

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

*DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL*

PE/D-IL-09/OJ/06-10

## **MINUTES**

of the meeting of Thursday, 2 February 2006, from 16.15 to 17.15  
Room A5E-2

## **BRUSSELS**

### *Contents*

	<u>Page</u>
1. Adoption of draft agenda (PE 365.465) .....	2
2. Adoption of the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, 16 November 2005 (PE 365.459).....	2
3. Chairperson's announcements.....	2
4. Adoption of the report on the 30th EP/Knesset Interparliamentary meeting (23-27 November 2005).....	2
5. Exchange of views on the PLC elections.....	3
6. Exchange of views on the situation in Israel with H.E. Oded Eran, Israeli Ambassador to the EU .....	4
7. Any other business.....	4
8. Date and place of next meeting.....	5

Annex: Record of attendance

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PE 369.068

The meeting was opened at 16.20 by the Chair of the Delegation, Mrs Hybášková.

**1. Adoption of draft agenda (PE 365.465)**

The draft agenda was adopted.

**2. Adoption of the minutes of the meeting of Wednesday, 16 November 2005 (PE 365.459)**

The minutes were adopted.

**3. Chairperson's announcements**

M. HYBÁŠKOVÁ announced that meetings of the Delegation are no more to be held in Strasbourg, due to a decision of the President of the European Parliament to strictly implement current rules according to which no meetings should take place in parallel to the Plenary.

The Chair expressed, however, her very strong disagreement with this decision, which reminds her of the times of communist oppression, when it was compulsory for Members to attend the Plenum.

**4 Adoption of the report on the 30th EP/Knesset Interparliamentary meeting (23-27 November 2005)**

The following Members took the floor: M. HYBÁŠKOVÁ, SCHAPIRA, ZALESKI, HAMMERSTEIN-MINTZ, GUTIÉRREZ-CORTINES, RIES.

While M. SCHAPIRA felt that the Israeli side did not provide with meetings of the level that the European Parliament would expect, most other Members felt this was not completely the case.

Reminding that the Interparliamentary meeting took place shortly after PM Sharon had decided to quit the Likud and to provoke early elections, the Chair underlined that, despite this context, Speaker REUVLIN spent 90 minutes with the Delegation, something which allowed for very substantial talks to take place. Ms HYBÁŠKOVÁ furthermore added that the Delegation had done everything possible to have high-level contacts; if, however, particular Members could help organising such talks by their own channels, such a contribution would always be most welcome.

Commenting on the visit, Ms GUTIÉRREZ CORTINES felt that Members had "learnt a lot", something also due to the professionalism of the NGOs with which meetings were organised - as, for instance, "Machsom Watch". M. HAMMERSTEIN-MINTZ added that, due to the pre-electoral context, perhaps Members could have been, especially in their contacts with the Press, less revealing of their political preferences.

The report was adopted without changes.

## 5 Exchange of views on the PLC elections

M. ODED ERAN, Israel's Ambassador to the EU, expressed his grave concern for the "very negative" outcome the result of the elections would have for the peace process. He welcomed the reaction of the International Community to speak with one voice and stressed that the Hamas government should abide to follow the requirements of the International Community in order to continue to receive its support.

While M. ERAN accepted *"it is none of our business to judge whether the result of the PLC is legitimate or not"*, he did stress that, as far as Israel is concerned, *"there is a clear position on what Hamas is: just read their Charter"*. Therefore, *"we are not going to hold talks with this government, on any issue"*, since *"it does not accept, in principle, the existence of Israel itself"*.

In other words, *"we are not going to negotiate the terms under which we will commit suicide"*.

Furthermore, *"we cannot expect a continuation of the peace process on the basis of a roadmap which is negated by the Hamas"*. *"All of our daily life is based on the Oslo agreement; if the next Palestinian Government does not recognise the Oslo agreement, on what basis do we carry on?"*.

Following remarks from the Chair, M. SCHAPIRA, HAMMERSTEIN-MINTZ, CERCAS, MIKOLÁŠIK, M. Eran indicated that Israel:

- *"Will have to find a way in order to separate the [Hamas-led] government from the [Palestinian] people"*. For instance, it would be absurd to think that in retaliation for Hamas' victory, Israel would stop supplying basic services (water, electricity) to the Gaza strip.
- Would not accept indirect talks with the Hamas, via a third party: *"We are not going to organise any contacts with the Hamas. Period."*
- Is following the "total Chaos" currently seen in the Gaza strip, afraid that the score-settling witnessed there between the Hamas and Fatah will spill-over in the West Bank, after the formation of a Palestinian government.
- Is aware of the problems raised by the non-transfer of tax revenues due to the Palestinian Authority by Israel, but wondered *"where these funds would go"*, since *"even the Commission itself is concerned"*.

## 6 Exchange of views on the situation in Israel with H.E. Oded Eran, Israeli Ambassador to the EU

The Israeli Ambassador to the EU, M. ODED ERAN, stated that there has been a lot of changes in the region since the visit of the Delegation.

