



# PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY UNION FOR THE MEDITERRANEAN

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*Committee on Political Affairs, Security and Human Rights*

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**CoPo\_PV(2013)0620**

## **MINUTES**

of the meeting of 20 June 2013, from 10.30 to 13.00 and from 15.00 to 17.00  
Brussels

The meeting opened on Thursday, 20 June 2013 at 10.45, with Tokia Saïfi (Chair) in the chair.

### **1. Adoption of the 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** decided to observe a minute's silence as a token of respect to mark the death of Mr Abu Ayyash, Vice-Chair of the Committee on Energy, Environment and Water.

The **Chair** welcomed the new Jordanian Secretary-General of the PA-UfM, Ms Alla Al-Ghizzawi, and thanked the outgoing SG, Mr François Nègre.

After a short debate, the Commission adopted the 2013/2014 theme: 'Asset recovery by Arab Spring countries in transition and the fight against corruption.'

The **Chair** announced the postponement of the seminar for Arab women parliamentarians scheduled in cooperation with UNDP for September. She called upon members to suggest candidates for the forum for young leaders from the Maghreb to be organised by the EP in the autumn.

Given the absence of Mr Manfredo Fanti (EEAS) and the Tunisian members, the Committee would only discuss the situation in Egypt.

#### **4. Preparation for the elections in Egypt: update with • Vassilis Bontosoglou, of the EU External Action Service**

**Mr Bontosoglou** highlighted the problems encountered in the transition to democracy in Egypt, especially after the dubious constitutional process in 2012. He emphasised the recurring dispute between the presidency and the judiciary, as illustrated by the standoff over the drafting of the electoral law. The administrative tribunal's decision was thus opposed to the draft supported by President Morsi. The latter had failed to include the suggestions about a quota for women and Copts, or a ban on changing parties after the elections. The recent cabinet reshuffle had, moreover, strengthened the Muslim Brotherhood. The new law on NGOs and their funding had also contributed to increased tension. Finally, the political climate had generally been dominated by a lack of trust and by internal divisions. Mr Bontosoglou saw little prospect of holding elections rapidly.

**Mr El-Erian**, Vice-President of the Freedom and Justice Party (Muslim Brotherhood) and Member of the Shura Council, said that objections to the draft constitution were purely political in nature and were not hostile to the text itself. He recalled that it had been adopted by referendum with 64% of votes in favour. However, he acknowledged the existence of a division in Egyptian society, while giving a positive assessment and expressing confidence in the ability of the Egyptian people to overcome the current difficulties. Mr El-Erian took the opportunity to reaffirm the full sovereignty of the Egyptian people. The elections would be held in October or November. Asked about the recent convictions of NGO representatives, he maintained that the judiciary was independent and that there was a possibility of appealing. Furthermore, the new law on NGOs would require the transparency of any foreign funding and respect for public safety. He justified this new law by pointing to the amounts of money involved. In terms of human rights, the main concern of the Egyptians was the lack of security, particularly related to the impunity of former Mubarak supporters, acting with arms from Libya and other covert means. He concluded with a warning against any foreign intervention, the root cause of the security problems in the region.

Asked by the **Chair** about the ineffectiveness of EU aid to Egypt which had been criticised in the recent Court of Auditors report, **Mr Bontosoglou** admitted that progress had been slow, but considered that the specific context of Egypt had not been sufficiently taken into account and that criticism of EU action was premature. HR Ashton and Commissioner Füle would be responding shortly, notably in a letter to the EP.

The debate revolved around the role of civil society in Egypt, the pace of democratisation and the need to take seriously the criticism made by the Court of Auditors (Mr Zeribi, EP).

Members of the Jordanian delegation spoke in support of their Egyptian counterpart, pointing out that the government had been democratically elected. While accepting the concerns of the EU, they rejected any interference and defended the principle of popular self-determination. The transition to democracy would take time.

The Palestinian members noted the importance of the transitions underway in Egypt and Tunisia for the future of Arab democracies. They called upon the Committee to assume its political role and consider the Palestinian cause as essential when examining the state of democracy in the Arab countries.

## **5. Possible solutions to the Syrian crisis. Exchange of views with**

- **Vassilis Bontosoglou, EU External Action Service**
- **Selim Yenel, Turkish Ambassador to the EU**

**Mr Yenel** began by pointing out that the situation in Turkey could not be compared to the events in the region. On the contrary, it was simply democracy at work. On Syria, the Turkish Ambassador was sceptical about the possibility of a quick fix: 'the survival of the dictatorship is a possible scenario.' As for the chances of holding the Geneva II Conference, he stressed that the opposition was still too divided and that its legitimacy and commitment to democracy were uncertain. He added that the system enjoyed strong diplomatic support. He welcomed the EU's decision to lift the embargo which showed the opposition that it was not alone, but he hoped above all that the Security Council would act. While aware that Jordan and Lebanon were under more pressure in terms of refugees, he said that Turkey also needed help.

**Mr Bontosoglou** regretted both the lack of prospects for a solution to the conflict and its regional implications. He noted that the war was now completely disconnected from the reasons for the initial demonstrations in 2011. He noted that the alliance around the Syrian regime was becoming consolidated. The EU had provided EUR 850 million in aid since the beginning of the crisis and remained committed to a political solution. US-Russian convergence and President Morsi's initiative augured well for the prospects of Geneva II.

