

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Delegation for relations with the Gulf States, including Yemen

DGUL_PV(2008)01-23

MINUTES of the meeting of 23 January 2008, from 15:00 to 16:00 BRUSSELS

The meeting opened at 15:10 on Wednesday, 23 January 2008, with Ms Gruber in the chair.

1. Adoption of draft agenda (PE 399.321)

The agenda was adopted.

2. Adoption of minutes of meeting on 17 December 2007 (PE 399.320)

The minutes were adopted.

3. Announcements by the Chair

The Chair informed the Members about the following:

➤ **Saudi Arabia:**

- President Sarkozy visited Saudi Arabia to sign 3 memorandums of understanding — two relating to training and rehabilitation, focusing on areas where Saudi youth could receive training in France. A third agreement focused on the energy sector.
- President Bush's visit to Saudi Arabia in the wake of President Sarkozy's visit calls for King Abdullah's support in the Middle East peace process. The president also asked the king to support his efforts to isolate Iran over its controversial nuclear programme. The Bush administration has notified Congress of its plans to sell \$123 million worth of sophisticated precision-guided bomb technology to Saudi Arabia

➤ **UAE**

- President Sarkozy signed a framework accord for cooperation in developing civilian nuclear energy - perhaps sending the message to Iran that rewards await nations that

respect international rules; France also signed with the UAE an agreement allowing it to permanently station troops in the Emirates.

➤ **YEMEN**

- Government soldiers and Shiite rebels are fighting again in northern Yemen, breaking a 6-month-old cease-fire with clashes that have killed more than 30 people. Yemen has struggled with a three-year insurgency that has killed thousands on both sides.
- President Saleh is very likely to be on an official visit to the EP on 31 January; a meeting with President Poettering is currently scheduled.

➤ **BAHRAIN**

- Protests on Monday, 17 December were staged by Shias demanding compensation for what they said were victims of human rights violations between 1980 and 1990. Security forces used teargas and rubber bullets to disperse demonstrators in Shia villages, leaving one protester dead and 41 people arrested. The Bahrain Centre of Human Rights has noted that most arrests were a violation of human rights and believes that the Government has taken advantage of the unrest to crackdown on activists that have been connected to public protests on economic and social rights as well as restrictions on freedom.
- King Hamad appointed his son, the Crown Prince, as deputy commander-in-chief of the army. The move cements the royal family's control of the armed forces, of which the king is the supreme commander. King Hamad also removed Sheikh Khalifa bin Ahmad al-Khalifa as defence minister.

➤ **KUWAIT**

- Kuwait's only female minister, Nouria Sbeih, survived a vote of no confidence in parliament. The education minister was accused of ignoring sex segregation laws at universities.

4. Exchange of views on the Interparliamentary meeting to be held in Oman (and possibly Qatar), 17 to 23 March 2008

This point was debated in presence of Ms NAWAL (Embassy of Qatar), Ms Al ZAKWANI (Embassy of Oman), Ms LLOMBART-CUSSACK (EC, DG RELEX) and M. DUCROQUET (French Permanent Representation) who gave their insights during the debate.

The Chair informed Members that the Conference of Presidents finally approved the draft programme for Delegation activities for 2008. This means that the D-Gulf authorisation now has the necessary authorisation to proceed with its mission to Oman in 17-22 March, possibly combining it to a short mission of the Bureau (which could include other MEPs, if interested), to Qatar on March 15-17.

More specifically, on the objectives of the mission, the Chair informed Members that:

- The last Interparliamentary meeting took place in 2002.
- Oman held elections to the Majlis al Shura on October 2007, widely considered as free

& fair.

- the following issues could be raised during the interparliamentary meetings:
 - (i) Women empowerment, as no female MPs were elected (possibility of quotas),
 - (ii) Oman's participation in the GCC from a commercial point of view, following the launch of the GCC Common Market on January 1st,
 - (iii) Oman's reluctance in GCC monetary integration - as the Kingdom has already stated it pulls out from the 2010 deadline for the block's planned single currency,
 - (iv) Oman's position on the GCC's possible enlargement to Yemen and its implications,
 - (v) Regional security: Israel / Palestinian dispute, but also Iran. Oman has maintained its support for a peaceful resolution to the dispute over Iran's nuclear programme, as tensions and pressure for greater sanctions are mounting; it should be borne in mind that Oman is one of the two countries controlling direct access to the strategic Straits of Hormuz, which could be closed in the event of regional conflict.

The following Members also spoke: PFLUGER, PURVIS, LOUIS; all agreed that a visit that would allow a field-trip to the straits of Hormuz would be appropriate due to their strategic location in terms of regional security. However, the following topics should not be neglected during the visit: universities, science and research, natural habitat, civil society aspects.

As to the mission to Qatar, Members agreed that apart from meetings with the Government - with a possible focus on energy-related aspects, an exchange of views should be organised with both networks of Al Jazeera (Arabic and International), which are based in Doha.

5. Any other business

No issues were raised under this point.

6. Date and place of the next meeting

As the next meeting should take place in Strasbourg prior to the IPM in Oman / Qatar, a specific authorisation will be needed; when obtained, the date and place of the meeting will be announced electronically.

The meeting closed at 15:50.

**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 PREZENÇÁ/
PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA**

Бюро/Mesa/Předsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/Biuras/Elnökség/ Prezydium/Birou/Předsednictvo/Předsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)		
Lilli Gruber (P)	Tobias Pflüger (VP)	Avril Doyle (VP)
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselők/ Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter		
Milan Gaľa, Patrick Louis		
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Supplenti/ Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantys nariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/Namestniki/ Varajäsenet/Suppleanter		
John Purvis		

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 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

По покана на председателя/Por invitación del presidente/Na pozváni 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 taç-'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/Kommissjoni/Commissie/Komisja/Comissão/Comisie/Komisia/Komissio/Kommissionen (*)

GROSS, LLOMBART

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

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/Dруги udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare

MARK, TOBVR - Bnai Brith International
DUCROQUET - RP France
VALASSOPOULOU - Greek Permanent Representation

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 sekretariai/Képviseletcsoportok titkársága/Segretariat gruppi politici/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secr. dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupin/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristö/Gruppenas sekretariat

PPE-DE	KRIETEMEYER
PSE	MUTAFCHIEVA
ALDE	
Verts/ALE	
GUE/NGL	
IND/DEM	
UEN	
ITS	
NI	

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	
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	
Генерална дирекция/Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/Directorate-General/Direction générale/Direzione generale/Generāldirektorāts/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/Direttorat Ġenerali/Direktoraten-generaal/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direcții Generale/Generálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni direktorat/Pääosasto/Generaldirektorat	
DG PRES DG IPOL DG EXPO DG INFO DG PERS DG IFIN DG TRED DG FINS	KRAUSS
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	
Секретариат на комисията/Secretaría de la comisión/Sekretariat 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/Sekretariat comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottssekretariatet	
KAMARIS	
Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Paġis/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asystent/Pomočník/Avustaja/Assistenten	
CARNAZZA	

- * (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Président/Priekšsēdētājs/Pirmininkas/Elnök/Chairman/Voorzitter/Przewodniczący/Preşedinte/Předseda/Predsednik/Puheenjohtaja/Ordförande
- (VP) = Заместник-председател/Vicepresidente/Mistopředseda/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/Membru/Lid/Członek/Membro/Membru/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/Urادnik/Virkamies/Tjänsteman