

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

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*DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL*

PE/D-IL-09/PV/06-11

## **MINUTES**

of the meeting of Monday 20 march 2006, 16:15 to 17:15  
Room A5G-3

## BRUSSELS

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Annex: List of presence

The meeting was opened at 16.25 by the Chair of the Delegation, Mrs Hybášková.

**1. Adoption of draft agenda (PE 370.607)**

The draft agenda was adopted.

**2. Adoption of the minutes of the meeting of Thursday, 2 February 2005 (PE 369.068)**

The minutes were adopted.

**3. Chairperson's announcements**

M. HYBÁŠKOVÁ informed the Members that, shortly before the 28/3 elections due to take place in Israel, Kadima appears to have consolidated its lead as opinion polls suggest it would gain more than 40 seats. She expressed the hope that these elections would bring a representative government that would reflect the peaceful aspirations of the Israeli people.

**4. Exchange of views with M. Alan Seatter, Head of Unit, DG RELEX**

The following Members took the floor: M. HYBÁŠKOVÁ, BELDER, HÖKMARK.

M. SEATTER commented extensively on the EU/Israel Action Plan, on the EU's current relations vis-à-vis Palestine as well as, on the economic side, the latest efforts to strengthen EU/ Israel cooperation. His assessment was that there has been a "lot of progress" in economic and political issues; this has led to the relation between EU and Israel being "completely transformed" when comparing with what the situation was 2 years ago.

On the issue of combating terrorism, M. SEATTER announced that two seminars would take place, on the issues of "radicalisation and recruitment" and "Human Rights and Terror: a challenge for a democracy". Israel is currently negotiating an agreement with Europol and seeks observer status at the Council's working group on money laundering.

M. SEATTER also indicated that how to deal with Hezbollah, currently not included in the EU's terrorist list, is being debated as there are allegations that the Hezbollah is funding terrorist cells in the West Bank and Gaza. It is, however, difficult to detect the precise nature of financial transactions / cash flows between Israel and the West Bank as, perhaps surprisingly, this topic is not regulated. Tel Aviv is currently planning to introduce specific legislation on cash flow transfers.

M. SEATTER reminded, however, that to include the Haezbollah or not in the EU's terrorist

list is a political decision of the Member States. The European Commission plays no role in this respect - but can make a contribution in detecting suspect financial transfers.

On Human Rights issues, answering to a question from M. BELDER, M SEATTER indicated that the EU and Israel share the same fundamental values. Yet, there are specific issues on which the European Commission disagrees strongly with Israel, such as house demolitions or the policy of targeted killings.

As to the future relation the EU would develop with the Palestinian government would depend on specific criteria: (i) its recognition of Israel, (ii) its commitment to end violence and (iii) to respect existing agreements. This sends a clear message to the Hamas, and also implies that the Commission believes that the Hamas has the capacity to change.

There is, however, a real dilemma: the Palestinian government sustains, directly or indirectly, the income of one million persons in the West Bank and Gaza. If salaries are not paid, the poverty level will increase twofold and both unemployment and malnutrition will become acute problems: "it is not right to make the whole of the population suffer because of the position of its government".

As the European Commission is not funding the Palestinian Government with any new commitments at the moment, it therefore plans to pursue its humanitarian assistance via the UNRWA or, for instance, by paying directly the utility bills of Palestinian households (instead of transmitting funds to the Palestinian government for this purpose).

Commenting on the success of the Action Plan, the Chair underlined its "unique character when compared to similar instruments in the region", congratulating the Commission for its efforts and expressing the wish DG RELEX would communicate in a more transparent manner, as the EU policy in the field provides with an unique opportunity to show that all the European institutions stick to the same principles -- non violence and a peaceful resolution of the conflict. Ms HYBASKOVA also expressed a strong interest in exploring whether Members of the Parliament could participate in the Working Groups foreseen by the action plan.

## **5. Any other business**

No issues were raised under this point.

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

The next meeting of the Delegation would take place on May the 3rd, 10.15-11.15 (ASP 5G-3).

The meeting closed at 17.25



**DELTAGERLISTE/ANWESENHEITSLISTE/ΚΑΤΑΣΤΑΣΗ 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: (*) HYBÁŠKOVÁ (P) BELDER (VP)
Anwesend	Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Μέλη/Members/Diputados/Députés/Deputati/Leden/Deputados/Jäsenet/Ledamöter:
Παρόντες	
Present	Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suplentes/Suppléants/ Membri supplenti/Plaatsvervangers/Membros suplentes/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter: HÖKMARK
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 Σημει/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/Παρόν στις/Present on/Présent le/Presente il/Aanwezig op/Presente em/Presenteel/Läsna/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: (*)		
SEATTER		
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	ZAMARON - Centre Robert Schuman DOMBRET - Groupe ENF PARKHOUSE - Work Experience	
Gruppemes 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	BOTELLA, SALAFRANCA LAEPPEMARASA, ZIAEI 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	KENSIER, KRAUSS, STASI
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		BRAID

\* (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