

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Delegation for relations with the Palestinian Legislative Council

DPLC_PV(2007)1129

MINUTES

of the meeting of 29 November 2007, from 15.00 to 16.00
BRUSSELS

The meeting opened on Thursday, 29 November 2007 at 15.10, with Kyriacos Triantaphyllides, chairman, in the chair.

1. Adoption of draft agenda (PE 399. 309)

The draft agenda was adopted.

2. Approval of minutes of meeting of 12 September 2007 (PE 393. 825)

The minutes were approved.

3. Chairman's announcements

Mr Triantaphyllides informed members that, a few days before the Annapolis Conference of 26 November 2007, the Conference of Presidents of the European Parliament had held an enlarged meeting, on 20 November, to discuss what the European contribution for the Middle East should be. This meeting was attended by the High Representative, Mr Solana, and Commissioner Mrs Ferrero-Waldner to consider the main topics which should be dealt with at the Annapolis Conference. The question of Lebanon was also raised, as well as that of the election of its President.

During that meeting of the Conference of Presidents, it was decided that a new Working Party on the Middle East should be set up. Mr Triantaphyllides said that the chairmen of the delegations for relations with the PLC, Israel and the Mashreq were invited to join it. The working party would be chaired by the President, Mr Hans-Gert Pöttering, and it was hoped that it would make an essential contribution, which would enable the European Parliament to contribute to the Middle East peace process.

Mr Triantaphyllides also spoke about the visit which the DEVE committee had paid to Palestine from 18 to 21 September 2007. The Chairman said that the delegation had visited Gaza and that members had had the opportunity to see on the spot what difficulties existed. The DEVE committee had drafted a report on the visit and forwarded it to the various institutions, the President of Parliament, Mr Pöttering, Mr Solana and Mrs Ferrero-Waldner. Mr Triantaphyllides said that several articles had also appeared in the press after the visit.

4. Exchange of views on the possible sending of a delegation to Palestine

On item 4, Mr Triantaphyllides informed members that they would find among the papers for the meeting two letters which he had sent to the President, Mr Hans-Gert Pöttering, requesting authorisation for a fresh visit to Palestine. Mr Triantaphyllides hoped that the visit would be authorised and that the delegation would be able to visit Gaza very soon.

The Chairman also informed members that, at the Conference of Presidents of 25 October 2007, it had been decided to send an ad hoc delegation to the Palestinian Territories and Israel to ascertain the current situation on the ground.

5. Exchange of views on the Annapolis Conference

As regards the Annapolis Conference, the European Union could play an important role in the Middle East, but, to the regret of Mr Triantaphyllides, it had not taken any part in this conference. He also observed that the European Union did not appear in either the initial declaration or the final declaration of the Annapolis Conference.

The role of the United States, however, was clearly underlined.

Mr Triantaphyllides asked the members present in the meeting room to state their opinions and positions on the role that the European Union could play in the Middle East peace process.

The following spoke: Mr Hammerstein, Mr Lambrindis, Mr De Rossa and Mr Prodi, Mr Hedh, Mr Auken and Mr Madeira.

Mr Triantaphyllides asked Mr Adel Atieh, of the Palestine mission, to indicate how Palestinians had responded to the Annapolis Conference. Mr Atieh explained that there were many remarks about the conference and that there was also an official Palestinian response, particularly regarding the Jewish character of the State of Israel.

Palestine's official position was that the peace process had the aim of bringing about recognition not of a Jewish State but rather of two States: the State of Israel alongside the Palestinian State.

Mr Atieh recalled that Israel had never previously demanded this recognition of its Jewish character either from Palestine or from Jordan or Egypt, with which Israel had signed peace treaties. He added that no previous treaty signed between the Palestinian Authority and the Government of Israel had mentioned this demand for recognition of the State of Israel as a Jewish State.

Mr Atieh observed that all the other States in the world recognised Israel's status as a

democratic State, but not as a State based on a religious or ethnic character. To Palestine, this fresh demand by Israel was indicative of an unconstructive attitude, as it was not up to the Palestinian people or the Palestinian Authority to determine the character of the State of Israel. The Israelis were free to decide the character of their State. Similarly, the Palestinians would not demand that Israel recognise the Palestinian State as Christian or Islamic. He added that the Palestinian Authority would not participate in a fresh ethnic cleansing operation because 12% of the population of Israel was currently non-Jewish. Mr Attieh considered that the Palestinians were not ready to take into account these religious and ethnic demands and rejected any fresh demand on the part of Israel on this subject.

Mr Vittorio Prodi considered it necessary to meet Mr Solana and at the same time proposed a meeting with the European Parliament's Delegation for Relations with Israel. It was necessary to find a solution together. Mr Prodi considered the situation to be serious and, once more, at Annapolis, we had failed and had not met everybody's expectations. He felt that we had taken a step backwards. As the European Union, we should try to draft proposals which would give us enough strength to assert our role again. Mr Prodi felt that we should be able to witness exchanges between the Palestinian Authority and the State of Israel in connection with the Jewish settlements on the West Bank. The European Union should demonstrate genuine political will, so that we could seize the initiative in connection with assistance.

Mr Hammerstein said that the Annapolis Conference gave him a sense of 'déjà vu'. The European Union should adopt a position on prisoners and on the future of Jerusalem, in order to prevent the economy of East Jerusalem from being strangled and to bring about progress on the ground. David Hammerstein said that the Arab minority in Israel represented a bridge to the Arab world, an opportunity for peace, as they spoke Arabic and Hebrew, and that this should be taken into account.

