



REACTIONS TO LIU XIAOBO'S NOBEL PEACE PRIZE IN EUROPE





A compilation document by *the International Campaign for Tibet*

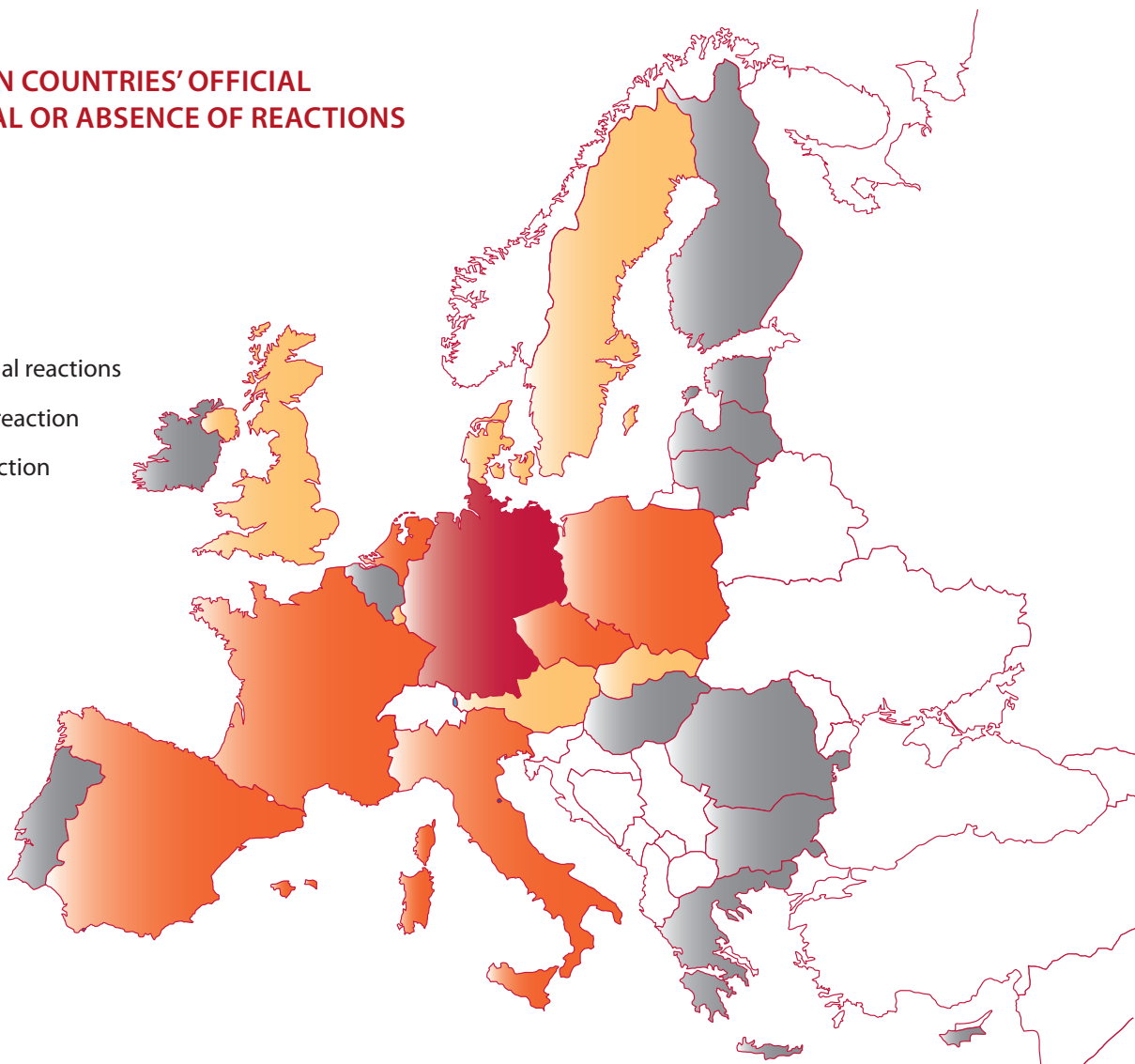
OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this paper is to give an overview of the various official 'formal' and 'informal' reactions by the EU Institutions and by the 27 Member States of the European Union to the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Liu Xiaobo. This study does not aim to be fully comprehensive as its scope is limited to positions/reactions taken in the hours and days following the announcement of the decision of the Norwegian Nobel Committee to award the Nobel Peace Prize for 2010 to Liu Xiaobo for "his long and non-violent struggle for fundamental human rights in China".

