

- SAVE THE DATE -

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, 9 December 2010 – 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**.

The conference will provide a rare glimpse into one of the defining cultures of Central Asia and a city that has witnessed the passage of Tamerlane, Genghis Khan and Marco Polo. But for political reasons Beijing refuses to include Kashgar in a UNESCO application that would grant the city World Heritage status.

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.

More information on the event will be available from www.unpo.org

For media queries please contact:

Andrew Swan | +32 (0)472 577 518 | aswan@unpo.org

* * *

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



The Greens | European Free Alliance
in the European Parliament

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

Unrepresented Nations and
Peoples Organization



Belgian Uyghur Association