

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

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

MINUTES
of the meeting of
Tuesday, 19 December 2006
from 11 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

BRUSSELS

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Annex: record of attendance

HHK/mdc

The meeting opened at 11.40 a.m. with the Chairwoman, Mrs Rudi Ubeda, in the chair.

1. Adoption of draft agenda (PE 379.193)

The draft agenda was adopted.

2. Approval of minutes of the meeting of 4 October 2006 (PE 379.180)

The minutes were approved.

3. Chairwoman's announcements

The Chairwoman informed members of the following:

- On 12 December, two new agreements had been signed between the EU and Morocco. The first, concerning aviation, replaced all the bilateral aviation agreements between Member States and Morocco. It not only opened up markets but was also designed to approximate the legislation of the two parties. The agreement would stimulate the growth of traffic to Morocco, and new, additional and more varied scheduled services had already been announced. The cooperation agreement on GALILEO covered a large number of areas of cooperation, including joint activities in the field of scientific research and training, industrial cooperation, trade and market development, standards, certification and regulatory measures.
- The European Commissioner for justice, freedom and security, Mr Franco Frattini, had stated at a conference held on 21 November in Lisbon, that immigration was a transnational phenomenon which called for a transnational and global answer.
- At the first high-level Conference on Migration and Development, held in Tripoli on 22 and 23 November, the EU and the African States agreed to cooperate in a concrete manner in the field of migration. The Conference had adopted a joint Africa-European Union declaration on migration and development and an action plan to combat trafficking in human beings. Those documents would form the basis for cooperation between the EU and Africa in the coming years, and would bolster the efforts made by the EU to strengthen political dialogue with Africa on migration and development issues.

– Situation in Tunisia

The Chairwoman had received a letter stating that Mme Abou, the wife of Maitre Mohamed Abou, who had been in prison for some time, had been attacked near Tunis jail. Her attackers had been wearing civilian clothes.

Mr Hutchinson announced that the Tunisian journalist Lotfi Haiji had been arrested the previous day. It had been decided to send in an e-mail to members a draft text protesting the conduct of the Tunisian authorities. Given the agreements that existed between Tunisia and the EU, the attention of the EC should be drawn to what was going on.

– Sentencing to death of the Bulgarian nurses and a Palestinian doctor

The Chairwoman informed the members that she had just learnt via the media that the Bulgarian nurses and Palestinian doctor detained in Libya since 1999 had been sentenced to death, despite the presence of several experts. All the expert reports pointed to the children having contracted the AIDS virus as a result of poor hygiene conditions at the hospital. The children had been infected before the arrival of the Bulgarian nurses and the Palestinian doctor.

Simon Busuttil pointed out that the agenda of the December 2006 plenary session had included a resolution on Libya, but he had asked for that item to be deferred as the timing was inappropriate given that a key stage was being approached in the legal process.

He also informed the members that an ad hoc EP delegation had been sent to Libya to look into the issue of illegal immigration. He had sent a letter to the Conference of Presidents asking for authorisation for this work to continue, which he said it would be more difficult to obtain now that the sentenced had been passed.

The following spoke: Luis Yañez-Barnuevo García, Simon Busuttil, Francesco Musotto and Bogusław Sonik. At the end of this discussion it was decided to send a letter to the President of the EP expressing the Delegation's concerns over the fate of those sentenced.

4. Oral report oral by Mr Hutchinson, Chair of the ad hoc ad hoc delegation for the observation of the legislative elections in Mauritania, on the conduct of the elections

Alain Hutchinson said that it had been difficult to form the ad hoc delegation responsible for observation of the elections in Mauritania, and that it had only comprised 3 members. He stated that the Mauritanian authorities had honoured their undertakings. The elections had gone very smoothly. There had been three separate ballot papers for the legislative, regional and municipal elections.

There had been a very high turnout of around 80%. Calm had reigned during the elections

and both the polling stations and electoral equipment had been well organised. The delegation had met all the political and association representatives. However, it was hard to tell what the proportion of Islamic representatives would be. This would be known when the composition of the Assembly was decided.

The Presidential election would be held on 3 and 21 March 2007. Mr Hutchinson hoped he would be able to return with an EP delegation as the current President would have to hand over to a democratically-elected President and that election would also be decisive.

