

# EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

*Delegation for relations with the Gulf States, including Yemen*

DGUL\_PV(2009)0331

**MINUTES**  
of the meeting of 31 March 2009, from 15.00 to 16.00  
BRUSSELS

The meeting opened at 15.09 on Tuesday, 31 March 2009, with John Purvis in the chair.

**1. Adoption of draft agenda PE 419.536**

The agenda was adopted.

**2. Adoption of minutes of the meeting of 28 January 2009 PE 417.531**

The minutes were adopted.

**3. Announcements by the Chair**

*M. Purvis made the following announcements:*

Yemen:

Yemeni security forces have arrested 6 suspected al-Qaeda militants for allegedly planning attacks on foreign targets. The group is suspected of 2 recent suicide bomb attacks, which killed 4 South Koreans.

By common agreement of the opposition and the governing party MPs, and in accordance with the Constitution, the general elections that were due this April have been postponed for a period of two years, in order to implement a number of constitutional reforms, including the introduction of proportional system.

Saudi Arabia:

Amnesty International strongly deplores that a court has sentenced 3 persons -one of them 75 years old- to flogging on the basis of charges that are considered inconsistent with international human rights standards. Flogging remains mandatory for a number of offences, including consumption of alcohol; Saudi Arabia is a party to the UN Convention against Torture; the UN Special Rapporteur on this issue has stated that corporal punishment is inconsistent with the obligations under this treaty.

Bahrain:

22 Shiite activists, arrested on charges of trying to destabilize the government, remain in custody but not any longer in solitary confinement after they argued forced confessions had been extracted through torture. This high-profile case has triggered widespread protests and attracted the attention of international human rights watchdogs, such as Amnesty International and the International Federation of Human Rights.

**4. Exchange of views with the National Human Rights Committee of Qatar**

M. Purvis welcomed a Delegation from the State of Qatar, led by His Excellency Dr AL-MARRI, President of the National Human Rights Committee of Qatar. He added that it was also a pleasure to see one of the Delegation's regular guests, Sheikh Meshal Bin Hamad AL-THANI, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the EU, whose services have been instrumental in taking the initiative and organizing this visit.

Dr Al-MARRI then introduced his Delegation and presented extensively the state-of-play of the situation on Human Rights in his country and the initiatives undertaken by the National Human Rights Committee.

The following Members spoke during the exchange of views: PURVIS, PFLUEGER.

Since Qatar hosts an Arab League Summit and has declared it will not act upon an international arrest warrant for Sudanese President Omar Bashir, this issue was at the centre of discussions, given the strong position expressed by the EP in its March Resolution; it was explained to the Qatari side that the EP "*is deeply dismayed by the fact that, since the issuing of the arrest warrant, Sudan has repeatedly refused to cooperate with the ICC and has indeed multiplied its acts of defiance towards the international community*" as well that "*Sudan, a member of the United Nations, is obliged to cooperate with the ICC by virtue of Resolution 1593, which the Security Council adopted under its Chapter 7 powers*".

However, the Qatari side insisted that it was not possible to follow this ICC indictment since this was just a sign of the double standards applied by the international community and the politicisation of the Human Rights cause. As M. Al Marri explained, in the absence of any indictment against those who committed war crimes in Gaza recently, it is impossible for the Arab world, in general, to accept that the ICC is fair and unbiased.

On the other hand, M. Al Marri explained that his committee is striving for the ratification of the ICCPR by Qatar; its work focuses on ensuring that, pending ratification, the Qatari legislative corpus does not feature any incompatibilities with ICCPR provisions.

**5. *possibly* Exchange of views on the Bureau mission to Yemen (February 2009)**

This point was postponed.

**6. Any other business**

No issues raised.

**7. Date and place of the next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on 30 April 2009.

The meeting closed at 16.05

**ПРИСЪСТВЕН ЛИСТ/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/  
ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/KATASTAΣH ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/  
LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU REĢISTRS/DALYVIŲ SARAŠAS/JELENLÉTI IV/  
REĢISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŚCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/LISTÁ DE PREZENTĀ/  
PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA**

Бюро/Меса/Председниство/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Проефрео/Bureau/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/Biuras/Elnökség/Prezydium/Birou/Predsedničtv/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidet (*)
Tobias Pflüger
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselők/Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputati/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Supplenti/Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantys nariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanči/Náhradníci/Namestníci/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
John Purvis

178 (2)	
183 (3)	
46 (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/Darbotvarkēs punktas/Napirendi pont/Punt Agénda/Agendapunt/Punkt porządku dziennego/Ponto OD/Punct de pe ordinea de zi/Bod programu schôdze/Točka UL/Esiylistan kohta/Föredragningslista punkt)	

Наблюдатели/Observadores/Pozorovatélé/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaaltejad/Παρατηρητές/Observers/Observateurs/Osservatori/Novērotāji/Stebētojai/Megfigyelők/Osservaturi/Waarnemers/Obserwatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelia/Opazovalci/Tarkailijat/Observatörer

По покана на председателя/Por invitación del presidente/Na pozvání předsedy/Efter indbydelse fra formanden/Auf Einladung des Vorsitzenden/Esimene 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 tač-'Chairman'

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

Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nōukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/Conseil/Consiglio/Padome/Taryba/Tanács/Kunsill/Raad/Conselho/Consiliu/Svet/Neuvosto/Rådet (\*)

Комисия/Comisión/Komise/Komissionen/Kommission/Euroopa Komisjon/Επιτροπή/Commission/Commissione/Komisija/Bizottság/Kummissjoni/Commissie/Komisja/Comissão/Comisie/Komisia/Komissio/Kommissionen (\*)

