

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

*Delegation for relations with Australia and New Zealand*

DANZ\_PV(2008)1202-01

## MINUTES

of the meeting of 2 December 2008, from 17.30 to 18.30

BRUSSELS

**The meeting opened at 17.30 on Tuesday, 2 December 2008, with Mr. Timothy Kirkhope, in the chair.**

### **1. Adoption of the draft agenda (PE 414.664)**

The agenda was adopted without amendment.

### **2. Adoption of the draft minutes of the meeting on 11 September 2008 (PE 409.268)**

The minutes were approved without amendment.

### **3. Communication by the Chairman**

Mr. KIRKHOPE welcomed H.E. Dr. Alan Thomas, the Ambassador of Australia to the European Union, and H.E. Mr. Peter Kennedy, the Ambassador of New Zealand to the European Union, and their staff members who had accompanied them.

Mr. KIRKHOPE informed the members that there would be a drinks reception after the meeting, outside the meeting room.

Mr. KIRKHOPE announced that he would be standing down as Chair of the Delegation for relations with Australia and New Zealand as he had been elected leader of the British Conservatives in the European Parliament. He said that he would be replaced by Mr. Giles CHICHESTER. He added that he had enjoyed his short time as chair, and stressed the importance of good relations with Australia and New Zealand to the European Union. He relinquished the chair to Mr. Chichester.

Mr. CHICHESTER took over as chair, and thanked Mr. Kirkhope for his splendid conduct of

PV\757042EN.doc

PE414.692v01-00

chairing the delegation.

#### **4. Review of the New Zealand Parliamentary Elections**

Mr. KENNEDY, the New Zealand Ambassador, gave an overview of the parliamentary elections, held on 8 November 2008 in New Zealand. He said that the National Party had gained the largest number of seats in the elections. With three other parties with whom they shared a confidence and supply agreement, they had secured 69 out of 122 seats in the Parliament.

Mr. KENNEDY confirmed that Helen Clark had resigned from her position as leader of the Labour Party and that Phil Goff, who had been the Minister of Trade and Defence Minister, took over. He added that Annette King had taken over as deputy leader of the Labour party. He noted too that the former Foreign Minister, Winston Peters, and his party were now completely out of the Parliament.

Mr. KENNEDY said in terms of trade and economic policies, both of the major parties had acknowledged a high degree of bi-partisanship. He noted that the only notable difference was on climate change policy. On this front, he described how the Labour Party had been asked by the ACT Party to do away with the emissions trading scheme but had refused, saying they would only review the scheme.

Mr. KENNEDY noted that there had been much speculation that the new Speaker would be Dr Lockwood Smith, but said that this would not be confirmed until the Parliament sat on 8 December 2008.

Mr. CRAMER referred to the resignation of Helen Clark, and asked if Mr. Winston Peters of the New Zealand First Party had also resigned.

Mr. KENNEDY clarified that Helen Clark's resignation was a definite resignation from her post but that she was still a Member of Parliament. However, he explained that Mr. Peters had not resigned, but rather that his party did not gain the necessary minimum of 5% of votes to come into Parliament as a party, nor did he win a seat in Parliament, and so he had lost and was no longer a Member of Parliament.

Mr. CRAMER qualified that he had read that Winston Peters had resigned as leader of his Party.

Mr. KENNEDY noted that he did not follow party politics of parties that did not make it into the Parliament.

Mr. PARISH asked who the other coalition partners were.

Mr. KENNEDY noted that the coalition consisted of the National Party, described as a centre right party, with 58 seats, the ACT Party, known as a far right party, with five seats, the Maori Party, also with five seats, and the one person party, the United Future Party which got one seat. He noted that this gave the coalition 69 seats in opposition to the Labour coalitions full total of 52 seats, in conjunction with the Greens and another single member party.

Mr. TRIANTAPHYLLIDES asked if one could expect to see any great change with the new

government.

Mr. KENNEDY replied that one could expect to see very little change in terms of overseas policies, and that Climate Change, as he had already mentioned, was really the only area in which policy differed slightly. In terms of economic policy, both parties would have been faced with the financial crisis and there had been no dramatic difference in the way that either party had approached this issue.

Mr. CHICHESTER thanked Mr. KENNEDY for elaborating on the elections for the benefit of the delegation.

## **5. 2009 Calendar of delegation activity**

Mr. CHICHESTER said that if the current draft was approved, a trip to Australia would be allowed in February of 2009. He noted that this could only consist of 5 places, plus the chair.

Mr. CHICHESTER noted that there was a new government in Australia, so there was good reason to visit, and that it would be the fifth time that an EU delegation would travel during the course of this Parliament. He asked if members thought it would be wise to pursue the idea of sending a delegation, and if so said that invitations for members would be sent out, and members would then have to reply with a declaration of their interest.

Mr. THOMAS, the Australian Ambassador, noted that it had been a good year with the European Union, and that there had been some excellent meetings with a number of Commissioners. He added that a new framework agreement had been signed between the EU and Australia earlier in the year. He said that the new government had put much effort into EU-Australia relations, in endeavouring to broaden out the agenda and in setting up more of a partnership than an adversarial relationship in the agricultural area. He noted that 12 cabinet ministers and the Prime Minister had already visited Brussels this year, and that Australia would welcome a return visit by the EU. He added that the embassy would be happy to assist them in this.

Mr. CHICHESTER asked the committee what topics they thought they might pursue on such a delegation.

Mr. TAKKULA said that climate change, energy issues and education were all topics which could be explored on such a trip. He stressed that both Australia and New Zealand had very good schooling systems and that cooperation in that field would be an asset to the EU.