As illustrated by the map and the two tables hereunder, national reactions have been very diverse: less than half of the EU Member States adopted a rapid official formal or informal position and the content of each statement varies from country to country.

MAP OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES' OFFICIAL FORMAL/INFORMAL OR ABSENCE OF REACTIONS

-  Several formal reactions
-  One formal reaction
-  Informal reaction
-  No reaction





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All released European statements are available in this paper as well as two official reactions of the Chinese Government published on many Chinese embassies' and consulates' websites worldwide including on the website of the Mission of the People's Republic of China to the EU. In addition, HH the Dalai Lama's statement is cited.

THE MAP OF REACTIONS REVEALS THAT:

- **13 countries have adopted one or several statement(s)**, either formally (i.e. on an official/governmental website) or 'informally' (statement posted on a blog or communicated via the press);
- **14 countries have not released any statement**, namely (by alphabetical order): Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia.

The Belgian Presidency's website did not publish the statement of Lady Ashton (www.eutrio.be), whereas the EU Delegation to China published HR Ashton's and President Barroso's statements both in English and Chinese on their website (<http://tinyurl.com/35pt39p> - <http://tinyurl.com/2wqwgnx>). The Czech Republic, France and Germany are the only 3 countries which published their respective statement in Chinese language on their embassy website in Beijing.

Within the European Parliament, only 3 political groups adopted a statement on the Liu Xiaobo Peace Prize, namely: **ALDE** (on 23 November), the **EPP** and the **Greens/European Free Alliance**. None of the other groups, including the Group of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats, adopted an official party position on the 2010 Peace Prize.

TABLE SHOWING WHERE AND HOW THE STATEMENTS WERE RELEASED OR EXPRESSED

	On an official / government website	On a blog or via media	Available In English	Only in national language	On the embassy's website in Beijing
EU	✗		✗		✗ + chinese
AUSTRIA		✗		✗	
CZECH REPUBLIC	✗		✗		✗ + chinese
DENMARK		✗		✗	
FRANCE	✗		✗		✗ + chinese
GERMANY	✗		✗		✗ + chinese
ITALY	✗			✗	
LUXEMBOURG		✗		✗	
THE NETHERLANDS	✗		✗		
POLAND	✗		✗		
SLOVAKIA		✗	✗		
SPAIN	✗		✗		
SWEDEN		✗		✗	
UNITED KINGDOM		✗	✗		
+ NORWAY	✗		✗		✗ + chinese



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Although Nobel Institute director Geir Lundestad said that figures on foreign ambassadors attending or not the Nobel Peace prize ceremony on December 10 should not be "over-interpreted because there are always ambassadors who do not come for one reason or another" it is relevant to mention those EU countries that have confirmed their presence so far (as of 23 November 2010): Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Sweden, UK and the EU Ambassador to Norway Jonas Herman.

Olivier Chastel, Belgian Secretary of State for European Affairs said on 23 November at the European Parliament on behalf of High Representative Lady Ashton: *"The European Union, as it does every year, will share as a whole and at a level at least identical to that of the past year, like the majority of the diplomatic community, in the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to Mr. Liu Xiaobo in Oslo as at this December 10th,"* concluded Secretary of State Olivier Chastel on behalf of the High Representative." (This statement is available on www.eutrio.be.)

However, with the Lisbon treaty, the EU now has a sole voice capable of speaking on behalf of its 27 member states, through Ashton. To show Europe's unity in the face of pressure from an authoritarian state and as a powerful signal of support to the Chinese people, Ashton should attend, as recommended by the Greens/EFA on 23 November.

