



EMERGING PAKISTAN NEWSLETTER

EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN
BRUSSELS

May 2017
Volume 1 Issue 5

In This Issue



Members of EU Foreign Relations Committee Visit Pakistan P.2 -3



Punjab OPC meets Diaspora
in Belgium P.4



Iqbal's Death Anniversary
Observed at the Embassy P.5



Promoting Pakistan in
Antwerp P. 6-7



MEP Amjad Bashir's lecture at
the NIM Karachi P. 8



National Defence University's
Delegation visits Belgium P.9



Farewell For First Secretary
Sara Ijaz P. 10-11

Belgian Company's Success with Pakistan IT Specialists P. 12

EU Parliament's Foreign Relations Committee Visits Pakistan



ADVISER TO PRIME MINISTER ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SARTAJ AZIZ IN A GROUP PHOTO WITH MEMBERS OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN ISLAMABAD ON APRIL 18, 2017.

A delegation of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the European Parliament (AFET) visited Pakistan on 18 - 21 April 2017 (Islamabad, Peshawar, Lahore). The eight-member multi-party delegation, was led by Mr. David McALLISTER (EPP1, Germany, Chair of the Committee) and included the following Members: Mr. Arnaud DANJEAN (EPP, France), Ms. Željana ZOVKO (EPP, Croatia), Ms. Neena GILL (S&D, UK), Mr. Andrejs MAMIKINS (S&D, Latvia), Mr. Jozo RADOŠ (ALDE, Croatia), Mr. Amjad BASHIR (ECR, UK), Ms. Jean LAMBERT (Greens/ALE, UK, Chairperson of the EP Delegation for relations with South Asia).

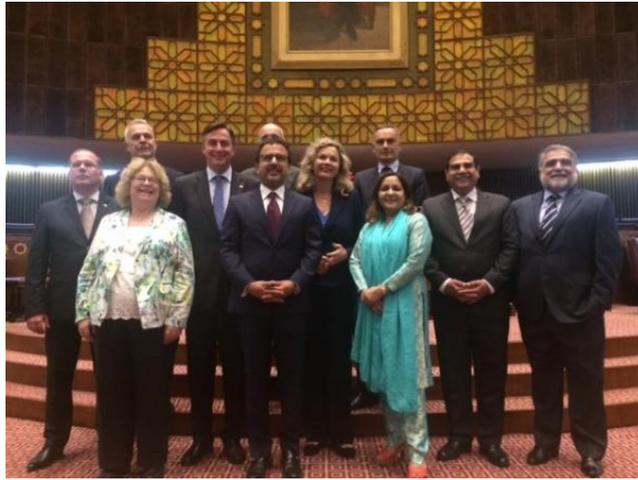
The visit was organised with the objective of pursuing strengthened dialogue between the EU and Pakistan, with a view to the upcoming adoption of a new EU-Pakistan Strategic Engagement Plan, that will address the full range of political and security issues, governance, human rights, migration, trade and energy. The Committee Members held productive meetings with senior federal and provincial government representatives and members of parliament, diplomats as well as civil society and think-tanks.

During their meeting, the Advisor to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs, Mr. Sartaj Aziz expressed satisfaction at the positive growth in the overall Pakistan-EU relations. He underscored the significant progress made by Pakistan during the last four years particularly in the areas of democratic consolidation, counterterrorism and economic development. He also briefed the MEPs about the evolving regional geo-politics and explained Pakistan's approach towards promoting regional stability and prosperity through connectivity. He also highlighted the grave violations of human rights in Indian Occupied Jammu and Kashmir, especially since July 2016. The AFET delegation acknowledged important progress made by Pakistan in the recent years including in counterterrorism, human rights and economic revival.

AFET'S VISIT AND MEETINGS IN PAKISTAN



Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq during a meeting with European Parliamentary delegation Led by Member of European Parliament Mr. David McAllister in Parliament House on 18.04.2017.



