

## ECFA receives legislative approval

Written by Taipei Times

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The legislature yesterday ratified the cross-strait Economic Cooperation Framework Agreement (ECFA) after a showdown that saw all the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) caucus' motions voted down by the Chinese Nationalist Party (KMT) majority.

The vote took place after more than 10 hours of clause-by-clause deliberation, with KMT and DPP lawmakers taking the floor in turn to speak for and against the ECFA.

Yesterday was the first day of the second provisional session of the summer recess initiated by the KMT caucus to have the legislature ratify the ECFA that Taiwan signed with China on June 29.

Describing the ECFA as the "most important treaty" Taiwan had signed since World War II in terms of its negative impact on the nation's sovereignty, DPP caucus whip Ker Chien-ming (柯建銘) said his caucus had done its best to warn against the agreement.

"The ECFA was a product of the KMT cooperating with the Chinese Communist Party in bringing Taiwan under the control of China economically, moving toward eventual unification," Ker said.

The vote proceeded smoothly after the KMT caucus and President Ma Ying-jeou's (馬英九) administration, initially having insisted on a single vote for the entire ECFA as a package, on Monday agreed to allow motions for revision of the ECFA on an individual basis.

The vote started at 9:20pm. Holding just 33 seats in the 112-seat legislature, the DPP failed in each of its 18 motions.

DPP lawmakers then shouted anti-ECFA slogans, saying the agreement was signed under the "one China" principle.

The KMT caucus, meanwhile, proceeded with its motion to vote for the accord as a whole package.

KMT Legislator Lai Shyh-bao (賴士葆) hailed the passage of the ECFA, saying its implementation would ensure the country's economic prosperity for 50 or 60 years.

KMT Legislator Lu Shiow-yen (盧秀燕) said "China downgraded itself" to sign the accord in the name of the Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Strait, rather than its official name, in order to help boost Taiwan's economy.

Upset with the decision, pro-independence advocates gathered outside the legislature cried foul and said the agreement would subject Taiwan to growing Chinese interference.

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Holding placards and chanting anti-government slogans, around 50 activists had gathered outside the legislature hours before the vote, saying the review was flawed.

Leading the group, National Taiwan University professor Tsay Ting-kuei (蔡廷愷) said the ECFA would “strip Taiwanese people of everything and was an abuse of the people’s rights.”

To prove his point, he stripped off, along with four other activists.

Other activists climbed onto the legislature’s main gate, shouting the ECFA would leave Taiwan with no future and that it should be put to a referendum. Some painted themselves with green paint, saying that the agreement “raped Taiwan.

Although protestors verbally clashed with police at one point in the evening, no scuffles broke out between the group and police.

Source: [Taipei Times - 2010/08/18](#)

Activity Slideshow: [Tsay Ting-kuei Stripped off to Protest KMT Sold out Taiwan](#)