

# TAIWAN NEWSLETTER

## President Tsai receives Estonian Parliament delegation

President Tsai Ing-wen welcomed a delegation from the Estonian parliament, March 7, as she expressed confidence that the visit would help both sides deepen their democratic partnership and work together to help democracy develop globally.

Led by Kristo Enn Vaga, Chairman of the Estonia-Taiwan Support Group, the eight-member group was in Taiwan on a four-day visit to promote bilateral exchanges. Receiving the parliamentarians at the Presidential Office, President Tsai stressed the commonalities between both countries, including their many common values and their positions standing on the frontline against authoritarian expansion. She also noted that both countries have actively assisted Ukraine since the onset of Russia's invasion, and stated that Taiwan is



exploring ways to strengthen cooperation with the Estonian Centre for International Development in regard to further helping Ukraine.

Also speaking at the meeting, Chairman Vaga paid tribute to President Tsai as having been an inspiration globally over the past several years as an advocate for freedom, democracy, human rights, and equal-

ity. Vaga also confirmed that the group is working hard to open a representative office of Taiwan in Tallinn, the Estonian capital. Minister of Foreign Affairs Jaušieh Joseph Wu also hosted a banquet for the delegation, March 6, during which he expressed his hope that the visit would give the group a deeper insight into Taiwan's democratic way of life and its flourishing civic society.

### Ambassador Lee gives interview to Dutch broadcaster NOS

European countries must realise that their economic and technological interests are directly intertwined with a potential conflict in the Taiwan Strait, Ambassador Roy Lee said as he sat down for an interview with the Dutch broadcaster NOS, aired March 2.

In the remarks, which Lee made during his tenure as Deputy Foreign Minister in December, the Ambassador emphasised the global importance of Taiwan's semiconductor industry. Were something to happen to Taiwan, he warned, supply

chains of all kinds would be threatened, citing cars and email servers as just two examples.

As to the assistance that European countries, including the Netherlands, can offer, Lee expressed the hope for them to engage in freedom of navigation missions in the Taiwan Strait. Noting that he thinks Beijing still hopes to win the war without fighting, Lee stated that the best solution remains preventing conflict by making the price of it as high as possible for China.

### Ambassador Lee warns of China's "salami slicing" tactics

Ambassador Roy Lee wrote an op-ed for Euractiv, published March 7, entitled "We must say no to China's salami-slice style of unilateral change to Taiwan's 'status quo'".

In the piece for the Brussel-based online media outlet, Ambassador Lee warned of China's use of "salami slicing" tactics to alter the status quo of the Taiwan Strait. He also called on the international community to recognise that such actions are currently ongoing and are a present danger to peace and stability.

To illustrate the "salami slicing" strategy, the Ambassador highlighted China's recent move to activate the M503, W122 and W123 air routes without consulting Taiwan. The activation, he states, can be seen as both a unilateral change to the status quo and a threat to Taiwan's security. Furthermore, he also noted that this case demonstrates the necessity for others to support Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organisations such as the International Civil Aviation Organization.

### Economic power of Taiwan women on display in New York

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) announced that Taiwan Gender Equality Week (TGEW) will take place from March 11 to 22 in New York City on the sidelines of the UN's 68th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW68).

With events to showcase efforts by Taiwan's public and private sectors, TGEW will spotlight the ways women in Taiwan pioneer industry innovation and advance economic development. According to MOFA, this fits CSW68's theme of accelerating the achievement of gender equality and empowering women and girls by addressing poverty through strengthening institutions and financing with a gender perspective.



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