

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH AFGHANISTAN

MINUTES

of the meeting of 3 May 2007

BRUSSELS

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1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted (item 4 concerning the exchange of views with the Ambassador of Afghanistan was held over to a later meeting).

2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 11 April 2007

The minutes of the meeting of 11 April were approved.

3. Chairman's announcements

The chairman expressed his regret that the Ambassador of Afghanistan could not be present at the meeting because of an emergency surgical procedure.

The chairman announced that the next meeting would take place at the end of June - probably on 27 June 2007. Mr Vendrell, the European Union Special Representative for Afghanistan, and Mr Wali Masoud, President of the Masoud Foundation, and a NATO representative were expected to attend.

He suggested that the Ambassadors of the main countries bordering Afghanistan - Pakistan and Iran (and possibly Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan) be invited to the meeting of 11 July and that it would also be possible to welcome NGO representatives and other people.

Mr Agnoletto felt it would probably be difficult for NGO representatives to leave the country and take part in the meeting of 11 July.

Ms Angelika Beer expressed her concern about the situation in Afghanistan during previous weeks when some members of the Welthungerhilfe (German Agro Action) organisation were killed, and suggested that a letter of protest be sent.

Mr Tajani emphasised the important role the delegation for Afghanistan should have in keeping the peace in this region. He mentioned the possibility of organising a press conference to state the European Parliament's position and its determination to fight for peace and respect for human rights in the region. He was concerned by the fact that the situation in Afghanistan has been very unstable over the previous weeks and thought it essential that the delegation meet NATO representatives to find out exactly what was happening on a military level.

The chairman suggested writing a letter to President Pöttering emphasising the active role that the European Parliament should have in defending human rights. The members of the delegation agreed to this proposal.

The chairman continued by outlining the situation of the hostages from the Terre d'enfance organisation working in the education, social, and women's rights domains. The Taliban had taken four prisoners, one of whom was European (the European hostage had already been freed).

The chairman stressed the importance for the delegation to focus on its current main political priorities of freeing the four hostages, and mentioned, among other possible actions, sending a letter from President Pöttering to the President of the Afghani Parliament to inform him of the European Parliament's serious concerns regarding the situation of these hostages in Afghanistan and the European Parliament's responsibility towards a European national.

With regard to the delegation's trip to Afghanistan, the chairman was of the opinion that, although the visit was initially planned for September or October, the dates of Ramadan from 13 September to 12 October meant another date towards the end of October or in November should be considered, even if climate problems would be encountered.

5. European Union policy in Afghanistan:

- exchange of views with a representative of the European Council of Ministers

Mr Kozlowski, Head of the Council's Asia Task Force, described the general direction of the European Union's policy in Afghanistan. He emphasised the important role played by the European Union in this country and its commitment and determination to help construct a stable Afghan state. Mr Kozlowski stressed that European Union policy in Afghanistan was a policy of aid and guidance for the country's political affairs. This corresponded to the political declaration signed in 2005. He also mentioned the very important role that should be played by Afghan institutions in reconstructing the country and emphasised the importance of a permanent collaboration between external political actors present in Afghanistan and the Afghan institutions.

Mr Podestà posed several questions to the Council representative, who answered him.

6. Implementing aid given by the European Union:

Ms Bettina Muscheidt, desk officer responsible for the European Commission's relations with Afghanistan, described the aid and assistance measures financed by the European Union between 2002 and 2006, and the current and future programmes. She emphasised the process of improving the justice system and good governance, aimed at establishing the rule of law. She specified the importance of the other political actors in the region: Pakistan, Russia and China (relations were very tense, particularly with Pakistan). Another very important issue for the country was the fight against drugs. All the actors present in Afghanistan should fight to reduce (or even eradicate, if possible) the use of drugs, which constitutes one of the biggest challenges confronting the country. Ms Muscheidt stressed the importance of united, joint action by all states present in Afghanistan.

Mr Podestà asked several questions, mainly about the Union's visibility in Afghanistan, control of the south of the country and drug trafficking, as well as about the refugee camps in Pakistan.

Mr Agnoletto expressed his scepticism concerning the general situation in Afghanistan. He felt that an improvement in the narcotics area was unlikely as the situation had worsened, especially in recent months. He considered the current measures insufficient and believed that more radical measures and tough strategies should be implemented if we really wanted to improve the situation.

The Commission representative responded to questions, explaining the added value provided by the EU, and explained the measures implemented in relation to drugs, particularly by the United Kingdom, which is responsible, and detailed the Union's measures to create support for police force training and on the priority given to health, rural development and governance.

7. Other business

No other points were raised.

8. Date and place of the next meeting

The next meeting of the delegation would take place on 27 or 28 June 2007 (date to be confirmed).

The meeting closed at 12.30

**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: (*) PODESTA (P)
Anwesend	Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Μέλη/Members/Diputados/Deputés/Deputati/Leden/Deputados/Jäsenet/Ledamöter: TAJANI, BEER
Παρόντες	Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/?ναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suplentes/Suppléants/ Membri supplenti/Plaatsvervangers/Membros suplentes/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter: AGNOLETTA
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 altresi/ 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/Esiytslist Kohta/ Föredragningslista punkt):	

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

Til stede den/Anwesend am/Παρόν στις/Present on/Present 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 invitacion 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:

KOZLOWSKI

Rådet/Rat/Συμβούλιο/Council/Consejo/Conseil/Consiglio/Raad/Conselho/Neuvosto/Rådet: (*)

MATTHIESSEN ROUX GOMEZ SWANN

Kommissionen/Kommission/Επιτροπή/Commission/Comision/Commissione/Commissie/Comissão/Komissio/Kommissionen: (*)

MUSCHEIDT GHERMAN

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 osallistujat/Övriga deltagare		Embassade de l'Iran: ZABIB
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	BRACONI, VLASMAN DE CESARE DE CRAYENCOUR MEYER SCHÜTOPELZ TROMBETTA
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	OPACIC, FRANCOIS
Udvalgssekretariatet Ausschubsekretariat Γραμματεία επιτροπής Committee secretariat Secretaría de la comisión Secrétaire de la commission Segretariato della commissione Commissiesecretariaat Secretaria de comissão Valiokunnan sihteeristö Utskottssekreteriatet Assist./Βοηθός		BERTON, NADEJDE GUARDADO

* (P) = Formand/Pres./Πρόεδρος/Chairman/President/Voorzitter/Puhemies/Ordförande

(VP) = Næstform./Vize-Pres./?ντητρόεδρος/Vice-Chairman/Vice-President/Ondervoorz./Vice-pres/Varapuhemies/Vice ordförande.

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