

ACP-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Committee on Political Affairs

MINUTES

of the meeting on Wednesday, 22 February 2006 and Thursday, 23 February 2006

Room C, ACP House
451 Avenue Georges-Henri, Brussels

BRUSSELS

Mr Callanan, EU Co-Chairperson, opened the meeting at 15.20 on Wednesday, 22 February 2006.

I. Election of the ACP Co-Chairperson and the two ACP Co-Vice-Chairpersons

On the proposal of the ACP-side, the committee elected the following members, by acclamation, as ACP Co-Chairperson and ACP Co-Vice-Chairpersons:

Mr Nduwimana (Burundi)	Co-Chairperson
Mr Lutundula (DRC)	1 st Vice-Chairperson
Mr Prescott (Barbados)	2 nd Vice-Chairperson

Speakers: Nabuka (Fiji) and Lutundula (DRC)

II. Ordinary meeting

1. Adoption of the draft agenda (APP/3849)

Decision: The draft agenda was adopted in the form in which it appears in these minutes.

2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 19 November 2005 in Edinburgh (United Kingdom) (APP/3842)

Decision: The minutes were approved.

3. Announcements by the Co-Chairperson

The Co-Chairperson informed the meeting of the following decisions of the Bureau of the ACP-EU JPA:

Adoption of the draft agenda for the next Session of the ACP-EU JPA in Vienna (Austria) during the period 16 – 23 June 2006

Topics for urgent resolutions:

- Avian flu
- Situation in the Sudan

- The Austrian authorities have proposed the following themes for the Workshops:
- Visit to the European Monitoring Centre on Racism and Xenophobia, and perspectives of the Agency
 - Visit of the UN International Vienna Centre,
 - Presentation in the field of economy (together with the Austrian Chamber of Commerce) and/or to the Siemens on the question of local public transport,
 - Presentation in the field of environment and agriculture (policy of the city of Vienna on the treatment of waste and on a water purification plant).

The Secretariat will explore, with the local authorities, what is indeed possible to arrange on the basis of the suggestions of the Austrian authorities and the Bureau.

4. The role of regional integration in the promotion of peace and security (APP/3850)

Co-rapporteurs: Ateem Garang Deng (Sudan) and Johan Van Hecke

Exchange of views on the basis of a draft report

Mr Garang Deng presented the draft report as Mr Van Hecke was in Uganda on an election observation mission.

Speakers: Baum (European Commission), Carlotti, Jöns, Nabuka (Fiji), Lutundula (DRC), Dawaleh (Djibouti), Zaleski, Gomes and Callanan (Co-Chairperson)

Decision: The deadline for tabling amendments is Friday 28 April 2006 at 12 noon.

5. Follow-Up to the resolutions adopted by the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly in Edinburgh (United Kingdom) on 24 November 2005

Resolution on the role of national parliaments in implementing the Cotonou partnership Agreement (ACP-EU/3760/05)

The follow-up intervention was made by Mr Baum (European Commission).

Speakers: Baum (European Commission), Carlotti, Lutundula (DRC), Nduwimana (Burundi /Co-Chairperson), Dawaleh (Djibouti), Biesemans (Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs - Development Department) and Callanan (Co-Chairperson)

Resolution on the situation in West Africa (ACP-EU/3832/05)

Due to the absence of the representative of the European Commission, the point postponed to the following day.

Speakers: Baum (European Commission), Gomes, Carlotti, Gahler, Klutse (Togo) and Laghdaf (Mauritania)

The meeting adjourned at 5.00 p.m and resumed on the next day at 9.20 a.m. with Mr Nduwimana Co-Chairperson in the chair.

The discussion on the follow-up to the Resolution on the situation in West Africa continued at the presence of European Commission representatives.

Speakers: Gahler, Lutundula (DRC), Christiane (European Commission) and Nduwimana (Co-Chairperson)

6. Small arms and light weapons and sustainable development

Co-rapporteurs: Ana Gomes and Youssouf Moussa Dawaleh (Djibuti)

Exchange of views in the presence of experts

Mrs Gomes introduced the issue and strongly recommended JPA participation at the UN SALW Programme of Action Review Conference in New York in June-July 2006.

The Co-Chairperson announced the ACP co-rapporteur: Mr Dawaleh (Djibuti).

