr Pierre Lellouche  
President of the NATO PA  
Assemblée nationale  
Paris

By Fax : +33 1 40 53 64 00

13 September 2005

Dear Pierre,

I am writing to share with you some of the insights of the Economic and Security Committee gained during our recent visit to China, the first ever by an Assembly delegation. The visit was a great success and reinforced our sense that China's explosive economic growth poses economic and security challenges to the Alliance and its member states, as well as a range of opportunities.

We were well received by our hosts, and it was clear that the officials we met were pleased that we had decided to visit. We received a very clear message that the Chinese want to engage in a dialogue with members of the Assembly. They are clearly interested in further contacts with the Assembly perhaps as a parallel to initial contacts that have been established with NATO.

Along these lines, the officers of the Committee who travelled to Beijing and Shanghai concluded that:

1. The NATO Parliamentary Assembly should signal its willingness to continue the dialogue. We believe the Standing Committee should discuss offering a more formal status to the Chinese People's Congress. In the meantime, we would recommend that, as President, you invite a delegation to attend the Copenhagen Session as parliamentary guests.
2. The decision to focus our Committee's attention on China was a correct one. Our draft report will be amended to take account of what we learnt from this visit. China is a large and complex society and it is not clear (even to the Chinese leadership, I suspect) where their modernisation will lead. Indeed, our meetings raised more questions than answers. In view of this we believe our committee should retain a focus on China next year and, we plan, with Standing Committee authorisation, to visit the country again to discover what is happening away from the big booming cities like Beijing and Shanghai. A formal proposal to do so will be made to the Standing Committee in due course.

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Chairman of the Sub-committee on Transatlantic Economic Relations

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**LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY,  
MR. PIERRE LELLOUCHE TO MR. HUGH BAYLEY, CHAIRMAN OF THE SUB-COMMITTEE  
ON TRANSATLANTIC RELATIONS**

**NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**FRENCH DELEGATION  
TO THE NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

**NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY  
*The President***

***The President***

Paris, 14 September 2005

Dear Hugh,

I have read your letter of 13 September last with great interest, and I thank you for informing me of the findings of your mission to China and of the prospects of future work for our Parliamentary Assembly. As you point out, the growth of the Chinese economy and the thirst of the Chinese leadership for power represent a real challenge for the member-countries of the Atlantic Alliance.

I agree with the findings of the members of your sub-committee on the necessity for initiating relations between our Assembly and the Chinese authorities. However, having regard to the strategic implications of the emergence of China, the sensitivity of certain national delegations in respect of arms sales and technology transfers as well as the security of Taiwan, I cannot invite a delegation from the People's Assembly to Copenhagen next November on my initiative alone, without consulting the members of the Bureau and the Standing Committee beforehand. I will ask the International Secretariat to put this question on the agenda for the next meetings of these two bodies, because in my view we should obtain the broadest possible consensus on both the principle and the methods of a dialogue with that country.

I have given your other proposals my full consideration, but their implementation seems to depend, as you yourself point out, on broad political agreement within our Assembly. I will submit these also to the members of the Bureau and the Standing Committee.

With warm personal regards,  
(signed) Pierre LELLOUCHE

Mr Hugh BAYLEY  
Chairman,  
Sub-Committee on Transatlantic Economic Relations,  
NATO-PA

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