

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Delegation for relations with South Africa

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MINUTES

of the meeting of 4 December 2008, from 15.00 to 16.00

BRUSSELS

The meeting opened at 15.07 on Thursday, 4 December 2008, with Vittorio Prodi (Chairman) in the chair.

1. Adoption of the draft agenda

(PE414.667)

The draft agenda was agreed.

2. Announcements by the Chair

The Chair welcomed to the meeting:

- Ambassador SOOKLAL and his staff from the South African Embassy

- Ms Miriam BREWKA, from the European Commission DG Development; Ms BREWKA is the successor of M. Mark LEYSEN, who has not moved very far as he is now the desk officer for Botswana and Namibia. M. PRODI expressed his conviction that the Delegation would continue to benefit from the excellent cooperation always have enjoyed from the South Africa Desk of the DG Development.

M. PRODI further informed Members that an IPM (working group of 5 Members) is tentatively planned from 23rd to 27th February 2009. The other week dedicated to "external parliamentary activities" in the 1st semester falls from 6 to 10 April --- which is unrealistic given the proximity of the South African elections.

3. Adoption of the Report on the EP/South Africa IPM, 8 to 10 July 2008, in Strasbourg

The report was adopted without changes.

4. Exchange of views on the Bureau Visit to South Africa, 10 to 13 October 2008, Cape Town

The Chair informed Members that a short mission of the Bureau took place in early October in Cape Town.

This proved an excellent opportunity for the Bureau to be extremely thoroughly briefed in situ on the political situation in South Africa and the challenges faced by the country, during 2 ½ days of meetings. This allowed an exchange views with various think tanks, as the Institute for Justice and Reconciliation, the South African Institute for International Affairs, the Institute for Security Studies, IDASA, the Institute of Chinese Studies of the University of Stellenbosch; the issue of Climate Change was tackled during meetings with regional authorities. Many thanks are due to the European Commission Delegation, in particular Mr Andrea Rossi, which managed building an impressive programme in a short time.

This trip also coincided with the, now confirmed, split within the ANC party - and with the appearance of a new party led by former Defence Minister Mosiuoa Lekota following the resignation of President Thabo Mbeki and the swearing-in of M. Kgalema Motlanthe as caretaker President of the country. These were therefore very special times for South African politics.

Ambassador SOOKLAL stressed that South Africa enjoys a vibrant civil society, and was happy that President PRODI, during his first visit of the country, had a first hand opportunity to witness this. He further referred to the nascent EU/SA strategic partnership, reminding that the "the EU remains our foremost partner" and that the EU/SA summit organised during the French presidency at Bordeaux proved this.

Ambassador SOOKLAL recalled, however, the ambitious Final Declaration signed by both EP and SA delegations which called for the formal upgrading of EP/SA interparliamentary dialogue and the creation of a joint parliamentary committee which would ensure parliamentary oversight and expressed the hope that things would now start moving at a faster pace. Parliamentary oversight is necessary in order to properly implement the joint action plan.

The Ambassador further described in detail the latest political developments in South Africa, and in particular the situation *vis à vis* the launching of new political forces such as the "congress of the people": this should be seen as a healthy sign of a diverse democracy; while the date of the next general elections has still not been decided, they could take place between late March and early April.

M. GAHLER further took the floor to brief Members on the results of the official visit of President POETTERING in the region, whom he had accompanied in his capacity of President of the EP Delegation for relations with the Pan African Parliament. M. GAHLER also underlined that the dire (and worsening) situation in Zimbabwe had been discussed - and thanked Ambassador SOOKLAL for his "*mild wake up call*" on the need to formalise EP-SA parliamentary relations, as he agreed it was "*very important to maintain direct bilateral links with our strategic partners*".

From the European Commission, Ms BREWKA referred to a "*very fruitful year 2008 for EU/SA relations*", as the Bordeaux summit had been a landmark, giving a new impetus to political dialogue - "*a quality step forward*". Sectoral cooperation with SA is also taking place intensively, with many new themes being addressed: energy efficiency, renewable energy, migration issues, space policy, health, customs, statistics... Nonetheless, transport/air service agreements, as well as the ratification of the revision of the TDCA, remain outstanding issues. Likewise, trade is likely "*to continue to keep us busy*".

5. Any other business

No issues were raised.

6. Date and place of the next meeting

To 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 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 (*)
Vittorio Prodi(P)
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselek/ Membri/Leden/Poslowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Philip Bradbourn, Mihael Brejc
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Supplenti/ Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantys nariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/Namestniki/ Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
Maria Badia i Cutchet, Frieda Brepoels, Michael Gahler

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

<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>.Ms Brewka</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>Ambassador SOOKLAL (Embassy of South Africa), Ms Moleko, Mfenyana (Embassy of South Africa)</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/Fracijų sekretoriai/Képviseletcsoportok titkársága/Secretarjat gruppi politici/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secr. dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupin/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristöt/Gruppernas sekretariat</p>
<p>PPE-DE PSE ALDE Verts/ALE GUE/NGL IND/DEM UEN 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/Urząd 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/Ġeneralsekretära 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/Urząd 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>Philippe Kamaris</p>	
<p>Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asystent/Pomočnik/Avustaja/Assistenten</p>	
<p>Germana Carnazza</p>	

- * (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Président/Priekšsēdētājs/Pirmininkas/Elnök/Chairman/Voorzitter/Przewodniczący/Preşedinte/Předseda/Predsednik/Puheenjohtaja/Ordförande
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- (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/UrządNIK/Funcionário/Functionar/Úradník/Uradnik/Virkamies/Tjänsteman