TABLE ANALYZING THE CONTENT OF EACH MESSAGE BY USING 5 CRITERIA:

	Does the statement...				
	Refer to national / European values ?	Cite universal values and / or the situation of Human Rights worldwide ?	Place it in human rights context in China ?	Call for Liu's release ?	Call for Liu Xiaobo to receive his prize in person ?
EUROPEAN COMMISSION	×	×			
EU HR CATHERINE ASHTON	×	×	×		×
PRESIDENT OF THE EU PARLIAMENT	×	×		×	
EP SUBCOMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS		×	×	×	
AUSTRIA	×	×	×		
CZECH REPUBLIC	×	×	×	×	
DENMARK	×	×	×	×	
FRANCE	×	×		×	
GERMANY		×	×	×	×
ITALY	×	×			
LUXEMBOURG			×		
THE NETHERLANDS	×	×		×	
POLAND	×		×		
SLOVAKIA	×	×			
SPAIN				×	
SWEDEN		×	×	×	
UK		×		×	
+ NORWAY		×	×		



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STATEMENTS BY EU INSTITUTIONS AND EUROPEAN STATES

EU INSTITUTIONS

• European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso

I would like to convey my congratulations to Liu Xiaobo for being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize 2010. The decision of the Nobel Peace Prize Committee is a strong message of support to all those around the world who, sometimes with great personal sacrifice, are struggling for freedom and human rights.

These values are at the core of the European Union and the decision of the Nobel Peace Prize Committee highlighted their importance all over the world .

(Date: 08/10, Source: http://ec.europa.eu/commission_2010-2014/president/news/speeches-statements/2010/10/20101008_speeches_2_en.htm)

• EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton (on behalf of the Council of the European Union)

I want to congratulate Liu Xiaobo on being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

The choice of Nobel Committee reflects Liu Xiaobo's leading role in calling for democratic and rights-based political reform in China, and I hope he will be able to receive his prize in person.

I am convinced that this award will inspire human rights defenders worldwide. I take this opportunity to recall the firm commitment of the European Union and myself in supporting their efforts.

(Date: 08/10, Source: http://ec.europa.eu/delegations/china/press_corner/all_news/news/2010/20101008_01_en.htm
Ashton's declaration is available in English and Chinese on the EU's delegation website in Beijing)

• Belgian Secretary of State for European Affairs Olivier Chastel on behalf of High Representative Lady Ashton

Olivier Chastel: *"The EU is determined to continue the efforts undertaken for the release of Liu Xiaobo, awarded the Nobel Peace Prize"*.

During the plenary session of the European Parliament (23 November 2010), Secretary of State for European Affairs Olivier Chastel expressed himself on behalf of High Representative Cathy Ashton on the situation of Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Mr. Liu Xiaobo. As Olivier Chastel reminded the Parliament, the European Union did not wait for this prestigious award to remind the Chinese government of its international commitments concerning respect for freedom of expression. The Secretary of State called to mind the importance that the Union attaches to the freeing of Liu Xiaobo. The Secretary of State expressed regret that the Chinese authorities have not followed up on intensified appeals from the international community.

With steadfastness and determination, the European Union will continue the efforts undertaken for nearly two years so that Liu Xiaobo is released, so that he can fully exercise his rights and contribute to the public debate initiated in China through Charter 08 calling for respect for human rights.

"The European Union, as it does every year, will share as a whole and at a level at least identical to that of the past year, like the majority of the diplomatic community, in the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to Mr Liu Xiaobo in Oslo as at this December 10th," concluded Secretary of State Olivier Chastel on behalf of the High Representative.

(Date : 23/11, Source : <http://www.eutrio.be/pressrelease/olivier-chastel-eu-determined-continue-efforts-undertaken-release-liu-xiaobo-awarded-no>)



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• European Parliament President Jerzy Buzek

The decision of the Nobel Peace Prize Committee is a strong message of support to all those around the world who, sometimes with great personal sacrifice, are struggling for freedom and human rights. These values are at the core of the European Union.

I warmly welcome the award of the Nobel Peace Prize to Liu Xiaobo. In him we have one of the staunchest defenders of human rights who has fought for the freedom of expression using peaceful means. He stands for the values and fundamental freedoms that the European Union and the European Parliament regard as cornerstones of society. His case was taken up by the European Parliament a number of times.

Freedom is not a threat, but that the threats to freedom can be many.

Advocating for change and for human rights by peaceful means, as set out by Charter '08, must not be punished by a prison sentence. I call on Chinese authorities to release him immediately and unconditionally.

During my official visit to China in May, I met Liu Xiaobo's wife and expressed my solidarity to her. I also clearly stated that China and Europe are in the process of constructing a bridge, but an essential pillar of this bridge must be the rule of law and respect for civil and minority rights.

