

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

*Delegation for relations with the Palestinian Legislative Council*

DPLC\_PV(2007)0625

## **MINUTES**

of the meeting of 25 June 2007, from 15.15 to 16.15  
BRUSSELS

The meeting opened at 15.20 on Monday, 25 June 2007, with Kyriacos Triantaphyllides (Chairman) in the chair.

### **1. Adoption of draft agenda (PE 384.743)**

The agenda of the meeting was adopted.

### **2. Approval of the minutes of the meetings of 26 April 2007 in Strasbourg (PE 384.738) and of 7 June 2007 (PE 384.739)**

The minutes were approved.

### **3. Announcements by the Chair**

Mr. Kyriacos Triantaphyllides reminded members of his initiative to ask, in the name of his political group, the sending of an ad hoc Delegation to Jordan and Palestine so as to assess the situation in the Ruwayshid refugee camp.

The Chair also attracted the attention of Members to the Press Releases he has drafted with regard to the situation in Palestine and to the abduction of BBC journalist Alan Johnston.

He furthermore communicated to Members the letters he has exchanged:

- With the President of the Commission,
- With Mrs Dotan, Chair of the Knesset Delegation for European affairs

The Chair then informed Members of the seminar which will be held on 2 and 3 July, organised by the PSE, on the situation in the Middle East.

#### 4. Exchange of views with Mrs Leila Shahid, General Palestinian Delegate, on the situation in Palestine

Mrs. Leila Shahid, the Palestinian General Delegate, informed present members about the current situation in Palestine, particularly in the area of Gaza. With the take-over of the Gaza strip by Hamas, Palestine enters "*one of the saddest periods in its history*" as, at least until now, the threat of civil war had been averted. Civil war is now a reality - and is a self destructive process.

The national unity Government attempted to stop this threat but, unfortunately, it seems that "*it had, from the beginning, too many enemies*" and failed to get the financial help it so desperately needed. Ms Shahid reminded that the Quartette Members effectively failed to establish direct relations with this government. From this point of view, "*Europe has a part of the responsibility*" and could perhaps, wonder at last whether it really took the right decisions in the recent past.

There is, furthermore, a split in terms of political control, as now Hamas has taken over the security infrastructure in the Gaza strip. "*But this does not reflect at all a split among Palestinians*", as it would be wrong to assume that all Palestinians stranded in the Gaza strip have now become Hamas members. However, there is the fear that with rampant radicalisation in Gaza, all borders will be sealed, leading to the suffocation of the population. The Rafah border with Egypt is completely shut.

The following Members took the floor over a number of issues at the debate which followed: Mr Davies, Mr Portas, Mr Prodi, Ms Evans, Mr Triantaphyllides. In her replies, Ms Shahid stressed that:

- in Gaza, the vast majority of the population feels it has become a scapegoat and is now abandoned to its fate by the international community
- Ironically, the only border not totally sealed is at Erez, with Israel. This means that the parties "validated" by Israel (diplomats, international organisations, some NGOs...) still have access to the Gaza strip. This means that "*you, at least, have possibilities others do not*". Symbolic gestures from the EU / EP are important in this respect.
- Hamas will now face the problems of administering an area on its own; it will have to cooperate with the international community so that aid flows to the population in the Gaza strip. There are some possibilities for leverage there.
- Fatah is not the party that declared war on Hamas - quite the opposite.
- Within the Palestinian population, there is a widespread feeling that Hamas went overboard in toppling the national unity government. Eventually, Hamas will be held accountable for that. The crisis is currently deepening as there are press reports that Hamas may plan an Islamic state in Gaza --- which was not its declared policy until now.

- Fatah has nothing to do with the gangs that have kidnapped, in Gaza, Gilad Shalit or Alan Johnston. These kidnappings are "*part of a pathological manifestation... and demonstrate the rottenness of the situation*". "*Something has now reached the point of no return*"; 40 years after the beginning of occupation, the Palestinian national apparatus is now being destroyed and the result is its gradual substitution by "*smugglers, gangs, militia -- as in Iraq and Somalia*".
- Tremendous political will is now required. The invasion of northern Gaza by Israel during summertime cannot be ruled out. "*We have now reached the stage where we need international presence, in an UNIFIL+ formula, in all territories, not only Gaza, and **not** only to monitor borders -- but with a mandate to enforce protection of civilians under the 4th Geneva convention*".

M. De Rossa, in particular, stressed that the decision to form an emergency government was probably the right one given the current crisis situation. Hamas attempts to physically eliminate President Abbas are deeply shocking, yet "*there is no way out of the situation if there is no dialogue with Hamas*".

If the EU's foreign policy now consists of refusing to engage with the emergency government on the grounds that it talks to Hamas, this will just be another disastrous mistake in a long series of devising "*silly conditions we don't apply anywhere else -- as has been the case until now*".

In other words, continued M. De Rossa, the EP's Delegation has to make clear to the Council and the Commission that it feels that concrete steps in favour of *rapprochement* among the Palestinian factions should be taken, in both Gaza and the West Bank. The EU should furthermore "*lift the blockade immediately*".

