

MINUTES OF THE SITTING OF THURSDAY, 27 NOVEMBER 2008

(2008/C .../..)

(The sitting opened at 9.20 a.m.)

IN THE CHAIR: Mrs Glenys Kinnock

Co-President

1. Statement by the Co-President on the terrorist attacks in Mumbai, India

Speakers: Co-President Kinnock, Bowis, Gill and Baldeh (Gambia).

It was decided that the Co-Presidents will address a letter of condolences to the Indian authorities.

2. Statement by Mr Louis Michel, Member of the Commission with responsibility for development and humanitarian aid

Commissioner Michel made a statement on behalf of the Commission.

3. Question Time to the Commission

Altogether 17 questions were put to the Commission.

The Commission had previously replied to the questions in writing and Mr Michel gave oral replies to the supplementary questions by the following authors:

Question 1 by Mr O. Schmidt on the effects of the financial crisis on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs).

Question 2 by Mr Assarid (Mali) on official development assistance.

Question 3 by Mr Tapsoba (Burkina Faso) on the financial crisis.

Question 6 by Mrs Van Lancker on the mid-term review of the Country Strategy Papers (CSPs) for the 10th European Development Fund (EDF).

Question 8 by Mr Van Hecke on the credibility of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Question 10 by Mr Hutchinson on decent work.

Question 12 by Mr Bowis on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Question 14 by Mrs Aubert on natural resources.

Question 4 by Mr Leinen on the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) and civil society.

Question 5 by Mr Ford on the full Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with Fiji and Papua New Guinea.

Question 16 by Mr William (Seychelles) on the funding for the Centre for the Development of Enterprise (CDE).

Question 9 by Mrs Gomes on human rights violations in Angola.

Question 15 by Mrs Neris on European aid following the natural disasters in Haiti.

The authors of questions 13 – Mrs Carlotti represented by Mr Hutchinson – and 17 – Mr Jardim Fernandes represented by Mrs Gomes – had no supplementary questions.

The authors of questions 11 and 7 were not present.

4. Action taken by the Commission on the resolutions adopted at the 15th session of the ACP -EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, held in Ljubljana (Slovenia)

Commissioner Michel referred to the document that had been distributed detailing the follow-up by the Commission to the resolutions adopted in Ljubljana (Slovenia).

**5. The situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo
Statement by Mr Louis Michel, Member of the Commission with responsibility for development and humanitarian aid**

Debate (without resolution)

Commissioner Michel made a statement on behalf of the Commission.

Speakers: Co-President Kinnock, De Sousa (Angola), Hutchinson, Bounkoulou (Republic of Congo), Polisi (Rwanda), Aubert, Milupi (Zambia), Schröder, Sithole (Mozambique), Van Hecke, Atim-Ogwal (Uganda), Gomes, Danata (Cameroon) and Enguda Litumba (Democratic Republic of Congo).

Commissioner Michel replied to questions.

6. Debate with the Commission

Speakers: Audy, Derpaalsing (Mauritius), Martínez Martínez, Jimenez (Dominican Republic), Gahler, Holland (Zimbabwe), Cashman and Jacinthe (Haiti).

Commissioner Michel replied to questions.

The last one by Mr Baldeh (Gambia) on per diems for ACP Members, gave rise to a statement by Commissioner Michel explaining that the ACP Secretariat has the responsibility for budgetary management for ACP Members.

7. Report on the protection of civilians during peace-keeping operations by the UN and regional organisations
Co-rapporteurs: Dr Komi Selom Klassou (Togo) and Mr Johan Van Hecke

Committee on Political Affairs

Mr Klassou (Togo) and Mr Van Hecke presented their report.

Speakers: Kaczmarek, Mustafa (Sudan), Gomes, Enguda Litumba (Democratic Republic of Congo), Ali (Ethiopia), Aubert, Ramotar (Guyana), Zimmer, Zwiefka and Baum (European Commission).

Mr Klassou (Togo) and Mr Van Hecke wound up the debate.

(The sitting closed at 1.05 p.m.)

Wilkie RASMUSSEN and
Glenys KINNOCK

Co-Presidents

Sir John KAPUTIN and
Dietmar NICKEL

Co-Secretaries-General