Willem Brinkmann, Philipp Oliver Gross

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 ohra/Andere instellingen/Inne instytucje/Outras Instituições/Alte instituīji/Iné inštitúcie/Druge institucije/Muut toimielimet/Andra institutioner/organ

Други участници/Otros participantes/Ostatní účastníci/Endvidere deltog/Andere Teilnehmer/Muud osalejad/Επίσης Παρόντες/Other participants/Autres participants/Altri partecipanti/Citi klátesošie/Kiti dalyviai/Más résztvevők/Partecipanti ohra/Andere aanwezigen/Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Altı participantı/Iní účastníci/Drugi udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare

Ali Bin Smaikh Al-Marri, Youssef Abiden Fakhrou, National Human Rights Committee of Qatar; Meshal Bin Hamad Al-Thani, mission Qatar

Секретариат на политическите групи/Secretaría de los Grupos políticos/Sekretariát politických skupin/Gruppernes sekretariat/Sekretariat der Fraktionen/Fraktsionide sekretariaat/Γραμματεία των Πολιτικών Ομάδων/Secretariats of political groups/Secrétaireat des groupes politiques/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko grupu sekretariāts/Frakcijų sekretorija/Képviselőcsoporth titkársága/Segretarjat gruppi političi/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secr. dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupín/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristöt/Gruppernas sekretariat

PPE-DE

PSE

ALDE

Verts/ALE

GUE/NGL

IND/DEM

UEN

NI

Radostina Mutafchieva

Кабинет на председателя/Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelár pôrsedsy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinett des Präsidenten/Presidendi kantselei/Γραφείο Προέδρου/President's Office/Cabinet du Président/Gabinetto del Presidente/Priekšsēdētāja kabinets/Pirmininko kabinetas/Elnöki hivatal/Kabinet tal-President/Kabinet van de Voorzitter/Gabinet Przewodniczącego/Gabinete do Presidente/Cabinet Președinte/Kancelária predsedu/Urad predsednika/Puhemiehen kabinetti/Talmannens kansli	
Кабинет на генералния секретар/Gabinete del Secretario General/Kancelár generálniho tajomníka/Generalsekretærens Kabinet/Kabinett des Generalsekretärs/Peasekretáribüro/Γραφείο Γενικού Γραμματέα/Secretary-General's Office/Cabinet du Secrétaire général/Gabinetto del Segretario generale/Generálsekretára kabinets/Generalinio sekretoriaus kabinetas/Főtitkári hivatal/Kabinet tas-Segretarju Ĝenerali/Kabinet van de secretaris-generaal/Gabinet Sekretarza Generalnego/Gabinete do Secretário-Geral/Cabinet Secretar General/Kancelária generálneho tajomníka/Urad generalného sekretarja/Pääsihteerin kabinetti/Generalsekretærarens kansli	
Генерална дирекция/Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/Directorate-General/Direction générale/Direzione generale/Generaldirektoräts/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/Direttorat Generali/Directorate-general/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direcții Generale/Generalne riaditelstvo/Generalni direktorat/Pääosasto/Generaldirektorat	
DG PRES DG IPOL DG EXPO DG COMM DG PERS DG INLO DG TRAD DG INTE DG FINS DG ITEC	
Правна служба/Servicio Jurídico/Právni služba/Juridisk Tjeneste/Juristischer Dienst/Öigusteenistus/Νομική Υπηρεσία/Legal Service/Service juridique/Servizio giuridico/Juridiskais dienests/Teisės tarnyba/Jogi szolgálat/Servizz legali/Juridische Dienst/Wydział prawny/Serviço Jurídico/Serviciu Juridic/Právny servis/Pravna služba/Oikeudellinen yksikkö/Rättsjänsten	
Секретариат на комисията/Secretaría de la comisión/Sekretariát výboru/Udvalgssekretariatet/Ausschussekretariat/Komisjoni sekretariaat/Γραμματεία επιτροπής/Committee secretariat/Secrétaireat de la commission/Segreteria della commissione/Komitejas sekretariāts/Komíteto sekretoriatas/A bizottság titkársága/Segretariat tal-kumitat/Commissie sekretariaat/Sekretariat komisi/Secretariado da comissão/Secretariat comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottsekretariatet	
Philippe Kamaris	
Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Bonθóć/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asystent/Pomočník/Avustaja/Assistenter	
Kathleen Huygen	

- \* (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Président/Priekšsēdētājs/Pirmininkas/Elnök/Chairman'/Voorzitter/Przewodniczący/Președinte/Predsednik/Puheenjohtaja/Ordförande  
 (VP) = Заместник-председател/Vicepresidente/Místopředseda/Næstformand/Stellvertretender Vorsitzender/Aseesimees/Avtutpróedros/Vice-Chair(wo)man/Vice-Präsident/Priekšsēdētāja vietnies/Pirmininko pavaduotojas/Alelnök/Viči 'Chairman'/Ondervoorzitter/Wiceprzewodniczący/Vice-Präsident/Vicepreședinte/Podpredseda/Podpredsednik/Varapuheenjohtaja/Vice ordförande  
 (M) = Член/Miembro/Člen/Medlem./Mitglied/Parlamendiilige/Méλoς/Member/Membre/Membro/Deputāts/Narys/Képviselő/Membri/Lid/Członek/Membro/Člen/Poslanec/Jäsen/Ledamot  
 (F) = Должностно лице/Funcionario/Úředník/Tjenestemand/Beamter/Ametnik/Υπάλληλος/Official/Fonctionnaire/Funzionario/Ierēdnis/Pareigūnas/Tisztviselő/Ufficjal/Ambtenaar/Urzédnik/Funcionário/Funcionär/Úradník/Uradnik/Virkamies/Tjänstemän