

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

*Delegation for relations with the Maghreb countries and the Arab Maghreb Union
(including Libya)*

PE/DMAG-110J/05-09

MINUTES

of the meeting of 26 October 2005, 5.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

STRASBOURG

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Annex: Record of attendance

30 November 2005
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PE 365.448

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The meeting opened at 5.40 p.m., with the chairperson, Mrs Rudi Ubeda, in the chair.

1. Adoption of draft agenda (PE 362.441)

The draft agenda was adopted.

2. Approval of minutes of the meetings of 7 September (PE 362.391) and 13 September 2005 (PE 362.392)

The minutes were approved.

3. Chairperson's announcements

The chairperson informed the delegation on:

1. **The adoption by the European Parliament of a resolution on Tunisia, in Strasbourg on 29 September 2005.** The resolution had welcomed the significant progress made by Tunisia in the economic and social spheres, particularly in the fields of education, health and social security. At the same time, the EP had regretted the fact that similar progress had not been made with regard to the implementation of projects in relation to human rights, individual and women's rights, equal opportunities and modernisation of the justice system. The EP had called on the Commission and the Council to take action within the framework of the political dialogue with Tunisia and to ensure that the EU-Tunisia Subcommittee on Human Rights provided for in the Association Agreement was made fully operational.
2. **The Mediterranean migration report 2005.** A first annual report, entitled 'Mediterranean migration 2005' had just been published in connection with the 'Euro-Med Migration' project, a MEDA regional initiative. This was the result of an extensive survey, focussing on the countries of the Middle East and North Africa bordering the Mediterranean (Med-MENA), which dealt with demographic and economic data and information on migration legislation and policies. In this connection, the chairperson said that she intended to hold a hearing on migration in Brussels in the first half of 2006, in association with the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs and the third countries concerned.
3. **The Ad Hoc Delegation to the Western Sahara** had been set up on 11 October 2005. The delegation, of which Mr Kasoulides (PPE-Cyprus) had unanimously been elected chairman, comprised 7 Members: Messrs Carnero, Coveney, Díaz de Mera, Louis and Romeva i Rueda, and Mrs Scheele.

4. Exchange of views with the Ambassador of Mauritania to the EU, Mr Sidi Ould Khalifa, on the situation in Mauritania

Speaking with reference to the coup d'état on 3 August 2005, Mr Ould Khalifa gave the background to this "turnaround", which had enabled the curtain to be drawn on an era characterised by "instability, the personification of power, violation of freedoms, hijacking of justice and generalised chaos". Without a single shot being fired or a single person arrested, which was "unheard of for a coup d'état", the new team had adopted a "programme of transition to democracy", the aim of which was finally to make alternance of government possible.

That was why the first measure adopted by the "transitional authorities", which it was in no way intended should remain in office in the long term, had been to declare those involved in the coup ineligible so as to ensure complete neutrality at the elections, which were now scheduled for June 2007. The Ambassador felt that those elections should, moreover, be held in the presence of foreign observers, and therefore took the opportunity to call on the EU to send representatives too: "the transitional team is not asking for *carte blanche*, but for your support".

In Mr Khalifa's opinion, a "wind of freedom" was at last blowing across Mauritania: 80% all of political exiles had already returned following the adoption of amnesty measures, but the political support of the European Parliament was still needed.

The chairperson wound up the exchange of views by pointing out that the practice of coup d'états was manifestly unacceptable in Europe. The EP would support alternance of government in Mauritania provided that the transitional period was as short as possible and culminated in the establishment of a genuine democratic system.

5. Preparation for the visit to Strasbourg by a delegation from the Moroccan Parliament on 16 and 17 November 2005

The chairperson gave the broad outlines of the communication from Mrs Flautre, who had apologised for being unable to attend the meeting: need to address the issue of illegal immigration, equality for women in Moroccan society, human rights and the fostering of democracy and the rule of law.

The following spoke: Messrs Sonik, Bussutil, Catania, Attard-Montalto and the chairperson. It emerged from the exchange of views that the agenda for that interparliamentary meeting should also include freedom of the press and measures to combat drug production in Morocco. In addition to this, attention should be awarded to detention conditions in Morocco for persons arrested on drug trafficking charges, since these often left much to be desired. Finally, it was suggested that the European executive - i.e. the Members of the Commission who would be in Strasbourg and were responsible for some of the subjects to be addressed, and in particular Mr Frattini as concerned illegal immigration - might be invited to take part in the interparliamentary meeting.

6. Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the delegation would take place on 16 November 2005 in Strasbourg. The chairperson reminded those present that, on that occasion, the delegation would host the visit of a delegation from the Moroccan Parliament.

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The meeting closed at 6.27 p.m.

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

Til stede	Formandskabet/Vorstand/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Ufficio di Presidenza/Mesa/Puhemiehistö/J.L. Presidium: (*) RUDI UBEDA (P) BUSUTTIL (VP)
Anwesend	Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Μέλη/Members/Diputados/Députés/Deputati/Leden/Deputados/Jäsenet/Ledamöter:
Παρόντες	FRAGA, KRISTOVSKIS, SONIK
Present	Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suplentes/Suppléants/ Membri supplenti/Plaatsvervangers/Membros suplentes/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter:
Presentes	CATANIA, ZÁBORSKÁ,
Présents	
Presenti	
Aanwezig	
Lasna	
Närvarande	
Art. 178, 2	
Art. 183, 3	ATTARD-MONTALTO
Endv. Deltog/Weitere Teiln./ Συμμετείχαν επίσης/Also present Participaron igualmente/ Participaient également/ Hanno partecipato altresì/ Andere deelnemers/ Outros participantes/ Muut osallistujat/ Dessutom deltog	
(Dagsorden/Tagesordnung Pkt/Ημερήσια Διάταξη Σημεί/Point OJ/Punto OG/Agenda Punt/Ponto OJ/punto orden del día/ Esityslistan 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/Presenteel/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/Commissie/Comissão/Komissio/Kommissionen: (*)

Cour des comptes:

C.E.S.:

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 IND/DEM UEN NI	SCARASCIA VALLIN JEANTILS COUTEAUX
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	
Udvalgssekretariatet Ausschubsekretariat Γραμματεία επιτροπής Committee secretariat Secretaria de la comisión Secrétariat de la commission Segretariato della commissione Commissiesecretariaat Secretaria de comissão Valiokunnan sihteeristö Utskottssekretariatet		KAMARIS
Assist./Βοηθός		DONALDSON

* (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