



PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

Committee on Political Affairs, Security and Human Rights

CoPo_PV(2013)1107

MINUTES

of the meeting of 7 November 2013, from 10.00 to 13.00 and from 15.00 to 18.00
Brussels

The meeting opened on Thursday, 7 November 2013 at 10.15 with Tokia Saïfi (Chair) in the chair.

1. Adoption of agenda

The agenda was adopted.

2. Approval of minutes of meeting of 11 April 2013 (Brussels)

The minutes were approved.

3. Chair's Announcements

The **Chair** welcomed Ms Gila Gamliel, Member of the Knesset, as a new Vice-Chair of the Political Affairs Committee, and thanked the outgoing Israeli Vice-Chair, Majali Whebee.

The **Chair** greeted members of the Bureaux of all the PA-UfM Committees.

The **Chair** stressed the success of the Maghreb-EU Young Leaders Forum held by the European Parliament in Brussels from 4-6 November. The Forum was one of the projects carried out by the Political Affairs Committee and approved at the last PA-UfM plenary.

She called upon the young leaders present to summarise the ideas for joint projects that had arisen from the Forum: an employability 'barometer' for the Maghreb countries, a network of entrepreneurs, a campaign to promote the idea of Maghreb integration, an initiative called 'Young people of the Maghreb' and a Maghreb research centre. The young leaders asked for support from Members in implementing these projects. A Middle East-EU Young Leaders Forum would be held in Brussels from 16-19 December.

4. Update on the UfM's activities with Allal Ouazzani, UfM Secretariat, Barcelona

Mr Ouazzani noted an intensification of the political process with an increase in the number of ministerial meetings and referred to a 5 +5 synergy meeting with the UfM. 2014 would see the adoption of an action plan. A meeting was scheduled with the European Economic and Social Council and the Mediterranean Economic and Social Councils on 11/12 November in Barcelona.

5. Refugees and the Syrian humanitarian crisis – exchange of views with: Dr Rola Hallam, signatory of the '#doctors4syria' campaign on humanitarian access Jaber Baker, Director GROUTH (Agency for Humanitarian Aid and Development)

Dr Hallam, a signatory of the '#doctors4syria' initiative, presented a damning report showing the rudimentary help given to victims by volunteer doctors: 'The world has abandoned Syria.' She launched an urgent appeal to end the humanitarian crisis with the same determination that had motivated the action against chemical weapons. A binding United Nations resolution on humanitarian access was essential.

Mr Baker, Director of the humanitarian NGO, GROUTH, one of the first young people to have demanded freedom in Syria, provided the following estimates: \$ 11 billion of damage to the economy, \$ 22 billion of damage to the energy sector, \$ 60 - \$ 70 billion of overall damage. Agriculture had virtually ground to a halt. Aleppo, an industrial city, had been almost destroyed. The tourist sector, which had previously been as important as oil, was at a standstill. He had doubts whether Syrians would be attending the Geneva II Conference. He considered that the focus on chemical weapons had obscured the real issues. He called for projects to reintegrate young armed men in civil society. One of the priorities was to rebuild Syrian institutions to provide education as a solution for the millions of young people who no longer went to school. It was not enough to open the doors of Europe to Syrian refugees, but they needed to be properly received, like the Iraqis had been. He also called for the liberated municipalities to be strengthened.

Members of the Jordanian delegation recalled the unbearable pressure on Jordan following the massive influx of 1.4 million refugees in Jordan and complained about the lack of international support in tackling this situation.

The debate focused on the how to resolve the tension between the need for urgent humanitarian action and a political solution. **Mr Panzeri** (EP) argued that it was impossible to separate the humanitarian tragedy from the war, which should first be brought to an end. He supported the idea of a new UN resolution, taking advantage of the Russian-American rapprochement over chemical weapons, but also involving President Assad and Iran. **Mr Belgacem** (Tunisia) said that it is necessary to separate the humanitarian aspect, which was a priority, from the political issues that could not be solved in the short term. **Mr Chiheb Seddik** (Algeria) said that a humanitarian approach alone would not provide a solution. Syrians had to be helped to solve the problem amongst themselves, while supporting the Geneva II Conference.

