

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND WATER

DRAFT MINUTES

of the meeting held in Rabat, Morocco
24 March 2012

1. Opening of the meeting

The **Chair** opened the meeting by welcoming all committee members.

2. Adoption of the draft agenda

The agenda of the meeting was adopted.

3. Adoption of the minutes of the meeting in Vienna on 5 December 2011

The minutes of the last meeting of the Committee on Energy, Environment and Water, held in Vienna on 5 December 2011, were adopted.

4. Presentation of the reports

- **Potential for biomass in the Mediterranean countries** (Co-rapporteurs Germany, Algeria, Malta, European Parliament)

After the presentation of the report the only amendment, and consequently the report, was adopted.

- **"Let's do it"** (Co-rapporteurs Austria, Estonia, Israel, Palestine)

Co-rapporteurs Ibrahim Abu Ayyash and Imre Sooäär gave short presentations of the report and MEP Radvile Morkunaite commented on her amendments, which were adopted, as well as the report.

The chair advocated efforts to preserve the cleanliness of the Mediterranean Sea – one had to think about the drinking water as well and to be in solidarity with regions facing water scarcity. He emphasized that waste water management was needed as well as creativity in finding ways to conserve drinking water. The use of renewable energies and the desalination of sea water were intertwined: wind and photovoltaic energy could contribute to the energy needed for the desalination plants. It was also necessary to mention that access to drinking water has become a human right. Therefore water management cannot be part only of the economic committee. The chair in this regard pointed to the fact that Egypt will become a

major challenge in the future.

Mr. Moez KAMOUNE of Tunisia informed the committee members that as a consequence of the revolution in Tunisia a parliamentary committee had been established whose aim was to review all legislation related to energy, including renewables. He gave a few examples and pointed to the fact that one could not talk about biomass without considering the heavy metals pollution of waste. Finally Mr. Kamoune said that European examples were not adequate for Arab countries.

The chair commented that renewable energies were good for democratic systems – much "black energy" (crude oil) detrimental to them ("oil countries").

MEP Ayala-Sender pointed to the fact that water was wasted in water poor countries as well (e.g. golf courses).

In his concluding statement chairman Schennach informed the committee members of his preparedness and his application to chair the Committee for Energy, Environment and Water for another two years.