The discussion highlighted in particular the impact of refugees on neighbouring countries, of which Jordan was the most affected, the role of Egypt and the problem of fundamentalists infiltrated into Syria. Members of the delegations called on the EU to increase support for countries affected by conflict.

## **6. The 5+5 initiative and the UfM: areas for collaboration. Exchange of views with**

- **Allal Ouazzani of the UfM Secretariat**

**Mr Ouazzani** took stock of the activities of the Secretariat of the UfM, noting that the Southern countries had become more involved. He explained existing synergies between the UfM and the 5 +5 framework whose projects could be approved and supported by the Secretariat of the UfM. He also noted the continuing visits of national parliamentarians to Barcelona and called upon members of the PA-UfM to continue to support the Secretariat which he considered essential.

## **7. Asset recovery by Arab Spring countries in transition**

- **Pekka Hakala, European Parliament, DG EXPO Policy Department**

On the issue of asset recovery, the **Chair** outlined the EP resolution adopted in May 2012 which she had been involved in drafting. **Mr Hakala** recalled the legal and procedural complexities of asset recovery. He called for a pragmatic approach, facilitating legal procedures and strengthening the expertise of the countries concerned for successful litigation.

**Mr El-Erian** expressed his frustration at the lack of progress in this area, and a Moroccan member called for a Euro-Arab debate on the issue.

## **8. Other business**

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## **9. Date and place of next meeting**

The next meeting would be held on 24 September.  
The meeting closed at 16.00.

**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 SAŪAŠAS/JELENLÉTI ÍV/  
REĢISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŠCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/LISTÁ DE PREZENȚĂ/  
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 (*)
Tokia Saïfi
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselek/ Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Raimon Obiols, Pier Antonio Panzeri, Karim Zéribi (EP); S. Schennach (Autriche), C. Vienne (Belgique), M. Mussini (Italie), K. Serzants (Lettonie), V. Galea (Malte), U. Nilsson (Suède), M. A. Benyounes, D. Madi, E. H. Laib (Algérie), E. El-Eryan (Egypte), M. Al-Hjouj, B. Alawneh (Jordanie), A. Zaidi, O. Moro, A. Aferiat, K. El Boukarai (Maroc), T. Qubaa, J. Abuznaid (Palestine), Z. K. Uslu (Turquie)
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Supplenti/ Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantys nariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleantți/Náhradníci/Namestniki/ Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
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187 (2)	
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193 (3)	
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49 (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/Darbotvarkés punktas/ Napirendi pont/Punt fuq l-aġenda/Agendapunt/Punkt porządku dziennego/Ponto OD/Punct de pe ordinea de zi/Bod programu schôdze/ Točka UL/Esityslistan kohta/Föredragningslista punkt)	
V. Bontosoglou (EEAS)	3
S. Yenel (Ambassadeur de la Rép. turque auprès de l'UE)	4
A. Ouazzani (UfM)	5
P. Hakala (DG EXPO, OPPD)	6

Наблюдатели/Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatörer/Beobachter/Vaatlejad/Παρατηρητές/Observers/Observateurs/Osservatori/ Novērotāji/Stebėtojai/Megfigyelők/Osservatori/Waarnemers/Observatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelia/Opazovalci/ Tarkkailijat/Observatörer
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R. EL-Kareh, O. Zykova (Mission Russie), A. Issa (Amb. Liban), F. Al-Moqbel (Amb. Jordan), R. Noerens, K. Kunger (Rép. Permanente Turquie), H. Hawamdeh (Parlement jordanien), K. Minko (Parlement lettone), K. Benhellal, G. Segal (Mission Israël), A. Ibrahim (Egypte), S. Herrog (Mission Maroc)

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 tal-President/Op uitnodiging van de voorzitter/Na zaproszenie Przewodniczącego/A convite do Presidente/La invitația președintelui/Na pozvanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan

A. Al-Ghizzani (Sec. général AP-UpM)

Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nõukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/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/Komisia/Komissio/Kommissionen (\*)

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Европейска служба за външна дейност/Европскá služba pro vnější činnost/EU-Udenrigstjenesten/Europäischer Auswärtiger Dienst/Euroopa välisteenistus/Ευρωπαϊκή Υπηρεσία Εξωτερικής Δράσης/European External Action service/Servicio Europeo de Acción Exterior/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 Działań 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 (\*)

N. Levine, B. Haddad

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

J. Moreno

EESC

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/Altji participantġi/Iní účastníci/Drugi udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare

F. Nègre (Secrétariat AP-UpM)

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 sekretoriari/Képviselőcsoportok titkársága/Segretariat grupi politici/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secr. dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupín/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristö/Gruppernas sekretariat

PPE	V. Millán de Silva, J. Soutullo, V. Chao
S&D	J.-F. Vallin, O. Pozzobon
ALDE	I. Munoa Salverria
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/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

E. Lepers

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/Ģenerālsekretāra 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

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Γενерална дирекция/Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/ Directorate-General/Direction générale/Direzione generale/Generaldirektorāts/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/Direktorat Ġenerali/Direktoraten-generaal/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direcții Generale/Generálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni direktorat/ Pääosasto/Generaldirektorat	
DG PRES	-
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Секретариат на комисията/Secretaría de la comisión/Sekretariát výboru/Udvalgssekretariatet/Ausschusssekretariat/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/Secretariat comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottssekretariatet	
S. Krauss	
Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Paliģs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asyistent/Pomočnik/ Avustaja/Assistenten	
F. Haiml	

- \* (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Président/Priekšsēdētājs/Pirmininkas/  
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