PRESS RELEASE
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The City of Kashgar
An Oasis of the Silk Road on the Brink of Extinction

9.00 - 12.30
Thursday, 27 January 2011
Room PHS 5B001, Paul-Henri Spaak Building, European Parliament
60 Rue Wiertz, Brussels, Belgium

Brussels, 6 January 2011 – Two years into Beijing’s ‘Kashgar Dangerous House Reform’, and the Old City of Kashgar in East Turkestan, or China’s Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region (XUAR), faces near total destruction. There is a pressing need to assess the damage incurred, implications for the region’s Uyghur population, and to identify ways in which damage can be mitigated.

To address this urgent need, Ms Frieda Brepoels MEP will convene a conference, ‘Kashgar: An Oasis of the Silk Road on the Brink of Extinction’ at the European Parliament in Brussels from 9.00–12.30 on 27 January 2011 in collaboration with the Unrepresented Nations and Peoples Organization (UNPO) and the Belgian Uyghur Association.

With opening remarks by Ms Frieda Brepoels, Mr Marino Busdachin, UNPO General Secretary, and Ms Rebiya Kadeer, President of the World Uyghur Congress, the conference will provide a rare glimpse into one of the defining cultures of Central Asia and a city that has witnessed Tamerlane, Genghis Khan and Marco Polo but is excluded from applications for UNESCO World Heritage status due to political reasons.

Discussions will explain the unique value of Kashgar’s townscape as a site of international architectural and historical significance, identify the city’s relevance to the Uyghur identity of the region, and place Beijing’s reconstruction plans in the context of its policies towards ethnic nationalities. A constructive debate drawing on European and international case studies will also assess what possibilities remain to protect a unique city from being lost forever.

For more information on the event please refer to http://www.unpo.org/article/12104

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Registration is required and must be submitted before 16 January 2011
Please send your full name, date of birth, place of residence, nationality, organisation to ekrockow@unpo.org

Organised by the Office of Frieda Brepoels MEP in collaboration with: