

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

## DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

PE/D-IL-/FP/

### Minutes

of the meeting on Wednesday, 3 May 2006

10.15 – 11.15

A5E-2\*

### BRUSSELS

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\* Please check the screens in the EP buildings for confirmation of meeting room

### **1. Adoption of the draft agenda (PE 372.940)**

The meeting was opened at 11:25 and the draft agenda adopted

### **2. Announcements by the Chair**

The Chair, Mrs HYBÁŠKOVÁ, explained that many Members unfortunately could not attend the meeting as there is a simultaneous vote in AFET. She once again deplored the fact that meetings in Strasbourg are no longer possible. She further welcomed the Ambassador of Israel M. Oded ERAN and congratulated him on the occasion of Israel's National Day, celebrating the 58th anniversary of the state of Israel.

### **3. Exchange of views with H.E. Mr Oded ERAN, Ambassador of Israel to the EU**

M. ERAN announced the formation of a new Israeli government led by (no longer acting) Prime Minister M. Ehud OLMERT, which will likely be backed by circa 70 Knesset MPs. He explained that, for demographic reasons, the new government will re-examine the "line of separation" (the term border was not used) between Israel and the Palestinians (the term of "Palestine" was not used).

While this reshaping of geo-demographics would ideally be a negotiated arrangement, if this proves impossible, Kadima's platform does not rule out unilateral decisions. Thus, one expects further disengagements of Israel from the West Bank.

Both M. OLMERT and the new Foreign Minister are interested in continuing to develop EU-Israel relations, in order to build upon the dramatic improvement of the last 2 years.

Regarding the Hamas-led Palestinian government, there is a growing awareness among Palestinians that its policies have led to the withdrawal of the financial support of the International Community and that Iran's promises of providing assistance have not materialised.

M. ERAN did, however, state that Israel has no objections to the EU continuing to channel aid through the mechanisms which remain directly under Abu MAZEM's control.

Where Israel does have a real problem is that Abu MAZEM's is quite unlikely to be in a position to negotiate; his electoral base, by large, is also the one that brought the Hamas government in power. Even if there were negotiations between the Palestinian Authority and Israel, these would, then, most probably fail to be ratified by a Palestinian Legislative Council, as the majority of its current members do not recognise Israel, previous agreements, nor the roadmap. Entering into talks when the counterpart has "*no mandate to negotiate*" is thus very difficult as, in case of failure, "*we are not back to point zero, but to minus*".

On other Issues, M. ERAN stated:

- Iran: the country does not hide that it is continuing its efforts to become a nuclear power. While a UN Security Council is still to be drafted, and whether there will be a reference to Chapter VII (sanction mechanism) still to be seen, the question is how Permanent Members China and Russia will react. Russia, however, starts having growing concerns with Iran's ambitions. Israel promotes a solution to this crisis through diplomatic means ; sanctions, in a way, are already applied as the Western business community has started disengaging itself from Iran. There is therefore a wide range of pressure instruments that may be applied by the international community without even having a formal resolution condemning Iran - such as an embargo on dual use commodities. Replying to the question of sending a signal to Iran by declaring its president persona non grata on EU soil, M. ERAN, without being opposed, wondered whether such a move would really be productive, as there is a risk that President Ahmadinejad would be strengthened in internal policy terms.
- Northern Israel / Hezbollah: all Lebanese efforts of reaching domestic understandings have failed. Hezbollah still refuses to comply with UN resolution 1559; Syria's involvement is assessed by UN Special Envoy LARSEN in his last report.

## **5. Any other business**

- The Chair raised the issue of future Interparliamentary dialogue with the Knesset, in its new composition. M. ERAN indicated that Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs would, most likely, informally brief accordingly, when elected, the new Chair of the Knesset's own Foreign Affairs and Defence Parliamentary Committee.
- On a proposal of Ms HYBASKOVA, Members agreed that letters of congratulation be sent to:
  - the new Prime Minister, Ehud OLMERT,
  - the new Minister of Foreign Affairs, when sworn in,
  - the Speaker of the new Knesset, when elected,
  - the new Chair of the Knesset's own Foreign Affairs and Defence Parliamentary Committee.
- The Chair informed Members of the seminar she organises, in collaboration with Dr. BUHLER, on funding for peace in the Middle East, promoting alternative funding for the Palestinian Authority (ASP 5 F 385, 11:15-12:15, May 3rd)

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

The next meeting of the delegation will be held on 20 June 2006 at 16:15 hours in Brussels. This will be an interparliamentary meeting if the Knesset confirms its availability.

The meeting closed at 11:25

**DELTAGERLISTE/ANWESENHEITSLISTE/ΚΑΤΑΣΤΑΣΗ 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: (*) Jana Hybášková (P)
Anwesend	Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Μέλη/Members/Diputados/Députés/Deputati/Leden/Deputados/Jäsenet/Ledamöter: Peter Stastny, Zbigniew Zaleski, Frédérique Ries
Παρόντες	Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suplentes/Suppléants/ Membri supplenti/Plaatsvervangers/Membros suplentes/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter: Herbert Reul, Katalin Levai, Hannu Takkula
Present	
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/Παρόν στις/Present on/Présent le/Presente il/Aanwezig op/Presente em/Presenteel/Läsna/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 convíte do presidente/Puhemiehen kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan:</p> <p>Rådet/Rat/Συμβούλιο/Council/Consejo/Conseil/Consiglio/Raad/Conselho/Neuvosto/Rådet: (*)</p> <p>Berger</p> <p>Kommissionen/Kommission/Επιτροπή/Commission/Comisión/Commissione/Commissie/Comissão/Komissio/Kommissionen: (*)</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 osallistujat/Övriga deltagare</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 politicos Puolueyhmién sihteeristö Gruppernas sekretariat</p>	<p>PPE-DE PSE ALDE Verts/ALE GUE/NGL IND/DEM UEN NI</p>	<p>Jose Botella</p> <p>Marcia Kammtsi</p>
<p>Cab. Du Président</p>		
<p>Cab. Du Secrétaire Général</p>		
<p>Generaldirektorat Generaldirektion Γενική Διεύθυνση Directorate-General Dirección general Direction générale Direzioe generale Directoraat-generaal Direcção general Contrôle financier Service juridique Pääosasto Generaldirektorat</p>	<p>I II III IV V VI VII VIII</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</p>		<p>Philippe Kamaris</p>
<p>Assist./Βοηθός</p>		<p>Francisco Cabral</p>

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

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