The delegation of EU Foreign Relations Committee at the Parliament House Islamabad



The delegation of EU Foreign Relations Committee at the UNHCR Peshawar

Overseas Pakistanis Commission Punjab Meets Pakistani Community in Belgium



“The Overseas Pakistanis Commission (OPC) of Punjab has been successfully resolving the issues of all the overseas Pakistanis irrespective of their social, economic and political affiliations”. This was stated by Vice Chairman Overseas Pakistanis Commission (OPC) Punjab, Mr. Khalid Shaheen while addressing a well-attended, meeting with Pakistani diaspora in Belgium, organized by the Embassy of Pakistan in Brussels.

A high level delegation of OPC, comprising of Vice Chairperson Khalid Shaheen, Commissioner Mohammad Afzaal Bhatti, Director General Syed Javed Iqbal visited Belgium as part of their Road Shows in Europe. The Pakistani Community from different cities of Belgium including representatives from all walks of life attended the meeting and discussed problems faced by the overseas Pakistanis and put forth suggestions for improving services at various levels of the government.

While discussing the high level of commitment of the Commission Mr. Shaheen informed that the commission was created by the Chief Minister Punjab on the basis of his personal experiences during the time he spent overseas where he spent time with Pakistanis listening to their grievances. Commissioner Mohammad Afzaal Bhatti, informed that the Commission received more than 7000 complaints from the Overseas Pakistan and has been able to resolve more than 5000. It also helped in providing relief to people in the realm of illegal occupation and fraudulent cases of properties which remains pre dominant among the issues faced by the Overseas Pakistanis.

Allama Iqbal's Death Anniversary Observed at the Embassy of Pakistan Brussels



Sir Muhammad Iqbal, widely known as Allama Iqbal, was a poet, philosopher, and politician, as well as an academic, barrister and scholar, who is widely regarded as having inspired the Pakistan Movement. He was born on November 9, 1877 in Sialkot and died on April 21, 1938, in Lahore.

The embassy of Pakistan in Brussels commemorated the 79th death anniversary of Pakistan's national poet Allama Muhammad Iqbal. Speakers, including the visiting delegation of Punjab Overseas Pakistanis Commission, paid rich tributes to the poet philosopher and highlighted his role in motivating the Muslims of the Sub-continent to start a movement for a separate home land and also discussed his message of self respect particularly for the



Ambassador Naghmana A Hashmi, HoC Giyan Chand, Sayyed Shakeel Haider and Mahnoor Ashraf speaking on the occasion of commemoration of Allama Iqbal's death anniversary at the Embassy of Pakistan, Brussels 19. 04. 2017

Promoting Pakistan in Antwerp



As part of the 70th Independence Anniversary celebrations, an elaborate event was organized at the Honorary Consulate General of Pakistan in Antwerp on 20th April 2017, with an aim to promote trade and investments opportunities in Pakistan among the business community of Antwerp. Pakistan's Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union Mrs Naghmana A. Hashmi apprised the gathering of improvements in security, political and economic conditions of Pakistan. Economic Minister Omar Hameed made a presentation on the developments in Pakistan and the trade and investment opportunities available in the country to a large number of participants comprising of businessmen, academics and high officials.



Pakistan's Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union Mrs. Naghmana A. Hashmi, Honorary Consul General Luc Meurrens and Economic Minister Omar Hameed addressed the participants on the occasion.



Promoting Pakistan Event in Antwerp



Mr Luc Meurrens Pakistan's Honorary Consul General in Antwerp, with Ambassador Hashmi and Mrs Meurrens at the event to promote Pakistan in Antwerp at the Honorary Consulate General of Pakistan on 20th April 2017. Below: Participants of the event.



MEP Amjad Bashir Speaks at the National Institute of Management Karachi



During his visit to Pakistan, Mr Amjad Bashir MEP (UK/ECR) addressed the participants of National Management Course for the senior level officers of government of Pakistan at the National Institute of Management, Karachi on the topic “The merits of Free Trade and Free Markets in the post-Brexit relations between Pakistan, the European Union and the United Kingdom”. The aim of his speech was to promote greater collaboration between Britain, the European Union and Pakistan in the post- Brexit era. He talked about freedom, in particular economic freedom, as a fundamental pre-condition for long-term prosperity anywhere in the world.