Mr. KIRKHOPE said that getting permission for these visits so close to the European Parliament elections was difficult enough, and that it would be a good thing if the delegation did look at longer term, broader issues, such as climate change, than specific EU matters that might become entangled because of the elections.

Mr. CHICHESTER reminded the committee that this was only a proposal and still had to be approved by the Conference of Presidents.

Mr. CRAMER noted that there were very close relations between Australia and the U.S. and added that since the new Australian government had come into power, Australia had ratified the Kyoto Protocol, something which Mr. Bush did not seem happy about. He noted that with

the election of Mr. Obama, Australia-U.S. relations might improve again. However, he noted that it was one thing to sign a document, another to fulfil it, but that Climate Change was an issue for Australia as well.

Mr. CRAMER also talked about energy, pointing out that Australia had lots of coal. He noted that the EU had had many discussions on power stations and nuclear energy, and asked what Australia thought about this. He asked if Australia would follow Climate Change policies, or policies that went against Climate Change, like coal.

Mr. THOMAS said that Climate Change was at the top of the new government's agenda, and that there would be an announcement on the 15 December on the new emissions trading scheme. He noted that shorter medium term targets included carbon capture and storage initiatives. He said that the government had announced that \$100 million (AUS) would be put towards the establishment of a new climate change institute, and that Australia was very keen to get more countries involved and more funding for this project. He stressed that Australia was serious about tackling the climate change problem.

On coal, Mr. THOMAS noted that Australia was the world's largest exporter, but that it needed to look at developing cleaner coal technologies and ways in which carbon emissions could be reduced. He added that there was already some degree of cooperation with German universities in this area. He noted that climate change would therefore be a fruitful topic for discussion should there be an EU delegation visit to Australia because it was a top priority for the new government.

Mr. KOTEREC said that he would like to support a delegation to Australia for the sake of continuity, because there was always a one year gap after the elections in delegations. He added that since a new agreement was signed, that it would be a good opportunity to go over strategy issues. He also supported talking about climate change and energy.

Mr. TRIANTAPHYLLIDES said that there were important global issues which should be discussed like immigration issues, especially with regard to human rights and labour markets, and that there would be plenty of issues to discuss. He therefore said that he also agreed to a visit.

Mr. CHICHESTER put forward that discussions on the financial and economic crisis would be pertinent. He wanted to know how Australia was tackling the crisis and trying to get out of the crisis, and said that this could be a good topic to discuss.

He added that the delegation should consider where they should visit outside of Canberra. He noted that they could discuss with Mr. Thomas where they could go that would fit in with their crucial topics of debate. He asked if the members could send out their thoughts about locations.

Mr. CRAMER asked when they would know for sure if there would be a delegation and who could go.

Mr. CHICHESTER said that in theory it would be decided at the next meeting at the Conference of Presidents at Strasbourg during the December session. He stressed that they would need to take a decision soon out of consideration for their hosts, because in Australia the summer was approaching and the Parliament would be winding down.

Mr. CRAMER asked how many people could go.

Mr. CHICHESTER repeated that there would be five places for members, plus the chair, so six in total. He added that if more than five members wanted to go, there would need to a formula for deciding places, based on such things as attendance, full membership versus substitute membership and political balance.

Mr. CHICHESTER thanked the ambassadors, and his colleagues for their participation.

**6. Any other business**

There was no other business.

**7. Date and place of next meeting**

The next delegation meeting is scheduled to take place on 11 February 2009 at 11.00.

**The meeting closed at 18.15.**

**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 PRESENÇAS/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/Predsednictvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
Giles Chichester (P), Timothy Kirkhope(P)
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselők/ Membri/Leden/Poslowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Michael Cramer, Klaus Hänsch, Miloš Koterec, James Nicholson, Mirosław Mariusz Piotrowski, Hannu Takkula
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Supplenti/ Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantys nariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/Namestniki/ Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
Zita Pleštinská, Paul Rübig, Kyriacos Triantaphyllides, Roberts Zile

178 (2)
Neil Parish
183 (3)
46 (6) (Точка от дневния ред/Punto del orden del día/Bod pořadu jednání (OJ)/Punkt på dagsordenen/Tagesordnungspunkt/Päevakorra punkt/Ημέρησια 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

<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/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</p>

<p>Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nðukogu/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>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>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</p>
<p>H.E. Dr Alan Thomas, Ambassador of Australia to the European Union</p> <p>H.E. Mr Peter Kennedy, Ambassador of New Zealand to the European Union</p> <p>Melissa O' Rourke, Piggott (Australian Embassy)</p> <p>Alison Pearman (Embassy of New Zealand)</p>
<p>Секретариат на политическите групи/Secretaría de los Grupos políticos/Sekretariát politických skupin/Gruppernes 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 sekretoriat/Képviseletcsoportok titkársága/Sekretarjat gruppi politici/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secr. dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupin/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristö/Gruppernas sekretariat</p>
<p>PPE-DE</p> <p>PSE</p> <p>ALDE</p> <p>Verts/ALE</p> <p>GUE/NGL</p> <p>IND/DEM</p> <p>UEN</p> <p>NI</p>

<p>Кабинет на председателя/Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelář předsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinett des Präsidenten/Presidendi kantselai/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>	
<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/Direction générale/Direzione generale/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 COMM DG PERS DG INLO DG TRAD DG INTE DG FINS DG ITEC</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/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/Secretariado da comissão/Sekretariat comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottssekretariatet</p>	
<p>Tim BODEN</p>	
<p>Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asystent/Pomočnik/Avustaja/Assistenten</p>	
<p>Emma MOLLET</p>	

- \* (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/Místopředseda/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/Functionar/Úradník/Uradnik/Virkamies/Tjänsteman