

# TAIWAN NEWSLETTER

## Tsai stresses transitional justice on 228 anniversary

Honestly facing up to our history is the only way Taiwan's democratic institutions can become more deeply rooted and continue to evolve, President Tsai Ing-wen said as she addressed the country's main memorial ceremony marking the 77th anniversary of the 228 Incident, February 28.

At the ceremony in Chiayi County, President Tsai placed a floral wreath in memory of the victims, and paid tribute to civil society organisations and young people for having worked so long and hard to further the cause of transitional justice.

The 228 Incident occurred in 1947 following the withdrawal of the Japanese colonial



government and domestic calls for government reform. When these demands went unmet, protests broke out around the country, prompting a military crackdown that resulted in many civilian deaths.

Discussing the administration's transitional

justice efforts, the President detailed that since 2016 the government has completed four fact-finding investigation reports into the incident, accepted nearly 2,000 applications for compensation, and paid out more than NT\$4 billion (€117.2 million) to victims.

### MOFA welcomes EP reports supporting Taiwan

On behalf of the government and people of Taiwan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) expressed sincere appreciation to the European Parliament (EP) for passing the implementation reports on the common foreign and security policy (CFSP) and the common security and defence policy (CSDP), February 28.

The reports, which contained calls for closer relations with Taiwan and reaffirmed the

parliament's commitment to cross-strait peace and stability, both passed with overwhelming majorities.

In addition to describing Taiwan as a key EU partner and a democratic friend in the Indo-Pacific, the CFSP report highlighted that China's territorial claims have no basis in international law. Similarly, the report on the CSDP stated that China's increasingly aggressive behaviour poses a risk to regional

and global security, and expressed concern over the country's military posturing, including its grey-zone military actions.

According to MOFA, the EP has passed over 40 resolutions demonstrating its support for Taiwan over the past five years. The Taipei Representative Office also thanked the parliament for supporting Taiwan's democratically elected government and its people.

### MOFA thanks the Brussels Regional Parliament for passing resolution in support of Taiwan

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) thanked the Brussels Regional Parliament for passing the "Motion for a resolution on Taiwan's place in the international arena," February 23, with 70 votes in favour, 10 abstentions, and 0 votes against. The resolution includes support for Taiwan's participation in international organ-

isations and calls for enhanced cooperation between Taiwan and the EU and the regional government.

It is the fifth resolution in support of Taiwan to have been passed by a Belgian Federal or Regional Parliament since the current legislative session began in 2019. The vote also marks the very first time that the

Brussels Regional Parliament has demonstrated its support for promoting Taiwan-Brussels relations with the passage of a parliamentary resolution.

The Taipei Representative Office extended its sincerest gratitude to the co-initiators of the resolution, as well as the Brussels Regional Parliament as a whole.

### Ambassador Lee speaks at Brussels rally in support of Ukraine

Ambassador Roy Lee thanked Ukrainians for their determination to defend democracy and expressed his sincere hope to see their victory soon as he addressed a march in support of Ukraine through Brussels, February 25.

The Ambassador was joined by colleagues from the Taipei Representative Office and more than 7,000 others at the rally organised by the NGO "Promote Ukraine". Also speaking alongside Ambassador Lee at the event were the Ambassadors of Ukraine, Latvia, Lithuania,

Estonia, Poland, the United Kingdom, and Ireland.



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### TRO promotes opportunities to study in Taiwan at UC Louvain

Colleagues from the Taipei Representative Office in the EU and Belgium (TRO) met Mandarin-learning students at the Université catholique de Louvain, February 23, to promote the various opportunities to study in Taiwan, including through scholarships and the Working Holiday Program. The TRO is also working together with the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven on staging its 2023 – 2024 Mandarin Courses, which are open to students and non-students alike and range from Mandarin for Beginners 1 to 3.