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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **MR. CHIME YOUNGDUNG, PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF TIBET, IS VISITING BELGIUM ON HIS EUROPEAN TOUR**

Mr. Chime Youngdung, the President of the National Democratic Party of Tibet (NDPT), is visiting Europe at this moment. United Nations for a Free Tibet has invited Mr. Youngdung to Europe. From 21<sup>st</sup> June to 18<sup>th</sup> July 2010 he will travel in 6 different countries.

Chime has started his tour in Belgium. He arrived in Brussels, the capital of Europe, on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June. During 5 days there are 7 activities planned for him by Mr. Dennis Barbion, UNFFT Ambassador for Belgium and Europe. The local coordination is done by Mr. Jamyang Dorjee and his assistant.

On Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June Mr. Youngdung had a meeting with representatives of Tibet Support Groups in Belgium: "Vrienden van Tibet" (Friends of Tibet Belgium) and the Tibetan Development Fund. During this meeting that lasted one hour and a half, Chime gave an introduction about the NDPT, and explained about the very important Kalon Tripa elections 2011. Mr. Youngdung emphasized the importance of democracy, a democratic system with several political parties and a two chamber system in the Tibetan Parliament: one chamber of people who are directly elected by the Tibetans worldwide and one chamber with representatives of the different regions in Tibet and the Tibetan buddhist schools. The NDPT emphasizes the importance of well educated, young and active members of the new Tibetan Parliament, who also speak English. The NDPT finds it extremely important for the future that young Tibetans are well and highly educated. The party also organizes workshops. Last year the NDPT had a workshop with Tibetan students political science in Italy, in cooperation with many Tibet groups in Italy, the University and the province of Sienna.

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The NDPT has about 4000 members in India, Nepal and Bhutan. Mr. Youngdung is already 4 years President and when he became President the party had 6-7 regional chapters. Nowadays the NDPT has 33 regional chapters.

On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June Mr. Youngdung had an interesting meeting with Mr. Tashi Wangdi at the Office of Tibet in Brussels. Mr. Wangdi is the official representative of H.H. the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan government in exile. The office in Brussels is the main Office of Tibet in whole Europe. Although the political stands are totally different between the Office of Tibet and the NDPT, the meeting was open and cordial. Political discussions, an exchange of ideas and dialogue are however always interesting and important.

On the same day, Chime had a meeting with the Tibet Intergroup in the European Parliament in Brussels. Mr. Youngdung introduced the NDPT and commented the Tibetan elections and the positions of his party. Afterwards the members of the European Parliament asked all kinds of questions, and especially Mr. Thomas Mann, the President of the Tibet Intergroup, was very interested.

On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June Chime has a meeting and discussion with several Belgian politicians who support Tibet. On Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June Mr. Youngdung has an interview for a Tibet Support Group and later on that day a meeting and discussion with representatives of Friends of Tibet Luxembourg. On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June there is a meeting with the Tibetan Community in Belgium.

Chime is also going to visit Germany, Spain, France, Switzerland and Austria. After his European tour he goes to Ladakh in India and Nepal.

For more information please check the website of the National Democratic Party of Tibet:  
<http://www.ndp4tibet.org/>.

Dennis Barbion,  
UNFFT Ambassador for Belgium and Europe

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