Presentations were made by the following experts: Mrs Gamba (Director of SaferAfrica) and Dr Helly (SaferWorld).

The representative of the Council, Mrs Giannella, Personal Representative of S.G. Javier Solana, introduced the Council's position, followed by Mr Bernier (European Commission) and Mr Dawaleh (Djibuti).

Speakers: Gamba, Helly, Gianella (Council), Bernier (European Commission), Gahler, Lutundula (DRC), Straker (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines), Reyes-Ortega (Council), the Co-rapporteurs and Nduwimana (Co-Chairperson)

Decisions: The second discussion will take place in Vienna on 17 June; the draft report will be presented in September

7. Assessment of the standing committees' work after three years of operation

The co-chairperson asked members to evaluate the work done by the Committee and the results achieved in the last three years. Mr Gahler deplored the scandalously low European participation at the Committee meetings.

Speakers: Gahler, Garang Deng (Sudan), Lutundula (DRC), Dawaleh (Djibuti), Bain-Horsford (Grenada), Mzembi (Zimbabwe), Nduwimana (Burundi /Co-Chairperson), Wieland, Nabuka (Fidji) and Straker (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)

Decisions: Secretariat was asked to prepare a summary of the follow-ups of adopted resolutions; to explore the creation of a web forum for the Members of the Committee in order to promote exchange of information; to update the web site and to prepare an evaluation questionnaire for Members. The

deadline to send back the completed questionnaire was set for Friday, 28 April 2006.

8. Any other business

Situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo in the run-up to the legislative and presidential elections

Speakers: Lutundula (DRC), Gahler and Garang Deng (Sudan)

Representatives of Ivory Coast and Mauritania intervened on the situation in their respective countries.

Speakers: Amani (Ivory Coast), Laghdaf (Mauritania) and Nduwimana (Burundi/ Co-Chairperson)

10. Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting will be held in Vienna (Austria) on Saturday, 17 June 2006.

The Committee ended its deliberations at 12.25 p.m. on Thursday, 23 February 2006.

LIST DE PRESENCE/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE

ACP

Nduwimana (Burundi) (Chairperson)
Lutundula (République démocratique du Congo) (1st Vice- Chairperson)
Humphrey for Prescott (Barbados) (2nd Vice-Chairperson)
De Sousa (Angola)
McClay (Cook Islands)
Dawaleh (Djibouti)
Nabuka (Fiji)
Bain-Horsford (Grenada)
Bela (Guiné Ecuatorial)
Laghdaf (Mauritanie)
Nambahu (Namibia)
Umelo (Nigeria)
Talagi (Niue)
Aimo (Papua New Guinea)
Straker (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)
Garang Deng (Sudan)
Klutse (Togo)
Mzembi (Zimbabwe)

EP/PE

Callanan (Chairperson)
Jöns (1st Vice-Chairperson) ⁽¹⁾
Carlotti ⁽¹⁾
Gahler
Gomes
Schmidt ⁽¹⁾
Wieland ⁽²⁾
Zaleski ⁽¹⁾ (suppléant Kaczmarek)

⁽¹⁾ présent le 22.02.2006 ⁽²⁾ présent le 23.02.2006

Also present/Egalement présents:

ACP: Bimazubute (Burundi), Kembukuswa, Lundula (République Démocratique du Congo), Cavuilati (Fiji), Cruzekuna (Guiné Ecuatorial), Gana (Nigeria), Balagetuna (Papua New Guinea), Elobeid (Sudan), Ati-Atcha (Togo), Chamisa (Zimbabwe)

Nhlengethwa (South Africa)

Annex of the Rules, Article 2, par. 3: Amani (Côte d'Ivoire)

Commission: Baum, Bernier, Christiane

Council: Giannella, Reyes-Ortega

Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs /Ministère des Affaires Etrangères Belge : Biesemans

Legal service /Service Juridique: Lindahl

Policy department /département thématique: Quille

Political groups /groupes politiques:

Palassof, (PPE-DE)
Todd, Morabito (PSE)
Trauffer (ALDE)
Tsigereda, Gülcher (VERTS/ALE)

Co-Secretariat UE

Kiss, Stevan

Co-secretariat ACP

Kasasa, Bradley

Assistance: Jacques, Wack