Mrs Brepoels recalled the inauguration of the United Nations exhibition at the European Parliament on 27 November, under the patronage of Mrs Karen AbuZayd and the UNRWA (agency for the Palestinian refugees), and welcomed this initiative, which was the first at our institution, recalling also the speech made by Mr Pöttering on that occasion. She added that there were more than 10 000 Palestinian political prisoners in Israel and that the Palestinian parliamentarians languishing in Israel's prisons should not be forgotten.

Mr De Rossa explained that we could not negotiate on behalf of the European Union. Our delegation at Parliament should adopt a clear position and state it openly. We should ensure that a balance was struck between the parties. Mr De Rossa added that we could not tolerate ethnic cleansing.

Winding up the debate on item 5, concerning the Annapolis Conference, Mr Triantaphyllides proposed to read the declaration drafted by the secretariat and himself, on behalf of the European Parliament's Delegation to the PLC. Once the declaration had been read aloud, he asked the members present to add to the text and send their comments to the delegation's secretariat by Tuesday, 4 December, so that it could subsequently be published.

6. Other business

Mr Triantaphyllides asked members to consult the timetable distributed by the secretariat informing them of the delegation's meetings in 2008.

7. Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the delegation was scheduled for 29 January 2008, from 15.00 to 16.00.

The meeting closed at 16.05.

**ΠΡΙΣΨΤΒΗ ΛΙΣΤ/ΛΙΣΤΑ DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/
ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/ΚΑΤΑΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/
LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU REĢISTRŠ/DALYVIŲ SAŖAŠAS/JELENLĒTI ĪV/ REĢISTRU
TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŠCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/LISTĂ DE PREZENȚĂ/ PREZENČNÁ
LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LĀSNĀOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA**

Бюро/Мesa/Předsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/Biuras/Elnökség/ Prezidium/Birou/Předsednictvo/Předsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
Kyriacos Triantaphyllides (P), Proinsias De Rossa (VP)
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselek/ Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jāsenet/Ledamöter
Frieda Brepoels, Anna Hedh, Margrete Auken, Jill Evans
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Supplenti/ Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantys nariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanti/Náhradníci/Namestniki/ Varajāsenet/Suppleanter
Jamila Madeira, Vittorio Prodi, David Hammerstein

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/Darbotvarkēs punktas/ Napirendi pont/Punt Aġenda/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/Stebētāji/Megfigyelők/Osservatori/Waarnemers/Obserwatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelia/Opazovalci/ Tarkkailijat/Observatörer

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/Pēc priekšsēdētāja uzaicinājuma/Pirmininkui pakvietus/Az elnök meghívására/Fuq stedina tač-'Chairman'/Op uitnodiging van de voorzitter/Na zaproszenie Przewodniczącego/A convite do Presidente/La invitația președintelui/Na pozwanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan

Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nðukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/Conseil/Consiglio/Padome/Taryba/Tanács/Kunsill/Raad/Conselho/Consiliu/Svet/Neuvosto/Rådet (*)

Комисия/Comisión/Komise/Kommissionen/Kommission/Euroopa Komisjon/Επιτροπή/Commission/Commissione/Komisija/Bizottság/Kummissjoni/Commissie/Komisja/Comissão/Comisie/Komisia/Komissio/Kommissionen (*)

Jaromir Levicek, Nicolas Levine

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/Istituzjonijiet ohra/Andere instellingen/Inne instytucje/Outras Instituições/Alte instituții/Iné inštitúcie/Druge institucije/Muut toimeelimet/Andra institutioner/organ

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 ohra/Andere aanwezigen/Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Alți participanți/Iní účastníci/Druzi udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare

Adel Atieh, Palestine mission

Galit Peleg, Israel mission

Секретариат на политическите групи/Secretaría de los Grupos políticos/Sekretariát politických skupin/Gruppenes sekretariat/Sekretariat der Fraktionen/Fraktsioonide sekretariaat/Γραμματεία των Πολιτικών Ομάδων/Secretariats of political groups/Secrétariat des groupes politiques/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko grupu sekretariāts/Frakciju 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 sihteeristö/Gruppenas sekretariat

PPE-DE	E. Mitsopoulou
PSE	Zoltán Simon, Bruno Marasà
ALDE	Isabelle de Crayencour, Itziar Munoa
Verts/ALE	Paolo Bergamaschi
GUE/NGL	Majed Bamyà
IND/DEM	
UEN	Barbara Mazzotti
ITS	
NI	

<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/Kabinet van de Voorzitter/Gabinet Przewodniczącego/Gabinete do Presidente/Cabinet Preşedinte/Kancelária predsedu/Urad predsednika/Puhemiehen kabinetti/Talmannens kansli</p>	
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<p>Генерална дирекция/Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/Directorate-General/Direction générale/Direzione generale/Ģenerāldirektorāts/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/Direktorat Generali/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>Helmut Werner Djamila Chikhi., Stefan 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/Ausschussesekretariat/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/Sekretariat comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottssekretariatet</p>	

Hans-Hermann Kraus
Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Assisztens/Asistent/Pomočnik/ Avustaja/Assistenten
Vera Benito

- * (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Président/Priekšsēdētājs/Pirmininkas/
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