Several members supported the idea of a fact-finding visit by the PA-UfM to Syria. Taking the view that a humanitarian approach was restrictive, while acknowledging that it was a priority, Members called for a political process and supported the Geneva II Conference. They jointly requested a decent welcome for refugees in Europe and more assistance for neighbouring countries hosting Syrian refugees.

The debate resulted in a number of specific proposals from Members.

Mr Schennach (Austria, Chair of the Energy and Environment Commission) called on Morocco to send more female staff to the hospitals it managed and proposed measures to better protect women refugees from violence. He recalled the visit to the Al Zaatari refugee camp in Jordan by member of the enlarged Bureau and raised the problem of rape and multiple traumas. The UNHCR had left the camps to manage themselves: unlit toilets for women facilitated rape. A special camp for women was needed made secure by the international community. The impact on the environment was terrible, especially in terms of drinking water. A sewage system was needed. Only 50% of water needs were covered. He also highlighted the impact on Lebanon. The UfM had to send a fact-finding mission as it had to Gaza and the Jordan Valley. He remained sceptical about Geneva II: ‘those who come to Geneva will not all be connected to the warlords.’

Mr Aferiat (Morocco) proposed abolishing the UN veto on humanitarian material in order to create a buffer zone to prevent the disintegration of Syria. The Political Affairs Committee should call for an international day of solidarity with the Syrian people.

Mr Chaouiki (Italy, Chair of the Committee on Culture) would like to promote a humanitarian campaign in parliaments involving a hearing with the victims of the humanitarian crisis.

6. State of play regarding ongoing democratic transitions: overview with a delegation of Lebanese, Egyptian, Tunisian, Palestinian, Syrian and Moroccan members of the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND)

Discussions with civil society highlighted criticisms of the conditions attached to EU assistance, doubts about the beneficial effect of opening up trade under the new full and comprehensive free trade agreements and the importance of socio-economic rights and social justice. The debate with Members indicated that the idea of viewing civil society as an indispensable partner was now endorsed by all delegations.

Said Saadi (Morocco) emphasised the lack of Western sensitivity to the economic challenges facing the region, the drawbacks of neo-liberalism in the agreements for more far-reaching free trade, the risks of deregulating public and financial services and the need to place social justice at the heart of a new development model.

Heba Khalil (Egypt) called upon the EU to strengthen the internal dynamics to support an inclusive process and took note of the report of the European Court of Auditors on the use of EU funds in Egypt.

Mustafa Bouhaddou (Morocco) wished meetings to be held with civil society in the Moroccan parliament. The EU should disseminate its documents in French rather than in English and the Moroccan government should create a forum for debate with civil society.

7. Exchange of views on the relaunch of Israeli-Palestinian talks: prospect of peace?

The debate on the resumption of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians was marked by open scepticism and a glimmer of hope. The Palestinian side stressed that the continuation

of settlement-building was incompatible with the spirit of the negotiations.

Mr Abdullah (Palestine) insisted on the ‘vital importance’ of a PA-UfM delegation visiting Israeli prisons, given the critical state of health of 26 prisoners. He recalled that there had already been 19 negotiating sessions so far, but that negotiations had started from scratch again. He welcomed the EU’s guidelines on the settlements.

Ms Gamliel (Israel) invited Members of the Political Affairs Committee to visit Israel and not just its prisons. She indicated that the existence of two Palestinian governments complicated negotiations but that the dialogue should start again from the positive points. However she said she was optimistic and proposed that Israel should help its neighbours in agriculture, health and other sectors.

Mr Alawneh (Jordan) called for an agreement with a confederal solution. However, he stressed that Jordan should not become an alternative homeland for the Palestinians.

Ms Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou (EP) announced the presentation of the ‘Bethlehem Development Initiative’, a project to showcase the cultural and religious heritage of Bethlehem, on 17 December the European Parliament.

8. Any other business

None.

9. Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting would be held in Brussels on 23 January 2014.

The meeting closed at 17:35.

