

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

DELEGATION TO THE EU-MOLDOVA PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

on

Monday 14th March 2005

17h30 - 18h30

BRUSSELS

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Annexe : attendance list

30 March 2005
TB/ah/em

The meeting opened at 17h30 with Mrs MIKKO, the Chair of the delegation.

1. The agenda of the meeting was adopted.
2. After opening the meeting with apologies for the lack of interpretation, Mrs. MIKKO gave the floor to Mr. DRUC, Minister Counsellor at the Moldovan Mission to the EU, for his statement.
3. Mr. DRUC then read his statement in which he made some general comments and read out the final results of the elections (Please find full statement attached).

He stated that the election represents a great event in the history of Moldova and that it reaffirms the commitment of Moldova to the democratic values and to the law-governed state, as a mandatory precondition for the integration of Moldova to the EU. He stressed that the elections confirmed the importance and attachment the people of Moldova show clearly for the European orientation, adding that this has been declared by the authorities as a strategic objective of the external and domestic policies.

Mr. DRUC made reference to outside "eastward" forces which caused "unprecedented foreign meddling in its domestic affairs performed in a brutal and cynical manner" before and during the elections.

After reading out the result, he stated that the Central Election Commission rejected a few complaints as unfounded. The Constitutional Court should validate the elections by 24 March 2005. Then, the Central Electoral Commission shall publish the final election results within 24 hours after receiving them from the Constitutional Court.

Mr. DRUC noted the record number of international observers, which "illustrated the importance and interest the international community manifests for the democratic process" in Moldova. He thanked the observers for their service.

He confirmed his regret that polling stations could not be open in Transnistria. The residents of the Transnistrian region, however, were able to vote in one of the nine regular polling stations situated alongside the right bank. An estimated 9000 voters from the east territory came to cast their ballots.

As for the problems cited by the OSCE and other observers, he expressed "their determination to consider seriously all recommendations made by observers, to learn lessons from this polling and to take all necessary action so that elections in the future could enjoy perfect conditions." Mr. DRUC noted that as part of the Moldova-EU Action Plan, Moldova was committed to fully implement the recommendations.

He also welcomed the OSCE proposal on the setting up of a Centre for promoting democracy in Moldova.

Mrs MIKKO thanked Mr. DRUC for his statement and passed the floor to Mr. DE LUZENBERGER to state the European Commission's position.

After specifying that the Commission fully supports the conclusions of the OSCE report, Mr. DE LUZENBERGER made a brief statement in which he underlined the continued Commission concerns about the rules governing the functioning and powers of the Moldovan Parliament.

He added that he thanked Mr. DRUC for his promises to address the concerns of the OSCE.

Mrs MIKKO then opened the meeting to questions:

Responding to the comments of Mr. DRUC, Mr. Jan Marinus WIERSWA (NL-PSE) posed the question as to the role of Russian influence in the election, to which Mr. DRUC replied that Russia is Moldova's largest trading partner and the Government is willing to and committed to work with Russia on all issues including Transnistria. But the attempt to influence the elections by supporting certain political parties was worrying.

Replying to a question by Robert EVANS (UK-PSE), on the possibility of new elections if no President was able to be confirmed, Mr. DRUC said that if new elections were needed, he believed that the Communists would win again, but he was optimistic that no new elections would be needed: He stated that it is likely that the five members still needed to elect the President would be found as a new election would be risky for most parties because of a lack of remaining funding. Discussions on the topic have already started.

He later added that if new elections were needed, that they would take every step possible to improve on the problems cited at the most recent elections.

Vice Chairman Jelko KACIN (SL-ALDE) then raised the concerns about voting abroad, including the problem of Moldovan students abroad voting. Mr. DRUC stated that voting stations were open in 23 countries.

For example, he cited Belgium, where the Mission estimates 15,000 Moldovan citizens live. On the polling day, only 110 citizens voted. He added that in Paris, the total was only 400. Therefore, in his opinion, the problem was not a question of access, but a question of lack of desire or fear in some cases as most Moldovans are living illegally abroad.

