

MINUTES OF THE SITTING OF WEDNESDAY, 26 NOVEMBER 2008

(2008/C .../..)

(The sitting opened at 9.30 a.m.)

IN THE CHAIR: Mr Wilkie Rasmussen

Co-President

1. 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), Jätteenmäki (for Morillon), Lavarra (for Zani), Leinen (for Jöns), Maldeikis (for Louis), Martin D. (for Fraile Cantón), Neris (for Ferreira E.), Olajos (for Mitchell), Sudre (for Gaubert), Zwiefka (for Záborská).

2. Port Moresby Declaration on the current global crisis: debate

The Co-President introduced the subject.

Speakers: Boto (Technical Centre for Agricultural and Rural Cooperation), Dombrovskis, Martens, Toga (Ethiopia), Neris, Kamar (Kenya), Hutchinson, Baldeh (Gambia), Bowis, Ramotar (Guyana), Olajos, Assarid (Mali), Gomes, Deerpalsing (Mauritius), Jouye de Grandmaison, Alma (Niger), Aubert, Jean Marie (St Lucia), Goebbels, William (Seychelles), Ford, Roithova and Baum (European Commission).

3. Urgent Topic No 1: The Situation in Mauritania

Speakers: Audy, Bounkoulou (Republic of Congo), Toga (Ethiopia), Hutchinson, Baldeh (Gambia), Assarid (Mali), Jouye de Grandmaison, Alma (Niger), Mauro, Straker (St Vincent & the Grenadines), Lehideux, Guelaye (Mauritania) and Baum (European Commission).

Mr Mauro suggested that a JPA Bureau meeting might be held in Mauritania. The Co-President said this would be brought to the attention of the Bureau.

4. Urgent topic No 2: The situation in Zimbabwe

Speakers: Gahler, de Sousa (Angola), Bounkoulou (Republic of Congo), Gomes, Ribeiro e Castro, Grabowska, Assarid (Mali), Kaczmarek, Alma (Niger), Zimmer, Straker (St Vincent & the Grenadines), Dillen, Deng Dekuek (Sudan), Schmidt O., Chidakwa (Zimbabwe), Holland (Zimbabwe) and Baum (European Commission).

5. Economic Partnership Agreements - state of play: debate without resolution

The Co-President introduced the subject.

Speakers: Thompson (European Commission), Gosselin (Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat), Schröder, Danata (Cameroun), Toga (Ethiopia), Hutchinson, Kamar (Kenya), Lahai (Sierra Leone), Ford, Agnoletto, Deerpalsing (Mauritius), Mushelenga (Namibia), Audy, Alma (Niger), Abdullahi (Nigeria), Ribeiro e Castro, Polisi (Rwanda), Martin D., William (Seychelles), Mugambe (Uganda) and Milupi (Zambia).

Mr Thompson (European Commission) responded to the questions raised.

In a point of order, Mr Audy noted that he found the declaration concerning the absence of the President-in-Office of the European Union Council at the JPA inaccurate and inquired about the status of the document. The Co-President clarified that this was a Bureau document.

The Co-President announced that in addition to the three workshops already announced, and at the request of Members, two further excursions had been organised on Wednesday afternoon to Hiri East and Hiri West regions.

The Co-President drew the attention of Members to the case of Hon. Hans Joachim Keil, Member of Parliament, Associate Minister of Samoa and Pacific ACP Lead Ministerial Spokesperson for EPA negotiations, who had been arrested in the United States in September 2008, on immigration charges, now released on bail.

(The sitting adjourned at 1.30 p.m.)

Wilkie RASMUSSEN and
Glenys KINNOCK

Co-Presidents

Sir John KAPUTIN and
Dietmar NICKEL

Co-Secretaries-General