

# TAIWAN NEWSLETTER

## President Tsai meets delegation from European Parliament and European Green Party

On March 25, President Tsai Ing-wen met with a delegation from the European Parliament and the European Green Party (EGP) led by MEP Reinhard Bütikofer. In remarks, President Tsai pointed out that last month, the European Parliament adopted resolutions on EU foreign policy and security reports that supported the deepening of a comprehensive partnership with Taiwan. The president thanked the European Parliament and the delegation members for their concrete actions affirming Taiwan's democracy and freedom and for continuing to strengthen sup-



port for Taiwan. Bütikofer said that this trip was the first by the EGP to Taiwan and was undertaken to express belief that democracies should remain unit-

ed; gain a better understanding of Taiwan society and discover substantive opportunities for cooperation to strengthen Taiwan-EU partnerships.

## Vice President-elect Hsiao visits Europe to expand cooperation with EU

Vice President-elect Hsiao Bi-khim met with legislators across Europe to underscore the government's efforts to deepen their understanding of Taiwan's dedication to safeguarding cross-strait peace. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Hsiao was received by European Parliament Vice President Othmar Karas on behalf of the body's president, Roberta Metsola. The vice president-elect also met with Reinhard

Bütikofer, chair of the EP's delegation for relations with the People's Republic of China, and Michael Gahler, chair of the EP-Taiwan Friendship Group, and exchanged views with members of the EP's Committee on Foreign Affairs. Hsiao additionally paid visits to Czechia, Lithuania and Poland. The incoming vice president urged the EU to sign an economic partnership agreement with Taiwan to demonstrate its commitment to upholding regional prosperity.

## Foreign Minister Wu meets Czech regional governor

Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaushieh Joseph Wu met with Vítězslav Schrek, governor of the Czech Republic's Vysocina Region, March 22 in Taipei. Wu first expressed appreciation for Schrek's staunch support of deepening Taiwan-Czechia relationships. The two like-minded partners' friendship is also demonstrated by the visit of Tomáš Kopečný, the Czech government's envoy for the reconstruction of Ukraine, as well as Vice Presi-

dent-elect Hsiao Bi-khim's address to Prague-based think tank Sinopsis and meeting with Senate President Miloš Vystrčil earlier this month, Wu added.



## Tainan welcomes visit from sister city Leuven

Mohamed Ridouani, Mayor of Leuven, Tainan's sister city in Belgium, led an eight-member municipal team, accompanied by Matthieu Branders, Director of the Belgian Taipei Office, to visit the Tainan City Government on March 22. It is the first time a mayor from Leuven has visited Tainan in person since the two cities signed an alliance in Leuven in 1993, marking a span of 31 years. As the visit coincided with the 400th anniversary of Tainan, making it particularly meaningful, Mayor of Tainan Huang Wei-che happily welcomed the delegation. Both sides look forward to the growing exchange between Tainan and Leuven, as well as the deeper cooperation in the fields of culture, environment, and eco-sustainability.

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