**ПРИСЪСТВЕН ЛИСТ/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/
ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/KATAΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/POPIS
NAZOČNÍH/LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU REĢISTRŠ/DALYVIŲ SAŖAŠAS/JELENĹETI
IV/ REĢISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŠCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/LISTĂ DE PREZENȚĂ/
PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LĂSNĂOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA**

Бюро/Mesa/Předsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Predsjedništvo/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/ Biuras/Elnökség/ Prezydium/Birou/Predsedníctvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
Tokia Saïfi (MEP); A. G. Gamliel (Vice-présidente, Israël); A. Abdullah (Palestine);
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Zastupnici/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/ Kérviseelők/ Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Pier Antonio Panzeri (MEP) ; S. Schennach (Autriche, Président de la Commission de l'Environnement de l'AP-UpM) ; C. Vienne (Belgique) ; A. Babič (Croatie) ; S. Sampson (Chypre) ; M. Mussini (Italie) ; R. Sargūnas (Lituanie) ; M. Benyounes, E. Laib, S. Chiheb, D. Madi (Algérie) ; M. Al-Hajouj, B. Alawneh (Jordanie) ; A. Zaidi, O. Moro, K. El Boukarai, A. Aferiat (Maroc) ; B. Quasem, Z. Sanduqa (Palestine) ; H. Belgacem (Tunisie) ; Z. K. Uslu (Turquie) ;
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Zamjenici/Suppléants/ Supplenti/Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantysnariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/ Namestniki/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
I. Sooäär (Estonie) ; D. Zverinova (Rép. Tchèque);

187 (2)	
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193 (3)	
Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou	
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/Τοčka dnevnog reda/Point OJ/Punto all'ordine del giorno/Darba kārtības punkts/Darbotvarkės punktas/ Napirendi pont/Punt Agenda/Agendapunt/Punkt porządku dziennego/Ponto OD/Punct de pe ordinea de zi/Bod programu schôdze/ Τοčka UL/Esityslistan kohta/Föredragningslista punkt)	
A. Ouazzani (Sec. UfM)	4
Dr. R. Hallam (#doctors4syria)	5
J. Baker (GROUTH)	5

Наблюдатели/Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaatlejad/Παρατηρητές/Observers/Promatrači/Observateurs/ Osservatori/Novērotāji/Stebėtojai/Megfigyelők/Osservatori/Waarnemers/Observatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelia/ Opazovalci/Tarkkailijat/Observatörer

A. Al-Ghizzawi (Sec. UfM) ; S. Keskitalo (Crisis Management Initiative); R. Noerens (Lebanon Parl. Rep. Office) ; B. Bourgel (Mission Israël); R. El-Kareh ; K. Hegozay (Mission Egypt); T. Nasria (Amb. Algérie); I. Abdelaziz (Amb. du Liban); F. AL-Moqbed (Mission Jordanie);

По покана на председателя/Par 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/Na poziv predsednika/Sur l'invitation du président/Su invito del presidente/Pēc priekšsēdētāja uzaicinājuma/Pirmininkui pakvietus/Az elnök meghívására/Fuq stedina tač-'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

M. Mulič, A. Hachichi (Commission FEMMES de l'AP-UpM); A. Erkoşkun (Président de la Commission ECONOMIQUE de l'AP-UpM); K. Chaouki (Président de la Commission CULTURE de l'AP-UpM);

Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND): Z. Abdul Samad, K. Mohamadieh, Z. Bazzi, H. Maalouf, A. Ziad, M. Abu Ramadan, M. Belal, H. Khalil, S. H. Jourchi, M. Saadi;

Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nōukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/Vijeće/Conseil/Consiglio/Padome/Taryba/Tanács/Kunsill/Raad/Conselho/Consiliu/Svet/Neuvosto/Rådet (*)

R. Garabello

Комисия/Comisión/Komise/Kommissionen/Kommission/Euroopa Komisjon/Επιτροπή/Commission/Commissione/Komisija/Bizottság/Kummissjoni/Commissie/Komisja/Comissão/Comisie/Komisja/Komissio/Kommissionen (*)