As for Romania, there was only one polling station in Bucharest, but sadly there were no resources for more. Local governments did, however, help out with get voters, including students, to the poll. These included three special trains from Cluj.

Mrs MIKKO then asked a question about the odds of a new election being necessary, to which said again that he is an optimist that it would not be needed.

Mrs. MIKKO then ended questions with her wish as well that no new elections will be needed.

4. Mr. MIKKO noted that she would be notifying the Committee on Foreign Affairs on Wednesday 16 March 2005 of the conclusions from the delegation's observer mission.
5. No date was yet set for the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 18h30.

**DELTAGERLISTE/ANWESENHEITSLISTE/ΚΑΤΑΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/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: (*) MIKKO (P), PODKANSKI (VP), KACIN (VP)
Anwesend	Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Μέλη/Members/Diputados/Députés/Deputati/Leden/Deputados/jäsenet/ ANDRIKIENE, MASTALKA, WIERSMA
Παρόντες	Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suplentes/Suppléants/ Membri supplenti/Plaatsvervangers/Membros suplentes/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter: EVANS, LAX
Present	
Presentes	
Présents	
Presenti	
Aanwezig	
Läsnä	
Närvarande	
Art. 147,7 /Art. 178.2	
Art. 166,3/ Art. 183.3	ZWIEFKA, PALECKIS
Art. 162.6 Endv. Deltog/Weitere Teiln./ Συμμετείχαν επίσης/Also present Participaron igualmente/ Participaient également/ Hanno partecipato altresì / 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/ Esityslista Kohta/Föredragningslista punkt):	

* (P) =Formand/Vorsitzender/Πρόεδρος/Chairman/Président/Presidente/Voorzitter/Presidente/Puhemies/Ordförande
(VP)=Næstform./Stellv. Vorsitz./Αντιπρόεδρος/Vice-Chairman/Vice-Président/Vicepresidente/Varapuhemies
Ondervoorz./Vice-Pres./Vicepres/Vice ordförande.

Til stede den/Anwesend am/Παρόν στις/Present on/Présent le/Presente il/Aanwezig op/Presente em/Presente el/Läsnä/Närvarande den.

- (1)
- (2)
- (3)

Efter indbydelse fra formanden/Auf Einladung d. Vorsitzenden/Με πρόσκληση του Προέδρου/At the invitation of the Chairman/Por invitación 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:

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

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

DE LUZENBERGER

Missions/Ambassades:

DRUC - SOLCAN

Andre deltagere/Andere Teilnehmer Επίσης Παρόντες/Also present Otros participantes/Autres participants/Altri partecipanti Andere aanwezigen/Outros participantes Muut osallistajat/Övriga deltagare		
Gruppernes sekretariat Sekretariat der Fraktionen Γραμματεία των Πολ. Ομάδων Secretariat political groups Secr. de los grupos politicos 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 IDM/DE MUEN NI	COX MYLONAS
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 VIII	DUCCI - EFTHYMIU
Udvalgssekretariatet Ausschußsekretariat Γραμματεία επιτροπής Committee secretariat Secretaria de la comisión Secrétariat de la commission Segretariato della commissione Commissiesecretariaat Secretaria de comissão Valiokunnan sihteeristö Utskottssekretariatet		BODEN, HILLMAN
Assist./Βοηθός		MOLLET

- * (P) =Formand/Pres./Πρόεδρος/Chairman/Président/Voorzitter/Puhemies/Ordförande
 (VP) =Næstform./Vize-Pres./Αντιπρόεδρος/Vice-Chairman/Vice-Président/Ondervoorz./Vice-pres/Varapuhemies/Vice ordförande.
 (M) =Medlem./Mitglied/Μέλος/Member/Miembro/Membre/Membro/Lid/Membro/Jäsen/Ledamot
 F) =Tjenestemand/Beamter/Υπάλληλος/Official/Funcionario/Fonctionnaire/Funzionario/Ambtenaar/
 Functionário/Virkamies/Tjänsteman