Yet, and bearing in mind that the political map in Israel changed before PM Sharon's illness, it is surprising how little this event has changed the situation in Israel, if one believes the polls. This means that PM Sharon addressed a real demand of the public opinion when he created Kadima, as he understood that a majority of Israelis (i) have realised the weight of the demographic element, and now favour a dignified separation from the Palestinians, even if this means withdrawing from outposts, (ii) feel there is no *interlocuteur valable* on the other side.

Underlining that the EU / Israel relationship has improved in the past 12 months, M. ERAN reminded the role the EU played in the framework of (i) EU COPPS, providing assistance to the Palestinian Police, (ii) the Rafah Border Assistance Mission, and (iii) trade facilitation. A change of minds has therefore taken place, illustrated by one of the last comments PM SHARON made when meeting M. SOLANA, back in November 2005: "*I don't know why it took me so long to understand that Europe can help -- my mistake*".

After the Hamas victory, the question is, however, how the EU will proceed with its assistance to the Palestinians: if Hamas gains control of the Palestinian police, for instance, supporting such security forces through EU COPPS would fail to make sense.

In conclusion, M. ERAN stressed that Israel's is aiming at "*trying to breathe some life in the action plan*", together with the EU. Both parties should therefore make plain that they do not withdraw their support for a two-state solution, according to the roadmap.

Concluding the discussion, Ms HYBÁŠKOVÁ stressed that the Delegation would "*do its best to stick with our promises and work for stability in the region*", honouring the commitments undertaken in the framework of the roadmap.

## 7. Any other business

On a proposal of the Chair, the Delegation could hear, during the forthcoming meetings of the Delegation:

- The Head of the EU Border Assistance Mission in Rafah, Major-General Pietro Pistolese.
- M. Alan Seatter, Head of Unit - Near East, European Commission, to present the state of progress in negotiations of EU-Israel ENP Action Plan

Following a suggestion from Ms GUTIÉRREZ-CORTINES, the feasibility of inviting M. Al Fayed, former minister of finance of the Palestinian Authority, will also be explored.

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

The next meetings of the Delegation for the first semester of 2006 is currently scheduled for Monday, 20th March, 16.15-17.15 (ASP 5G-3).

An Interparliamentary meeting with the newly elected Knesset could also take place, in Brussels, on 20-21 June (still subject to confirmation with the Israeli authorities).

The meeting closed at 17.20.

**DELTAGERLISTE/ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KATAΣΤΑΣΗ 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: (*) HYBÁŠKOVÁ (P)
Anwesend	Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Μέλη/Members/Diputados/Députés/Deputati/Leden/Deputados/Jäsenet/Ledamöter: CERCAS, HAMMERSTEIN MINTZ, LE PEN, SCHAPIRA, ŠŤASTNÝ, ZALESKI,
Παρόντες	Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suplentes/Suppléants/ Membri supplenti/Plaatsvervangers/Membros suplentes/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter:
Present	HAMON, MIKOLÁŠIK
Presentes	
Présents	
Presenti	
Aanwezig	
Lasna	
Närvarande	
Art. 178,2	
Art. 183,3	
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/Ordem do dia Punto/punto orden del dia/Esityslist 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/Παρών στις/Present on/Présent le/Presente il/Aanwezig op/Presente em/Presenteel/Läsnä/Närvarande den.

<p>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/Puhemieshen kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan:</p> <p>Rådet/Rat/Συμβούλιο/Council/Consejo/Conseil/Consiglio/Raad/Conselho/Neuvosto/Rådet: (*) BERGER</p> <p>Kommissionen/Kommission/Επιτροπή/Commission/Comisión/Commissione/Commissie/Comissão/Komissio/Kommissionen: (*) RYAN</p> <p>Cour des comptes: C.E.S.:</p>		
<p>Andre deltagere/Andere Teilnehmer Επίσης Παρόντες/Also present Otros participantes/Autres participants/Altri partecipanti Andere aanwezigen/Outros participantes Muut osallistajat/Övriga deltagare</p>		<p>H.E. ODED ERAN - Israel's Ambassador to EU MARK - B'NAI B'RITH EUROPE VAN DAM - Eur. Coalition for Israel DOMBRET, GOURARY - Europe NearEast Forum (ENF) ADEL ATIEH - Palestinian Delegation HARAZUKA - Mission of Japan</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>PPE-DE PSE ALDE Verts/ALE GUE/NGL IND/DEM UEN NI</p>	<p>BOTELLA, SALAFRANCA MAMEDOV, MARASA</p>
<p>Cab. Du Président</p>		
<p>Cab. Du Secrétaire Général</p>		
<p>Generaldirektorat Generaldirektion Γενική Διεύθυνση Directorate-General Dirección general Direction générale Direzione generale Directoraat-generaal Direcção general Contrôle financier Service juridique Pääosasto Generaldirektorat</p>	<p>I II III IV V VI VII VIII</p>	<p>BUCHIU, KRAUSS</p>
<p>Udvalgssekretariatet Ausschubsekretariat Γραμματεία επιτροπής Committee secretariat Secretaria de la comisión Secrétariat de la commission Segretariato della commissione Commissiesecretariaat Secretaria de comissão Valiokunnan sihteeristö Utskottssekretariatet Assist./Βοηθός</p>		<p>KAMARIS</p> <p>BRAID</p>

\* (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