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Европейска служба за външна дейност/Evropská služba pro vnější činnost/EU-Udenrigstjenesten/Europäischer Auswärtiger Dienst/Euroopa välisteenistus/Ευρωπαϊκή Υπηρεσία Εξωτερικής Δράσης/European External Action service/Servicio Europeo de Acción Exterior/Evropska služba za vanjsko djelovanje/Service européen pour l'action extérieure/Servizio europeo per l'azione esterna/Eiropas Ārējās darbības dienests/Europos išorės veiksmų tarnyba/Európai Külügyi Szolgálat/Servizz Ewropew għall-Azzjoni Esterna/Europese dienst voor extern optreden/Europejska Służba Działañ Zewnętrznych/Serviço Europeu para a Acção Externa/Serviciul european pentru acțiune externă/Európska služba pre vonkajšiu činnost/Evropska služba za zunanje delovanje/Euroopan ulkosuhdehallinto/Europeiska avdelningen för yttre åtgärd (*)

J. Kendermay, N. Levine

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/Istituzjonijiet oħra/Andere instellingen/Inne instytucje/Outras Instituições/Alte instituții/Iné inštitúcie/Druge institucije/Muut toimielimet/Andra institutioner/organ

CESE

P. Narro, J. Moreno

Други учасници/Otros participantes/Ostatní účastníci/Endvidere deltog/Andere Teilnehmer/Muud osalejad/Επίσης Παρόντες/Other participants/Drugi sudionici/Autres participants/Altri partecipanti/Citi klātesošie/Kiti dalyviai/Más résztvevők/Partecipanti ohra/Andere aanwezigen/ Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Alți participanți/Iní účastníci/Drugi udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare

W. Kaabi, F. Oukacha, A. Sawalem, I. Kherigi (Young Leaders Forum Maghreb)

F. Hugot (Sénat France) ; I. Leal (Parlement portugais) ; K. Zouheir, K. Benhallal (Maroc); H. Hawamdeh (House of Rep. Jordanie); A. Ibrahim (Egypte) ; O. Hamayel (Palestine) ;

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/Tajništva klubova zastupnika/Sekretariat des groupes politiques/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko grupu sekretariāts/Frakciju sekretoriai/Képviseletcsoportok titkársága/Sekretarjat gruppi politici/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secr. dos grupos políticos/Sekretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupin/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristöt/Gruppernas sekretariat

PPE	J. Soutullo, V. Millan de Silva
S&D	J.-F. Vallin
ALDE	I. Munoa
ECR	-
Verts/ALE	--
GUE/NGL	-
EFD	-
NI	-

Кабинет на председателя/Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelář předsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinett des Präsidenten/Presidendi kantselei/Γραφείο Προέδρου/President's Office/Ured predsednika/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 Președinte/Kancelária predsedu/Urad predsednika/Puhemiehen kabinetti/Talmanens kansli

D. Chikhi

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DG PRES	-
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DG PERS	-
DG INLO	-
DG TRAD	-
DG INTE	-
DG FINS	-
DG ITEC	-
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Секретариат на комисията/Secretaría de la comisión/Sekretariát výboru/Udvalgssekretariatet/Ausschusssekretariat/Komisjoni sekretariaat/Γραμματεία επιτροπής/Committee secretariat/Tajništvo odbora/Secrétariat de la commission/Segreteria della commissione/Komitejas sekretariāts/Komiteto sekretoriatas/A bizottság titkársága/Sekretarjat tal-kumitat/Commissiesecretariaat/ Sekretariat komišji/ Secretariado da comissão/Sekretariat comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottssekretariatet	
S. Krauss	
Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asyistent/Pomočnik/ Avustaja/Assistenten	
F. Haiml	

- * (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Predsjednik/Président/
Priekšsēdētājs/Pirmininkas/Elnök/Chairman/Voorzitter/Przewodniczący/Preşedinte/Predsa/Predsednik/Puheenjohtaja/
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Ondervoorzitter/Wiceprzewodniczący/Vice-Presidente/Vicepreşedinte/Podpredsa/Podpredsednik/Varapuheenjohtaja/
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Funcionario/Ierēdnis/Pareigūnas/Tisztviselő/Ufficjal/Ambtenaar/Urządник/Funcionário/Funcionar/Úradník/Uradnik/Virkamies/
Tjänsteman