

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH BELARUS

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

on

Wednesday, 6 October 2004

9h00 - 10h00

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Annex: Attendance List

22 October 2004
EUR/TB/ES

The meeting opened at 9h00 with Mr Bogdan KLICH, Chairman of the delegation.

1.

The agenda of the meeting was adopted unanimously.

2.

Mr KLICH welcomed Ms Anne KOISTINEN who represented the European Commission and made the following announcements:

- the previous week a meeting of the members of the Belarusian opposition was held;
- during the meeting of the bureau with Mr Senko, the Ambassador of the Republic of Belarus, the discussions were held on how the delegation might proceed in its contacts with the Belarusian authorities, opposition, NGOs and representative of civil society;
- the Ambassador wished to meet the whole delegation.

3.

Mr KLICH noted that he repeated his request to the Ambassador that the observation delegation of the European Parliament should be invited to observe the parliamentary elections on October 17. The Ambassador did not accept a parliamentary troika as a suitable framework and the observation of the elections will be conducted only through OSCE/ODIHR channels.

Ms KOISTINEN informed the members of the delegation on the general political situation in Belarus at the present moment. She said that it has been worsening with many NGOs and newspapers being closed, opposition members being harassed and the freedom of expression being suppressed. Since 2002 there has been no progress in relations between Belarus and the EU institutions. the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe had issued a report on disappearances of people in Belarus and, in September 2004, a resolution on this issue the reaction to which in Belarus was negative. Ms KOISTINEN said that the implementation of the New Neighbourhood Policy towards Belarus faces problems as there were no shared common values between the EU and Belarus. However, the Commission had assistance schemes including Chernobyl, Human Rights, civil society and the dissemination of information about EU. It was also stressed that although the EU was not invited to observe the elections on October 17, OSCE/ODIHR will send the observers and a special attention will be paid to the campaign preceding the elections and the freedom of the media.

4.

A discussion followed with questions and comments from Mr SAKALAS, Mr ONYSZKIEWICZ, Mr GENTVILAS, Mr PAVILIONIS, Mr GOMOLKA, and Mrs KUDRYCKA about the adequate number of observers during the elections, possibilities of creating a free radio on the territory of a neighbouring state in order to disseminate information, the problem of education in the Belarusian language and possibilities of granting scholarships to Belarusian students willing to continue their education outside Belarus. Mrs SCHROEDTER urged the Commission to give precise data on what has been done in Belarus and how the money allocated over the past years has been spent.

Mrs KOISTINEN responded to the questions. It was concluded that the delegation would write a letter to the Commission asking for the report on their activities and raise the issue of a possibility of establishing an independent radio.

Mr KLICH concluded by outlining four further steps in the work of the delegation:

- the next meeting will be held right after the elections in order to try to evaluate the results and effects of the meeting;
- the next resolution of the EP on the referendum in Belarus could be adopted promptly;
- the Foreign Affairs Committee will be asked to prepare a report on Belarus

- a meeting with the Belarusian Ambassador will be held after the elections will have taken place.

5.

There were no further comments or suggestions from the members.

6. Mr KLICH informed the members that the date and time of the next meeting would be communicated to them later, after the elections in Belarus will have taken place. He also noted that the meeting would be open only to the members of the delegation, assistants, the secretariat and invited persons.

The meeting closed at 10h00.

**DELTAGERLISTE/ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KATAΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD
OF ATTENDANCE/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/LISTE DE PRESENCE/ELENCO DEI
PRESENTI/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA**

