

# **EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

## **DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH THE COUNTRIES OF CENTRAL AMERICA**

DCAM 8/05

### **MEETING**

**Tuesday, 11 October 2005**

**BRUSSELS**

### **DRAFT MINUTES**

- |    |  |   |
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| 1. | Adoption of draft agenda .....                                 | 2 |
| 2. | Approval of draft minutes of meeting of 7 September 2005 ..... | 2 |
| 3. | Chairman's announcements.....                                  | 2 |

In the presence of HE the Ambassador of Guatemala to the European Union,  
Mr Edmond Mulet-Lesieur, and Commission representatives:

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| 4. | Natural disaster in Guatemala and El Salvador..... | 2 |
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In the presence of the President of the Central American Council of Human Rights  
Ombudsmen and National Human Rights Commissioner of the Republic of Honduras,  
Dr Ramón Custodio López:

- |    |  |   |
|----|--|---|
| 5. | Human rights situation in Central America .....  | 3 |
| 6. | Preparation for a delegation working party visit to Costa Rica and El Salvador<br>(31 October to 5 November 2005)..... | 3 |
| 7. | Other business .....   | 3 |
| 8. | Date and place of next meeting .....   | 3 |

Annex I: Record of attendance

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Brussels, 14 October 2005  
LMG/nal

The meeting opened at 4.25 p.m. with Raimon Obiols i Germà in the chair.

The chairman welcomed the diplomatic corps attending the meeting, in particular the Ambassador of Guatemala to the EU, HE Edmond Mulet-Lesieur, Dr Ramón Custodio López, the President of the Central American Council of Human Rights Ombudsmen, and the Commission representatives.

**1. Adoption of draft agenda**

The draft agenda was adopted.

**2. Approval of draft minutes of meeting of 7 September 2005**

The minutes of the meeting of 7 September 2005 were approved.

**3. Chairman's announcements**

The chairman informed members of:  
the inauguration of the new President of Parlacen in Guatemala on 28 October 2005, which he would attend on behalf of the European Parliament.

In the presence of HE the Ambassador of Guatemala to the European Union,  
Mr Edmond Mulet-Lesieur:

**4. Natural disaster in Guatemala and El Salvador**

The chairman referred to the situation in Guatemala and El Salvador, where torrential rain caused by Hurricane Stan had inflicted greater damage than Hurricane Mitch. The chairman also mentioned the statement by the President of the European Parliament, Josep Borrell Fontelles, expressing Parliament's sympathy for the victims' families. Mr Obiols i Germà stated that the Commission had already pledged initial emergency aid (EUR 1.7m) and announced his intention of visiting the affected areas in the course of his visit on 28 October.

Mr Mulet-Lesieur described the tragedy that had occurred in his country. Torrential rain caused by Hurricane Stan had resulted in considerable human casualties and material damage, on a greater scale than Hurricane Mitch. A third of the country had been affected, principally agricultural regions, where plantations had been destroyed, livestock killed and the surviving farming population left without work. The Ambassador expressed his gratitude for the aid promised by the European Union.

Peter Liese, Raül Romeva i Rueda and the chairman stressed the links between climate change, deforestation, drought and the recent tragedy in Central America. The responsibility was shared by all and everybody should help provide effective aid to the affected areas.

In the presence of the President of the Central American Council of Human Rights Ombudsmen and National Human Rights Commissioner of the Republic of Honduras, Dr Ramón Custodio López:

## **5. Human rights situation in Central America**

Dr Ramón Custodio López referred to the different kinds of violence that had been affecting Central America for three decades: political (prior to the 90s), social (the perpetrators of which included gangs known as 'maras') and environmental, the effects of which were repeatedly making themselves known. The social violence and environmental disasters were occurring in a period of democratic stability. This gave rise to the erroneous and dangerous linking of democracy and deterioration in quality of life.

Raül Romeva i Rueda and the chairman spoke on violence towards women in Central America, the Free Trade Agreement between the United States and Central America (DR-CAFTA) and the stage reached in Central American regional integration.

