



## Headline News

### Incoming foreign minister returns from EU in partial government reshuffle

The government announced on September 19 that Ambassador David Y.L. Lin, Taiwan's representative to the European Union and Belgium, will leave his current post and return to Taiwan to serve as Foreign Minister.



Ambassador Lin, who has served as Taiwan's representative to the European Union and Belgium since May 2010 and earlier as Vice Foreign Minister between 2008 and 2010, will succeed incumbent Foreign Minister Timothy Yang who will take up the position of Presidential Office secretary-general.

Minister Yang's new appointment will fill the vacancy left by incumbent secretary-general Tseng Yung-chuan, a ruling Kuomintang (KMT) vice chairman and former deputy speaker of the Legislative Yuan (Taiwan's Parliament), who will serve as the KMT's new secretary-general.

## EU-Taiwan Relations

### European Parliament congratulates envoy on new appointment

On September 21, European Parliament (EP) Vice President Edward McMillan-Scott congratulated Ambassador David Lin, Taiwan's incumbent representative to the

European Union, on his appointment as the country's new foreign minister, saying he is confident Lin will make a great contribution to his country in his new capacity.

"David Lin has been an outstanding ambassador for his country during his time in Brussels," McMillan-Scott said in a statement.

He praised Ambassador Lin's efforts at garnering support to boost Taiwan's standing in the EU, which he said was evidenced by a well-attended address that Lai Shin-yuan, current Minister of Mainland Affairs Council who will become Taiwan's permanent representative to the World Trade Organization, delivered at the EP in September.

"He has displayed diplomacy of the highest standard and I'm sure he will be a credit to his country as foreign minister," McMillan-Scott said.



McMillan-Scott, known for being outspoken on human rights issues in mainland China, has in the past shown his support for Taiwan's democratic development.

## Cross-Strait Relations

### Mainland China spokesman stresses that Cross-Strait peace is mutually beneficial

The spokesman for mainland China's Taiwan Affairs Office said on September 19 that based on the so-called "1992 Consensus" and

mainland China's opposition to Taiwan independence, the two sides of the Taiwan Strait should continue to pioneer new prospects for Cross-Strait peace following the latest partial reshuffle of Taiwan's government.

Yang Yi declined to comment on President Ma Ying-jeou's new appointments, but stressed that peaceful Cross-Strait relations which is a common expectation of the two sides will be mutually beneficial.

He also expressed hope that the two sides can strengthen their mutual trust and continue to promote bilateral cooperation and negotiations.

## Information

### Test of Chinese as a Foreign Language (TOCFL)

The Cultural Division of the Taipei Representative Office in the EU and Belgium will organize a TOCFL in the Hague, the Netherlands, on November 17, 2012.

The TOCFL is a Chinese language proficiency test aimed at people who aren't native Chinese speakers. Test results can serve as a credential for jobs, study and Taiwan scholarship applications.



**Date of Test:** November 17, 2012  
**Registration Deadline:** October 13, 2012  
**Contact:** Mrs. Anna Cheng  
**Place:** Taipei School, Eksterhof 2,  
 2496 HS Den Haag,  
 Netherlands  
**Tel:** +31(0)165 552 474  
**E-mail:** anna.y.cheng@gmail.com  
**Website:** www.taiwanembassy.org/be