Mr Triantaphyllides disagreed to Mr De Rossa's comments and to his request that the minutes of this meeting be sent to Council and Commission.

## **5. Any other business**

No issues were raised under this point.

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

The next meeting of the Delegation is currently scheduled to take place in November 29, 15:00-16:00.

The meeting closed at 16.20.

**ПРИСЪСТВЕН ЛИСТ/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/  
ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/KATAΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/  
LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU REĢISTRŠ/DALYVIŲ SAŖAŠAS/JELENLÉTI ÍV/  
REĢISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŠCI/LISTA DE PRESEŇÇAS/LISTÁ DE PREZENȚÁ/  
PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA**

Бюро/Mesa/Předsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/Biuras/Elnökség/ Prezydium/Birou/Predsednictvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
Kyriacos Triantaphyllides (P), Proinsias De Rossa (VP)
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselők/ Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Chris Davies, Christine De Veyrac, Jill Evans
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Supplenti/ Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantys nariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/Namestniki/ Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
Miguel Portas

178 (2)
183 (3)
46 (6) (Точка от дневния ред/Punto del orden del día/Bod pořadu jednání (OJ)/Punkt på dagsordenen/Tagesordnungspunkt/Päevakorra punkt/Ημερήσια Διάταξη Σημείο/Agenda item/Point OJ/Punto all'ordine del giorno/Darba kārtības punkts/Darbotvarkés punktas/ Napirendi pont/Punt Agenda/Agendapunt/Punkt porządku dziennego/Ponto OD/Punct de pe ordinea de zi/Bod programu schôdze/ Točka UL/Esityslistan kohta/Föredragningslista punkt)

Наблюдатели/Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaatlejad/Παρατηρητές/Observers/Observateurs/Osservatori/ Novērotāji/Stebėtojai/Megfigyelők/Osservatori/Waarnemers/Observatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelia/Opazovalci/ Tarkkailijat/Observatörer

<p>По покана на председателя/Por invitación del presidente/Na pozvání předsedy/Efter indbydelse fra formanden/Auf Einladung des Vorsitzenden/Esimehe kutsel/Με πρόσκληση του Προέδρου/At the invitation of the Chair(wo)man/Sur l'invitation du président/Su invito del presidente/Рѣс пріексѣдѣтѣја узаісінājума/Pirmininkui pakvietus/Az elnök meghívására/Fuq stedina taç-'Chairman'/Op uitnodiging van de voorzitter/Na zaproszenie Przewodniczącego/A convite do Presidente/La invitația președintelui/Na pozvanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan</p>
<p>Mrs Leila Shahid, Palestinian General Delegate</p>

<p>Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nōukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/Conseil/Consiglio/Padome/Taryba/Tanács/Kunsill/Raad/Conselho/Consiliu/Svet/Neuvosto/Rådet (*)</p>
<p>Комисия/Comisión/Komise/Kommissionen/Kommission/Euroopa Komisjon/Επιτροπή/Commission/Commissione/Komisija/Bizottság/Kummissjoni/Commissie/Komisja/Comissão/Comisie/Komisia/Komissio/Kommissionen (*)</p>
<p>Jaromir Levicek, Nicolas Levine</p>
<p>Други институции/Otras instituciones/Ostatní orgány a instituce/Andre institutioner/Andere Organe/Muud institutsioonid/Άλλα θεσμικά όργανα/Other institutions/Autres institutions/Altre istituzioni/Citas iestādes/Kitos institucijos/Más intézmények/Istituzzjonijiet oħra/Andere instellingen/Inne instytucje/Outras Instituições/Alte instituții/Iné inštitúcie/Druge institucije/Muut toimielimet/Andra institutioner/organ</p>
<p></p>