5. Exchange of views on the Delegation's activities for 2007

A calendar of the Delegation's activities for 2007 was distributed at the meeting. The Chairwoman informed members of the activities planned for 2007:

a) the following ordinary (BRU)/extraordinary (STR) meetings would be held:

- 24 January - 16h15 - Brussels
- 20 March - 11h30 - Brussels
- 19 December - 16h15 - Brussels

- 20 June - 15h00 - Strasbourg
- 26 September - 15h00 - Strasbourg

b) the following Interparliamentary meetings were planned:

- 25 - 30 June - visit to Morocco
- 01 - 06 October - visit to Algeria
- 24 - 25 October - visit of a Mauritanian delegation to Strasbourg

Simon Busuttil said that a meeting with Libya could be added as none had been programmed for either Brussels or Strasbourg.

The Chairwoman indicated that it would be difficult to hold a meeting with Libya in 2007 as the programme of activities for 2007 had already been adopted by the Conference of Presidents, in December 2006.

The Chairwoman asked members to inform her of the matters they wished to address at the various meetings.

The following spoke on the content of the programme of activities: Messrs Busuttil, Hutchinson and Yañez-Barnuevo. Following this discussion, it was decided:

- to invite the Commission's desk officer for Libya to the next meeting;
- to hold a debate on the issue of Western Sahara, inviting to this representatives of Morocco, Algeria, Polisario and the United Nations.

6. Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the Delegation would probably be held in Brussels on 24 January 2007, from 4.15 to 5.15 p.m. .

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The meeting closed at 12.35 p.m.

**DELTAGERLISTE/ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KΑΤΑΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/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/Puheenjohtajisto/J.L. Presidium: (*)
Anwesend	Luisa Fernanda Rudi Ubeda (P), Alain Hutchinson (V-P), Simon Busuttil (V-P)
Παρόντες	Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Μέλη/Members/Diputados/Deputés/Deputati/Leden/Deputados/Jäsenet/ Ledamöter:
Present	Donata Gottardi, Bogusław Sonik, Luis Yañez-Barnuevo García
Presentes	Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/ναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suplentes/Suppleants/ Membri supplenti/Plaatsvervangers/Membros suplentes/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter:
Présents	Francesco Musotto
Presenti	
Aanwezig	
Läsnä	
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/Ponto OJ/punto orden del día/ Esityslistan kohta/Föredragningslista punkt):	

* (P) =Formand/Vorsitzender/Πρόεδρος/Chairman/President/Presidente/Voorzitter/Presidente/Puheenjohtaja/Ordförande
(VP) =Næstform./Stellv. Vorsitz./?ντιπρόεδρος/Vice-Chairman/Vice-President/Vice-Presidente/Varapuheenjohtaja
Ondervoorz./Vice-Pres./Vicepres/Vice ordförande.

Til stede den/Anwesend am/Παρόν στις/Present on/Present le/Presente il/Aanwezig op/Presente em/Presente el/Läsnä/Närvarande den.

(1)
(2)

<p>Efter indbydelse fra formanden/Auf Einladung d. Vorsitzenden/Με πρόσκληση του Προέδρου/At the invitation of the Chairman/Por invitacion del presidente/Sur l'invitation du président/Su invito del presidente/Op uitnodiging van de voorzitter/A convite do Presidente/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/ På ordförandens inbjudan:</p>		
<p>Radet/Rat/Συμβούλιο/Council/Consejo/Conseil/Consiglio/Raad/Conselho/Neuvosto/Radet: (*)</p>		
<p>Kommissionen/Kommission/Επιτροπή/Commission/Comision/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>Hartmut Berger, Conseil service juridique Nada Meslameni, Ambassade de Tunisie Claudine Staub (DG III - Observation des élections)</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 Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristö Gruppernas sekretariat</p>	<p>PPE-DE PSE ALDE Verts/ALE GUE/NGL UEN EDD NI</p>	<p>Beatrice Scarascia-Mugnozza, Honey Deihimi Isabel Jubete Salvador, Isabelle De Crayencour</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-Geral Contrôle financier Service juridique Pääosasto Generaldirektorat</p>	<p>PRES IPOL EXPO INFO PERS IFIN TRED FINS</p>	
<p>Udvalgssekretariatet Ausschubsekretariat Γραμματεία επιτροπής Committee secretariat Secretaria de la comisión Secrétariat de la commission Segretariato della commissione Commissiesecretariaat Secretariado da comissão Valiokunnan sihteeristö Utskottssekretariatet</p>		<p>Hans-Hermann Kraus</p>
<p>Assist./Βοηθός</p>		<p>Francisco Cabral</p>

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(M) =Medlem./Mitglied/Μέλος/Member/Miembro/Deputado/Membro/Lid/Membro/Jasen/Ledamot
(F) =Tjenestemand/Beamter/Υπάλληλος/Official/Funcionario/Fonctionnaire/Funzionario/Ambtenaar/
Functionario/Virkamies/Tjansteman