(Date: 08/10, Source: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/en/pressroom/content/20101008IPR86243/>)

• Chairwoman of the European Parliament's Subcommittee on Human Rights, MEP Heidi Hautala

"The decision to award the Nobel Peace Prize to Xiaobo must be considered as a strong support for the struggle for the freedom of expression in China", declared MEP Heidi Hautala, calling immediate release of Xiaobo, Hu Jia, as well as all others imprisoned human rights defenders in China.

"Awarding the esteemed prize to Xiaobo serves as a timely reminder for China of the universality of human rights and that these rights can never be disposed of", she added.

(Date: 08/10, Source: <http://tinyurl.com/32xl6a9>)

• Political groups of the European Parliament



ALDE

Guy Verhofstadt, President of the ALDE Group: Today Aung San Suu Kyi, tomorrow Liu Xiaobo

"Today Aung San Suu Kyi has finally been released by the Burmese regime. After the fake elections, this gives at least new hope for a democratic Burma. Suu Kyi has represented in her country the spirit of Gandhi of our century, making a nonviolent campaign for democracy and a pacific outspoken opposition to the almost fifty year old ruling military junta." said Guy Verhofstadt, President of the Liberals and Democrats in the European Parliament, reacting to today's news that the Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi was released, after two decades under house arrest.

"Any country oppressing freedoms and human rights will sooner or later face its repercussions. May today's release also be an example and a sign for China to free 2010 Nobel Peace Prize winner Liu Xiaobo." Verhofstadt concluded.

(Date 13/11, Source : <http://www.alde.eu/press/press-and-release-news/press-release/article/guy-verhofstadt-today-aung-san-suu-kyi-tomorrow-liu-xiaobo-35834/>)



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EPP Group calls for Mr. Lu Xiao Bo to be allowed to receive his Prize. Joseph Daul MEP, Chairman of the EPP Group

"We congratulate Mr. Liu Xiao Bo on his Nobel Prize award. The prestigious Selection Committee of the Norwegian Parliament selects the Nobel peace laureate after a thorough examination of criteria to reward those fighting for the fundamental human rights and freedoms that contribute to world peace and stability," declared Joseph Daul MEP, Chairman of the EPP Group in the European Parliament.

"These are universal values which we adhere to and defend. Global economic and trade affairs and our relations in general are topics of much discussion in the dialogue between the EU and the People's Republic of China, but so are human rights issues."

For Daul, "the People's Republic of China's achievements in its fight against poverty and its contribution to global affairs make us keen to pursue our dialogue, cooperation and good relations with them - for the benefit of both sides and the wider world."

"In this context and in a spirit of mutual respect," concluded Daul, *"we believe that the People's Republic of China will allow Mr Liu Xiao Bo to travel to Norway and receive his prize and thereby honour the Human Rights and Freedoms that are guaranteed by the Chinese Constitution."*

(Date : 19 October, Source : <http://www.eppgroup.eu/press/showpr.asp?PRControlDocTypeID=1&PRControlID=9768&PRContentID=16646&PRContentLG=en>)

THE GREENS / EUROPEAN FREE ALLIANCE :

A crucial signal for the democratization of China, October 8, 2010

This Friday October 8, Liu Xiaobo, was chosen as the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize. For the Greens/European Free Alliance of the European Parliament, this choice is an excellent news and they hope that it will carry out towards a progressive democratization of China. Expressing himself in connection with the choice of the Nobel Committee, Daniel Cohn-Bendit, co-president of the group of Greens/EFA in the European Parliament estimated that: *"I find very well that the Nobel Committee resisted the pressure of China and I dream that, with regard to the Human rights, the European governments and the European commission resist as well as the Nobel Committee resisted the pressure and the blackmail"* (unofficial translation / Date 08/10, Source: <http://europeecologie.eu/Prix-Nobel-de-la-Paix-2010-a-Liu>)

The Greens/EFA adopted a second statement on 23 November ("EU must support Liu Xiaobo, a Peace Prize Laureate in jail) asking HR Lady Ashton to attend the 10 December Peace Prize ceremony in Oslo (23/11 Source: <http://europeecologie.eu/L-Europe-doit-soutenir-Liu-Xiaobo>)



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EU MEMBER STATES

• **Austrian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Michael Spindelegger** (in German, unofficial translation into English)

Minister of Foreign Affairs Michael Spindelegger welcomes the decision of the jury. He hopes *"that one day people like Liu Xiaobo will have the recognition they deserve even in their own homeland"*. Spindelegger sees this prize in a larger context. *"This Nobel Peace Prize belongs to all political prisoners in China and in the world"*.