<p>Други учасници/Otros participantes/Ostatní účastníci/Endvidere deltog/Andere Teilnehmer/Muud osalejad/Επίσης Παρόντες/Other participants/Autres participants/Altri partecipanti/Citi klātesošie/Kiti dalyviai/Más résztvevők/Partecipanti oħra/Andere aanwezigen/Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Alți participanți/Iní účastníci/Drugi udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare</p>																		
<p>Paul Spaak, Sénat France Valassopoulou, Greek Perm Rep Stamatina Koutsafli, Parlement Hellenique</p>																		
<p>Секретариат на политическите групи/Secretaría de los Grupos políticos/Sekretariát politických skupin/Gruppernes sekretariat/Sekretariat der Fraktionen/Fraksioonide sekretariaat/Γραμματεία των Πολιτικών Ομάδων/Sekretariats of political groups/Secrétariat des groupes politiques/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko grupu sekretariāts/Fracjių sekretoriai/Képviseletcsoportok titkársága/Sekretarjat gruppi politici/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secr. dos grupos políticos/Sekretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupin/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristöt/Gruppernas sekretariat</p>																		
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>PPE-DE</td> <td>E. Mitsopoulou</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PSE</td> <td>Zoltán Simon</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ALDE</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Verts/ALE</td> <td>Steven Cornelius, Mychelle Rieu</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GUE/NGL</td> <td>Vera Polycarpou, Majed Bamyá</td> </tr> <tr> <td>IND/DEM</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>UEN</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>ITS</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>NI</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	PPE-DE	E. Mitsopoulou	PSE	Zoltán Simon	ALDE		Verts/ALE	Steven Cornelius, Mychelle Rieu	GUE/NGL	Vera Polycarpou, Majed Bamyá	IND/DEM		UEN		ITS		NI	
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<p>Кабинет на председателя/Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelář předsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinett des Präsidenten/Presidendi kantselei/Γραφείο Προέδρου/President's Office/Cabinet du Président/Gabinetto del Presidente/Priekšsēdētāja kabinets/Pirmininko kabinetas/Elnöki hivatal/Kabinett tal-President/Cabinet van de Voorzitter/Gabinet Przewodniczącego/Gabinete do Presidente/Cabinet Preşedinte/Kancelária predsedu/Urad predsednika/Puhemiehen kabinetti/Talmannens kansli</p>	
<p>Кабинет на генералния секретар/Gabinete del Secretario General/Kancelář generálního tajemníka/Generalsekretærens Kabinet/Kabinett des Generalsekretärs/Peasekretäri büroo/Γραφείο Γενικού Γραμματέα/Secretary-General's Office/Cabinet du Secrétaire général/Gabinetto del Segretario generale/Generalsekretära kabinets/Generalinio sekretoriaus kabinetas/Főtitkári hivatal/Kabinett tas-Segretarju Ġenerali/Kabinet van de secretaris-generaal/Gabinet Sekretarza Generalnego/Gabinete do Secretário-Geral/Cabinet Secretar General/Kancelária generálneho tajomníka/Urad generalnega sekretarja/Pääsihteerin kabinetti/Generalsekreterarens kansli</p>	
<p>Генерална дирекция/Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/Directorate-General/Direzione générale/Generāldirektorāts/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/Direktorat Ġenerali/Direktoraten-generaal/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direcții Generale/Generálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni direktorat/Pääosasto/Generaldirektorat</p>	
<p>DG PRES DG IPOL DG EXPO DG INFO DG PERS DG IFIN DG TRED DG FINS</p>	<p>F. Perroni K. Arp, S. Krauss</p>
<p>Правна служба/Servicio Jurídico/Právní služba/Juridisk Tjeneste/Juristischer Dienst/Öigusteenistus/Νομική Υπηρεσία/Legal Service/Service juridique/Servizio giuridico/Juridiskais dienests/Teisės tarnyba/Jogi szolgálat/Servizz legali/Juridische Dienst/Wydział prawny/Serviço Jurídico/Serviciu Juridic/Právny servis/Pravna služba/Oikeudellinen yksikkö/Rättstjänsten</p>	
<p>Секретариат на комисията/Secretaría de la comisión/Sekretariát výboru/Udvalgssekretariatet/Ausschusseksretariat/Komisjoni sekretariaat/Γραμματεία επιτροπής/Committee secretariat/Secrétariat de la commission/Segreteria della commissione/Komitejas sekretariāts/Komiteto sekretoriatas/A bizottság titkársága/Sekretarjat tal-kumitat/Commissiesecretariaat/Sekretariat komisji/Sekretariado da comissão/Secretariat comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottssekretariatet</p>	
<p>Hans-Hermann Kraus</p>	
<p>Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Paġis/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asystent/Pomočnik/Avustaja/Assistenten</p>	
<p>Vera Benito</p>	

- \* (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Président/Priekšsēdētājs/Pirmininkas/Elnök/Chairman/Voorzitter/Przewodniczący/Preşedinte/Predseda/Predsednik/Puheenjohtaja/Ordförande
- (VP) = Заместник-председател/Vicepresidente/Mistofedseda/Næstformand/Stellvertretender Vorsitzender/Aseesimees/Αντιπρόεδρος/Vice-Chair(wo)man/Vice-Président/Priekšsēdētāja vietnieks/Pirmininko pavaduotojas/Alelnök/Víci 'Chairman'/Ondervoorzitter/Wiceprzewodniczący/Vice-Présidente/Vicepreşedinte/Podpredseda/Podpredsednik/Varapuheenjohtaja/Vice ordförande
- (M) = Член/Miembro/Člen/Medlem./Mitglied/Parlamendiliige/Μέλος/Member/Membre/Membro/Deputāts/Narys/Képviselő/Membri/Lid/Członek/Membro/Membri/Člen/Poslanec/Jäsen/Ledamot
- (F) = Длъжностно лице/Funcionario/Úředník/Tjenestemand/Beamter/Ametnik/Υπάλληλος/Official/Fonctionnaire/Funzionario/Ierēdnis/Pareigūnas/Tisztviselő/Ufficial/Ambtenaar/Urzednik/Funcionário/Funcionar/Úradník/Uradnik/Virkamies/Tjänsteman