Dr Custodio López answered their questions, stating that the murders of women were part of the general wave of violence in the region, that he was opposed to the DR-CAFTA agreement and that regional integration in Central America was still in its early stages.

## **6. Preparation for a delegation working party visit to Costa Rica and El Salvador (31 October to 5 November 2005)**

The chairman informed the meeting that, pending approval by the Conference of Presidents, the working party visit would take place from 31 October to 5 November, during constituency week. Under the new rules, up to 11 Members, preferably delegation members, could take part in the visit.

- The chairman presented the programme for the visit and asked members for any suggestions on the subject.

## **7. Other business**

There was no business under this item.

## **8. Date and place of next meeting**

The next delegation meeting would be held in Strasbourg at 4.15 p.m. on Wednesday, 26 October 2005.

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The meeting closed at 5.05 p.m.

**DELTAGERLISTE/ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KATASTASAHI ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/LIITE 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: (*)  OBIOLS I GERMA (P), ROMEVA I RUEDA (2 VP)
Anwesend	Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Μέλη/Members/Diputados/Députés/Deputati/Leden/Deputados/Jäsenet/Ledamöter:  LIESE
Παρόντες	Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suplentes/Suppléants/ Membri supplenti/Plaatsvervangers/Membros suplentes/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter:  FOURTOU, GRAEFE ZU BARINGDORF, LULLING, PAASILINNA, SCHRÖEDER
Present	
Presentes	
Présents	
Presenti	
Aanwezig	
Lasna	
Närvarande	
Art. 178,2	
Art. 183,3	
Endv. Deltog/Weitere Teiln./ Συμμετέχων επίσης/Also present Participaron igualmente/ Participaient également/ Hanno partecipato altresi/ 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/Esiylist Kohta/ Föredragningslista punkt):	

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

Til stede den/Anwesend am/Παρόν στις/Present on/Présent le/Presente il/Aanwezig op/Presente em/Presentee/Läsnä/Närvarande den. 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:				
Rådet/Rat/Συμβούλιο/Council/Consejo/Conseil/Consiglio/Raad/Conselho/Neuvosto/Rådet: (*)				
Kommissionen/Kommission/Επιτροπή/Commission/Comisión/Commissione/Comissie/Comissão/Komissio/Kommissionen: (*)				
DRAGOEVICH, MALDONADO, BULTE Cour des comptes: C.E.S.:				
<table border="0"> <tr> <td>Andre deltagere/Andere Teilnehmer Επίσης Παρόντες/Also present Otros participantes/Autres participants/Altri partecipanti Andere aanwezigen/Outros participantes Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare</td><td>Ambassade Costa Rica: CHACON Ambassade Honduras: RIZZO Ambassade Guatemala: VITERI Ambassade Nicaragua: LIRA Ambassade Panamá: RIERA PARLACEN: LAGOS PARLATINO: ROSSI</td></tr> </table>			Andre deltagere/Andere Teilnehmer Επίσης Παρόντες/Also present Otros participantes/Autres participants/Altri partecipanti Andere aanwezigen/Outros participantes Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare	Ambassade Costa Rica: CHACON Ambassade Honduras: RIZZO Ambassade Guatemala: VITERI Ambassade Nicaragua: LIRA Ambassade Panamá: RIERA PARLACEN: LAGOS PARLATINO: ROSSI
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Cab. Du Président				
Cab. Du Secrétaire Général				
Generaldirektorat Generaldirektion Γενική Διεύθυνση Directorate-General Dirección general Direction générale Direzione generale Directoraat-generaal Direcção geral Contrôle financier Service juridique Pääosasto Generaldirektorat	I II III IV V VI VII			
Udvalgssekretariatet Ausschubsekretariat Γραμματεία επιτροπής Committee secretariat Secretaría de la comisión Secrétaire de la commission Segretariato della commissione Commissiesecretariaat Secretaria de comissão Valiokunnan sihteeristö Utskottssekreteriatet Assist./Βοηθός		NEVES  HERDIES, AZPIRI LEJARDI		

(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