(Date: 08/10, Source: <http://derstandard.at/1285200395905/Reaktionen-Empoertes-China-erfreutes-Europa-auf-fordernder-Dalai-Lama-unterstuetzender-Wulff-zurueckhaltende-Schweiz>)

• **Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs welcomes award of Nobel Peace Prize to Mr. Liu Xiaobo, imprisoned Chinese dissident and leading figure of the Charter 08, as an expression of appraisal and support to all, who by peaceful means strive for freedom and respect for human rights in the world.

The Czech ministry considers the existence and publication of the Charter 08, which was inspired by the Czechoslovak *"Charta 77"*, an expression of emancipation of civil society in China. In this context, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs renews its call for the release of Mr. Liu Xiaobo from prison. At the same time it continues to follow closely the situation of other Charter 08 representatives.

(Date: 12/10, Source: http://www.mzv.cz/washington/en/czech_u_s_relations/news/statement_of_the_ministry_of_foreign.html)

• **Danish Minister of Foreign Affairs Lene Espersen** (in Danish - unofficial translation into English)

"The Nobel Peace Prize today awarded to a human rights campaigner is an aid to human rights defenders worldwide", said Foreign Minister Lene Espersen's spokesman. *"I welcome the fact that the Nobel Peace Prize today is given to the Chinese human rights activist, Liu Xiaobo, for his long and non-violent struggle for human rights"*, she continues. She points out that the EU earlier, with regard to Liu Xiaobo's judgment and as part of an ongoing dialogue with China on human rights, has called on China to respect the Chinese Constitution's guarantees of freedom of expression and to release Liu Xiaobo. *"Denmark supports the EU line. From the Danish side, we recognize that there has been significant progress on human rights in China over the past 30 years. But Liu Xiaobo's continuing imprisonment shows that there is a need for further progress"* says Lene Espersen.

(Date: 08/10, Source: <http://jp.dk/udland/europa/article2208998.ece>)

• **French Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

The 2010 Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to Liu Xiaobo. This decision embodies the defense of human rights throughout the world.

France, like the European Union, expressed her concern at the time of his arrest, and has several times called for his release. She reiterates this appeal. France recalls her commitment to freedom of expression throughout the world.

The Nobel Committee, which makes its choices independently, wanted to send a strong message to all those who campaign peacefully for the promotion and protection of human rights.

(Date: 08/10, Source: http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/country-files_156/china_506/france-and-china_5691/political-relations_5695/award-of-the-nobel-peace-prize-2010-to-liu-xiaobo-08.10.10_14421.html?var_recherche=liu+xiaobo)



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• German government spokesman Steffen Seibert

The [German] government would like to see him released soon and receive his prize in person. The government has pressed for his release in the past and will continue to do so. He is a brave man, a man who wants to advance democracy and human rights in his country, but one who knows and has always said that this would be a difficult and drawn-out process that should stay peaceful whatever happens.

(Date: 08/10, Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-11499931>)

• German Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Federal Minister Westerwelle congratulated Liu Xiaobo on winning the Nobel Peace Prize. He issued the following statement in Berlin on 8 October: *"I'm delighted about this mark of appreciation of his courage and tireless commitment to freedom and human rights. The Nobel Prize Committee has made a courageous and well-deserved decision. The bestowal of this Prize on Liu Xiaobo should motivate us, indeed it places us under an obligation, to support the work done by human rights defenders throughout the world and to keep up our efforts to promote freedom of opinion. The German Government will therefore continue to call for the release of Liu Xiaobo"*

(Date: 08/10, Source: <http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/diplo/en/Infoservice/Presse/Meldungen/2010/101008-Friedensnobelpreis.html>)

• Italian Foreign Affairs Minister Franco Frattini (in Italian – unofficial translation into English)

The assignment, as noted, entirely independent of the Nobel Prize to Chinese dissident Liu Xiaobo embodies international recognition for all those who, regardless of nationality, are fighting for freedom and individual rights - said Foreign Minister Franco Frattini. They are values that, as pointed out by Commission President Barroso, are at the heart of Europe and that Europe must continue to support anywhere in the world, without exception, as they represent our DNA.