Til stede	Formandskabet/Vorstand/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Ufficio di Presidenza/Mesa/Puhemiehistö/J.L. Presidium: (*)
Anwesend	KLICH (P), (VP), (VP)
Παρόντες	Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Μέλη/Members/Diputados/Députés/Deputati/Leden/Deputados/jäsenet/ GENTVILAS, FLASAROVA, GOMOLKA, KURDRYCKA, ONISKIEWICZ, SAKALAS, SCHROEDTER , SZYMA SKI
Present	Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suplentes/Suppléants/ Membri supplenti/Plaatsvervangers/Membros suplentes/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter: DUKA-ZOLYOMI, MALMSTRÖM, PAVILIONIS
Presentes	
Présents	
Presenti	
Aanwezig	
Läsnä	
Närvarande	
Art. 147,7 /Art. 178.2	MEIJER
Art. 166,3	
Art. 162.6 Endv. Deltog/Weitere Teiln./ Συμμετείχαν επίσης/Also present Participaron igualmente/ Participaient également/ Hanno partecipato altresit/ Andere deelnemers/ Outros participantes/ Muut osallistujat/ Dessutom deltog	
(Dagsorden/Tagesordnung Pkt/Ημερήσια Διάταξη Σημεί/Point OJ/Punto OG/Agenda Punt/Ordem do dia- punto/punto orden del dia/ Esityslista Kohta/Föredragningslista punkt):	

* (P) =Formand/Vorsitzender/Πρόεδρος/Chairman/Président/Presidente/Voorzitter/Presidente/Puhemies/Ordförande
(VP) =Næstform./Stellv. Vorsitz./Αντιπρόεδρος/Vice-Chairman/Vice-Président/Vicepresidente/Varapuhemies
Ondervoorz./Vice-Pres./Vicepres/Vice ordförande.

Til stede den/Anwesend am/Παρόν στις/Present on/Présent le/Presente il/Aanwezig op/Presente em/Presente el/Läsnä/Närvarande den.

- (1)
- (2)
- (3)

Efter indbydelse fra formanden/Auf Einladung d. Vorsitzenden/Με πρόσκληση του Προέδρου/At the invitation of the Chairman/Por invitación del presidente/Sur l'invitation du président/Su invito del presidente/Op uitnodiging van de voorzitter/A convite do presidente/Puhemiehen kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan:

Radet/Rat/Συμβούλιο/Council/Consejo/Conseil/Consiglio/Raad/Conselho/Neuvosto/Rådet: (*)

Kommissionen/Kommission/Επιτροπή/Commission/Comisión/Commissione/Commissie/Comissão/Komissio/

Kommissionen: (*)

KOISTINEN, TELLA

Missions:

Andre deltagere/Andere Teilnehmer Επίσης Παρόντες/Also present Otros participantes/Autres participants/Altri partecipanti Andere aanwezigen/Outros participantes Muut osallistajat/Övriga deltagare		
Gruppernes sekretariat Sekretariat der Fraktionen Γραμματεία των Πολ. Ομάδων Secretariat political groups Secr. de los grupos políticos Secr. groupes politiques Segr. dei gruppi politici Secr. van de fracties Secr. dos grupos políticos Puolueryhmien sihteeristö Gruppernas sekretariat	PPE-DE PSE ALDE Verts/ALE GUE/NGL IDM/DEM UEN NI	COX KAMMITSI
Cab. du Président		
Cab. du Secrétaire Général		
Generaldirektorat Generaldirektion Γενική Διεύθυνση Directorate-General Dirección general Direction générale Direzione generale Directoraat-generaal Direcção general Contrôle financier Service juridique Pääosasto Generaldirektorat	I II III IV V VI VII VIII	KRISKANE HARRIS, COMFORT, NEVES
Udvalgssekretariatet Ausschubsekretariat Γραμματεία επιτροπής Committee secretariat Secretaria de la comisión Secrétariat de la commission Segretariato della commissione Commissiesecretariaat Secretaria de comissão Valiokunnan sihteeristö Utskottssekretariatet		BODEN, SCHMUTTERER, MOLLET, FRAYSHTETER SCHMUTTERER/MOLLET
Assist./Βοηθός		

* (P) =Formand/Pres./Πρόεδρος/Chairman/Président/Voorzitter/Puhemies/Ordförande

(VP) =Næstform./Vize-Pres./Αντιπρόεδρος/Vice-Chairman/Vice-Président/Ondervoorz./Vice-pres/Varapuhemies/Vice ordförande.

(M) =Medlem./Mitglied/Μέλος/Member/Miembro/Membre/Membro/Lid/Membro/Jäsen/Ledamot

(F) =Tjenestemand/Beamter/Υπάλληλος/Official/Funcionario/Fonctionnaire/Funzionario/Ambtenaar/ Functionário/Virkamies/Tjänsteman