

**MINUTES OF THE SITTING OF THURSDAY AFTERNOON, 27 NOVEMBER
2008**

(The sitting opened at 3.25 p.m.)

IN THE CHAIR: Mr Wilkie Rasmussen

Co-President

Substitutes

The Co-President announced the following substitutes: Audy (for Coelho), Budreikaitė (for Busk), Czarnecki (for de Villiers), Ford (for Arif), Gill (for Gröner), Goebbels (for Bullmann), Hutchinson (for McAvan), Jäätteenmäki (for Morillon), Lavarra (for Zani), Leinen (for Jöns), Maldeikis (for Louis), Martin D. (for Fraile Cantón), Neris (for Ferreira E.), Olajos (for Mitchell), Pomés Ruiz (for López-Istúriz White), Sornosa Martínez (for Scheele), Sudre (for Gaubert) and Zwiefka (for Záborská).

Co-President's announcements

The Co-President announced that following the statement of Mr Michel (Commissioner for Development Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid, European Commission) in the morning on the issue of per diem allowance for the ACP members, he was mandated by the ACP group to send a letter to him, the outcome of which would be announced at the next meeting of the Bureau.

The Co-President reminded the Members that the Bureau had issued a declaration, already distributed, regretting the absence of the President-in-Office of the European Union Council from the session of the Joint Parliamentary Assembly.

1. Statement by Hon. Lucien Marie-Noël Bembamba, Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs (Burkina Faso), President-in-Office of the ACP Council

Mr Bembamba made a statement on behalf of ACP Council.

2. Statement by Former Minister delegate for Cooperation and Francophony, Mr Pierre-André Wiltzer, representing the President-in-Office of the EU Council

Mr Wiltzer made a statement on behalf of the EU Council.

3. Question Time to the Council

One question had been put to the ACP Council.

Mr Bembamba answered the following question.

Question No 1 by Mr William (Seychelles) on fisheries.

Fifteen questions had been put to the EU Council.

Mr Wiltzer answered the following questions and supplementary questions, some of which were also answered by Mr Bembamba.

Question No 5 by Mr Tapsoba (Burkina Faso) on the financial crisis.

Question No 6 by Mrs Van Lancker (for Mrs Carlotti) on the Programming of the intra-ACP budget within the 10th EDF.

Question No 7 by Mr Agnoletto on access to essential medicines.

Question No 14 by Mr Schmidt on Dawit Isaak in Eritrea.

Question No 15 by Mrs Gomes on human rights violations in Angola.

Question No 9 by Mr Bowis on UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The following questions were not followed by supplementary questions :

Question No 2 by Mr Van Hecke on the global financial crisis and question 3 by Mr Leinen on the Financial crisis.

Question No 4 by Mr Assarid (Mali) on Official Development Assistance.

Question No 12 by Mrs Van Lancker on funding for family planning, basic reproductive health services and research.

Question No 8 by Mrs Neris on regional cooperation in response to the natural disasters in Haiti.

Question No 16 by Mrs Gomez (for Mr Jardim Fernandes) on EU-Zimbabwe relations.

Question No 10 by Mrs Aubert on natural resources.

Question No 13 by Mr William (Seychelles) on the United Nations Parliamentary Assembly.

4. Debate with the Council

Speakers : Naib (Eritrea), Sudre, Veneto, Milebou (Gabon), William (Seychelles), Assarid (Mali), Bembamba (ACP Council) and Wiltzer (EU Council).

5. Climate Change - impact on small island nations

Speakers : Mr Saulei (Center for Post Graduate Studies of the University of PNG), Mr Yausause (Climate Change Office, Ministry of the Environment, PNG), Bowis, Bounkoulou (Republic of Congo), Cashman, Baldeh (Gambia), Jouye de Grandmaison, Ramotar (Guyana), Rosati, Assarid (Mali), Jaatteenmaki, William (Seychelles) and Sabatucci (European Commission).

6. Presentation by European Economic and Social Committee and regional civil society representatives

Speakers : Jahier (EESC ACP follow-up committee) and Anthony (EESC ACP follow-up committee and Fiji trade unions).

7. Country and Regional Strategy Papers for the 10th EDF.

Speakers : Baum (European Commission), Lahai (Sierra Leone), Assarid (Mali), Kombo (Kenya), Danata (Cameroun), Thomas (Saint Kitts and Nevis), Tapsoba (Burkina Faso) and William (Seychelles).

(The sitting closed at 7.07 p.m.)

Wilkie RASMUSSEN and
Glenys KINNOCK

Co-Presidents

Sir John KAPUTIN
and Dietmar NICKEL

Co-Secretaries-General