In Italy - continued the Minister Frattini - the majority at the government and the political opposition must be united in considering - as indicated by Mr Fassino (Italian PD politician) - respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms a common priority that cannot be in any way subjected to political, ideological or religious reasons.

(Date: 08/10, Source: http://www.esteri.it/MAE/EN/Sala_Stampa/ArchivioNotizie/Comunicati/2010/10/20101008_Frattini_Nobel_Xiaobo.htm?LANG=EN)

• Vice-Prime Minister, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg, Jean Asselborn (in German – unofficial translation into English)

Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn said: *"This will set a sign that China might move to put human rights on a higher level", Asselborn said in an interview with Radio DNR. He added: "I think the Chinese will get an impetus to think differently".*

(Date: 08/10, Source: <http://www.mae.lu/fr/Site-MAE/Actualites/Reaction-de-Jean-Asselborn-a-l-annonce-du-prix-Nobel-de-la-Paix-2010>)

• Ministry of Foreign Affairs of The Netherlands

By awarding the Nobel Peace Prize to Liu Xiaobo, the Nobel Committee turns the spotlight on the important work of human rights defenders around the world. Mr. Liu was a leading author of Charter 08, which advocated the reform of China's political system. As a result, he was arrested and sentenced, in 2009, to 11 years in prison for 'inciting subversion of state power'



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"The Netherlands will continue to call for the release of Mr. Liu," foreign minister Maxime Verhagen said. "I hope that this award will strengthen the position of human rights defenders around the world"

The Netherlands, like several EU member states and the European Union as a whole, has repeatedly urged the release of Liu Xiaobo and other Chinese human rights defenders.

(Date: 08/10, Source: http://www.minbuza.nl/en/News/Newsflashes/2010/10/The_Netherlands_continues_to_call_for_release_of_Nobel_Prize_winner)

• Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland appreciates the choice the Norwegian Nobel Committee has made this year, which was to award the Nobel Peace Prize to Liu Xiaobo, a Chinese dissident now serving an 11-year prison term for the struggle for human rights.

The European Union Member States, including Poland, have repeatedly spoken with the Chinese authorities about Liu Xiaobo, expressing concern over his arrest and imprisonment for the right available to every citizen of the People's Republic of China – one for free and peaceful expression of opinion. The European Union frequently demanded access to the files on Liu Xiaobo's trial as well as the information about his fate – most recently on 29 June 2010 during the EU-China Dialogue on Human Rights.

We hope that awarding the Nobel Peace Prize to Liu Xiaobo will be received by the Chinese authorities as an incentive for further efforts at building the rule of law and the fulfillment of rights and liberties – including the political and civic ones – available to the citizens of China.

(Date: 08/10, Source: <http://www.mfa.gov.pl/Statement,by,the,Ministry,of,Foreign,Affairs,of,the,Republic,of,Poland,on,the,s,year%E2%80%99s,choice,by,the,Norwegian,Nobel,Committee,38417.html>)

• Slovak Foreign Affairs Minister Mikuláš Dzurinda

"It's an extraordinary expression of honour and respect towards everyone for whom human rights are indivisible and human freedom is a valued principle," said Dzurinda to TASR, adding that his signature under Liu's nomination was an expression of Slovakia's civil tradition and recognition of those persecuted by the Communist regime in Slovakia before 1989.

(Date: 08/10, Source: http://spectator.sme.sk/articles/view/40423/10/foreign_affairs_minister_dzurinda_salutes_liu_xiaobo_for_winning_nobel_peace_prize.html)

• Spanish Directorate-General for Foreign Communications of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation

The Spanish Government congratulates Liu Xiaobo on receiving the Nobel Peace Prize, as informally mentioned by the First Vice-president of the Government at the end of the meeting of the Council of Ministers. The Spanish Government also supports the calls to free Liu Xiaobo and has regularly made this request to the Beijing authorities in the past.

Indeed, on 29 June last, the Spanish Presidency of the European Union specifically called for the release of Liu Xiaobo and other political prisoners during the EU-China Dialogue on Human Rights held in Madrid.