He said “Let Pakistan become the new land of Hope and Prosperity for millions of natives and foreigners” and offered to facilitate the exchange of best practises between the UK and Pakistan. He further added “We can appeal to experts in reforms and free markets in Governments as well as in businesses and think tanks. There is just one condition; We need to take ownership of the reforms required to climb up the freedom indexes ladder. No country in the world can lift itself unless there is unity and consensus on what needs to be promoted first; and this is freedom. Uncompromised freedom” he asserted.

Delegation of National Defence

University Visits Brussels



A delegation of Pakistani Civilian and Army officers currently undergoing National Management Course at the National Defence University, Islamabad visited Brussels on a week long trip from 30th April, as part of their foreign country study tour.

The delegation visited the EU Parliament, the Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, NATO Headquarters and the Belgian Armed Forces Headquarter and attended briefings on the working of these organizations. They also met with General Kostarakos, Head of EU's Military Committee and Ms. Paola Pampaloni, Deputy Director General of Asia Pacific.



Farewell Dinner for First Secretary Sara Ijaz



Pakistan's Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg and the European Union Mrs. Naghmana A. Hashmi speaking on the occasion of farewell dinner organized by her at the Pakistan House for the outgoing First Secretary of Pakistan Embassy Ms Sara Ijaz and her husband Adnan Khan on 24th April 2017 . Below Sara Ijaz with the guests.



First Secretary Sara Ijaz with the host and guests at the farewell dinner hosted by the Ambassador at the Pakistan House



Belgian Company's Success with Pakistani IT Specialists

"We used to be an IT company struggling to get the right people. We went to look for solutions and that's how we ended up in Pakistan. Over there, there is no lack of well-trained IT profiles"

Declares Bart Van Loon, Manager Zeropoint, a company from the Limburg province, who made recruitments and matching of IT profiles from Pakistan.



Pakistan's Arfa Karim Randhawa (late) with Bill Gates, was a computer prodigy, who at the age of nine years became the youngest Microsoft Certified Professional (MCPs) in the world, in 2004 .

A report published in Belgian publications Daily De Standaard , Daily Het Belang Van Limburg give a detailed account of the company's interaction with Pakistan's technology. Zeropoint, a company from the Limburg province, has made the recruitment and matching of IT profiles from Pakistan to its core business and wants to enlarge from 40 to 100 people. "We used to be an IT company struggling to get the right people", declares manager Bart Van Loon. "We went to look for solutions and that's how we ended up in Pakistan. Over there, there is no lack of well-trained IT profiles". In 10 years' time, the IT Company transformed into a HR company and now it deals exclusively with the recruiting and matching of foreign software specialists. Zeropoint is active in Sri Lanka and Pakistan. Co-manager, Jelle Mattelaer, lives for many years in Pakistan and manages there a local branch. "The people we employ are assigned to Belgian and other customers. They work exclusively and long term for the same client", declares Bart Van Loon. The IT specialists can work locally but can also move to Belgium. Three main aspects have to be taken into account for recruitment: time, language and culture. The time difference between Belgium and Pakistan is only 3 hours, so that is not a major problem. There is no language problem as well because English is widely used and finally Zeropoint selects IT profiles that can understand the best the Western culture of their clients. This is relatively easy as the pool of qualified IT specialists is very high (50,000 graduates each year).

"Conclusion is that we always have available specialists in each domain. Availability is an HR company's major asset. Lower labour costs are therefore demoted to a non-priority", states Bart Van Loon. http://www.standaard.be/cnt/dmf20170414_02834031



Embassy of Pakistan

Avenue Delleur 57, 1170 Watermael - Boitsfort Brussels Belgium

Tel +32 (0)2 673 80 07 Email parepbrussels@mofa.gov.pk