(Date: 08/10, Source: <http://www.maec.es/en/MenuPpal/Actualidad/ComunicadosDGComExterior/Paginas/75comunicado20101008EN.aspx>)

• Swedish Minister of Foreign Affairs Carl Bildt (in Swedish – unofficial translation into English)

We have every reason to congratulate Mr. Liu who has now been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize 2010. Mr. Liu has mainly been known as a signatory of Charter 08 petition with their demands for reform and freedom in China.

When last December he was sentenced to not less than eleven years in prison, the Swedish Presidency of the European Union reacted with a sharp statement. We demanded that he be immediately released. The conviction of Mr. Liu was surprising in its hardness.



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Even if the development goes back and forth depending on the current situation, China has become a more open and tolerant society. In many occasions, we have had the opportunity to express our hope that this trend will continue. A truly harmonious society is a society that fully respects also Civil Liberties. My hope is that the Chinese should see the prize for Mr. Liu as a call to move towards a more open and harmonious society.

(Date: 08/10, Source: <http://carlbildt.wordpress.com/2010/10/08/gratulationer-till-liu-xiaobo/>)

• British Foreign and Commonwealth Office

The decision to award the Nobel Peace Prize to Mr. Liu Xiaobo shines a spotlight on the situation of human rights defenders worldwide. British Ministers, including Foreign Secretary William Hague, have raised his case in China since his imprisonment in 2009. We continue to call for his release and to champion freedom of expression in all countries.

(Date: 08/10, Source: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-11499931>)

+ Norwegian Prime Minister Jens Stoltenberg

Announcement of the Peace Prize in Chinese language on the Official Website of Norway in China (http://www.norway.org.cn/News_and_events/1/4/2010/)

"I would like to congratulate Liu Xiaobo, who has been awarded the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize for his work to promote democracy and human rights"

The Nobel Committee's decision directs a spotlight on the human rights situation in China, and underscores the links between development, democracy and universal human rights. Liu Xiaobo has been awarded the prize for defending freedom of expression and democracy in a way that deserves attention and respect.

China has made huge economic and social progress over the last decades. The standard of living has improved in step with these developments, and the Chinese people have gained greater individual freedom. However, there are still challenges that need to be addressed with regard to several universal human rights.

Norway enjoys close and extensive cooperation with China. Our ties are longstanding and cover all the areas that link our countries together. Discussions of human rights issues are part of these relations.

(Date: 08/10, Source: <http://www.regjeringen.no/en/dep/smk/press-center/Press-releases/2010/Norwegian-Prime-Minister-congratulates-winner-of-2010-Nobel-Peace-Prize.html?id=620551>)

MISSING STATEMENTS

The following countries did not adopt any formal nor informal statement in the immediate period following the announcement of the award of the Nobel Peace prize to Liu Xiaobo:

Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia.

It has to be underlined that the Website of the Belgian Presidency (www.eutrio.be) does not mention nor refer to the Statement of HR Baroness Ashton on the Nobel Peace prize to Liu Xiaobo.



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ANNEX I – Chinese official reactions to the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize

Both statements are posted on many Chinese Embassies Websites, including on the Website of the Mission of the People's Republic of China to the EU

Source : <http://www.chinamission.be/eng/jd/t761176.htm>

2010 Nobel Peace Prize a disgrace

Friday the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Liu Xiaobo, an incarcerated Chinese criminal.

The Nobel committee once again displayed its arrogance and prejudice against a country that has made the most remarkable economic and social progress in the past three decades.

The Nobel Prize has been generally perceived as a prestigious award in China, but many Chinese feel the peace prize is loaded with Western ideology.

Last century the prize was awarded several times to pro-West advocates in the former Soviet Union, including Mikhail Gorbachev, whose efforts directly led to the disintegration of the Soviet Union. The Western preference of the Nobel committee did not disappear with the end of the Cold War.

The committee continues to deny China's development by making paranoid choices.

In 1989, the Dalai Lama, a separatist, won the prize. Liu Xiaobo, the new winner, wants to copy Western political systems in China.

There are many different perspectives to view these two people, but neither of the two are among those who made constructive contributions to China's peace and growth in recent decades.

Other Chinese dissidents, such as Rebiya Kadeer and Hu Jia, were reportedly on the shortlist for the peace prize this year, which naturally generates animosity among many Chinese against the award.

They have reason to question whether the Nobel Peace Prize has been degraded to a political tool that serves an anti-China purpose. It seems that instead of peace and unity in China, the Nobel committee would like to see the country split by an ideological rift, or better yet, collapse like the Soviet Union.

Liu Xiaobo was sentenced to 11 years in jail by the Chinese government last year. Several countries tried to interfere into China's domestic affairs. What the Nobel committee did Friday was a continuation of that act.

The controversy in the West over Liu Xiaobo's sentence is not based on legal concerns. They are trying to impose Western values on China.

Obviously, the Nobel Peace Prize this year is meant to irritate China, but it will not succeed. On the contrary, the committee disgraced itself.

The award however makes it clearer that it is difficult for China to win applause from the West during China's development, and China needs to be more determined and confident in choosing its own development path, which is different from Western approach.

The Nobel committee made an unwise choice, but it and the political force it represents cannot dictate China's future growth.

China's success story speaks louder than the Nobel Peace Prize.

Part of the plot to contain China

For the second time, the Nobel Peace Prize goes to a person identified as non-peaceful in Beijing's political who's who. Liu Xiaobo, the 2010 awardee, is behind bars serving a 11-year term for "openly slandering and inciting others to overthrow our country's State power," according to the verdict at his trial.

The Nobel Committee said it was determined to honor "the foremost symbol" of the "struggle for human rights" in China. Some may have expectations that such a prize will effect changes inside China in the direction they desire. But it can do little except expose, and in some ways highlight, the deep and wide ideological rift between this country and the West. A man judged a "criminal who violated Chinese law" by a Chinese court of law, is hailed in the West as a "worthy winner"



REACTIONS TO LIU XIAOBO'S NOBEL PEACE PRIZE IN EUROPE

A compilation document by the International Campaign for Tibet

and “prominent human rights defender”.

Peace, in Beijing's lexicon, stands for a good rapport among nations, at the heart of which lies mutual respect and non-interference in each other's domestic affairs. This year's Nobel Peace Prize, like the 1989 award to the Dalai Lama, angered the Chinese government because it is the West that is once again trying to interfere in domestic issues. And, perhaps to some people's disbelief, this Nobel Peace Prize, as was true 21 years back, angered not just the government. Most Chinese would prefer to handle their own affairs without outside interference. As ordinary citizens find more channels with which to be heard, and the government grows more responsive to public concerns, there is greater confidence that domestic affairs can be sorted out without any interference from the West.

Not that the average Chinese does not covet better guarantees and protection for their rights and interests. They want their government to be clean and efficient. They are angry at corruption and injustice. They complain and protest. They stand up against abuse.

Liu's award is a provocation to China. And every time the West waves a stick, relations deteriorate. That is against the Nobel Committee's proclaimed purpose.

Nor will all Chinese embrace such gestures with appreciation and gratitude. Whether or not it has to do with our collective memories of Western abuse, this nation will not allow its own home affairs to be dictated by the West. Few would like to see their government upbraided by a condescending Western party.

Like it or not, the Nobel Peace Prize broadens the suspicion that there is a Western plot to contain a rising China.

ANNEX II - Press statement of his holiness the dalai lama on liu xiaobo being awarded the 2010 nobel peace prize October 8th 2010

I would like to offer my heart-felt congratulations to Mr. Liu Xiaobo for being awarded this year's Nobel Peace Prize.

Awarding the Peace Prize to him is the international community's recognition of the increasing voices among the Chinese people in pushing China towards political, legal and constitutional reforms.

I have been personally moved as well as encouraged by the efforts of hundreds of Chinese intellectuals and concerned citizens, including Mr. Liu Xiaobo in signing the Charter 08, which calls for democracy and freedom in China. I expressed my admiration in a public statement on 12 December 2008, two days after it was released and while I was on a visit to Poland. I believe in the years ahead, future generations of Chinese will be able to enjoy the fruits of the efforts that the current Chinese citizens are making towards responsible governance.

I believe that Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao's recent comments on freedom of speech being indispensable for any country and people's wish for democracy and freedom being irresistible are a reflection of the growing yearning for a more open China. Such reforms can only lead to a harmonious, stable and prosperous China, which can contribute greatly to a more peaceful world.

I would like to take this opportunity to renew my call to the government of China to release Mr. Liu Xiaobo and other prisoners of conscience who have been imprisoned for exercising their freedom of expression.

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