



D-AF_PV(2011)1004-01

MINUTES

of the meeting of 4 October 2011, from 17.30 to 18.30
Brussels

The meeting opened at 17.41 on Tuesday, 4 October 2011, with Thijs Berman (Chair) in the chair.

1. Adoption of agenda

The Chair announced that active and passive interpretation would be available in the following languages: FR, DE, EN, IT, ES.

The Chair added that no provision had been made for Occitan.

The agenda was adopted.

2. Approval of minutes of meeting of 21 June 2011

The draft minutes were adopted unchanged.

3. Chair's announcements

The Chair announced that the second Bonn Conference on Afghanistan would finally take place on 5 December 2011, 10 years after the conference that had produced the 2001 Bonn Agreement following the fall of the Taliban.

Three topics would be explored: (i) the civil aspects of the transition until 2014, (ii) the international community's long-term commitment in Afghanistan and in the region after 2014, and (iii) support for the ongoing political process.

As regards the organisational aspects, Mr Berman announced that as things stood Germany's Ministry of Foreign Affairs did not intend that Parliament should be formally represented.

Mr Berman expressed regret at this decision, particularly as it would be Parliament that would subsequently be called on to approve the use of Community funds in Afghanistan. Furthermore, the topic would soon be on the plenary agenda, given that the Committee on Budgetary Control was already looking into it. However, it might be possible for Parliament to be represented on the EU delegation, in particular under the terms of the Interinstitutional Agreement between Parliament and the Commission, which dealt with just such cases as this.

4. Exchange of views on the situation in Afghanistan

Mr Berman outlined the chronology of certain recent events:

In late September 2011, Admiral Mike Mullen, Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, had declared that the Pakistan Intelligence Service was using the Haqqani network as a weapon and had, in particular, helped it prepare its attack on the US Embassy in Kabul at the beginning of that month.

These claims had of course been denied by the Pakistan Government.

On 20 September 2011, Kabul had been hit by a new attack, a week after that on the US Embassy. Former Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani, who was leading the peace negotiations with the insurgents, had been killed in his own home in a suicide bombing; the assassination of the former President sent a clear political message, since he had headed the High Council for Peace, created in the previous year to negotiate with the insurgents.

The Afghan committee of inquiry set up to investigate this assassination and headed by the Minister of Defence had concluded that the suicide bomber was a Pakistani national and that the attack had been prepared in Quetta, Pakistan.

In a major development, it seemed that President Karzai was on the point of altering his strategy in his attempts to negotiate with the Taliban: he had been quoted as saying that 'the only solution is to hold talks with Pakistan because all the Taliban's safe havens are in that country'.

Mr Cozzolino, Mr Fidanza, Mr Berman and Mr Arlacchi wondered what the future held for Afghanistan.

Ambassador Tandar answered. He explained that his government had for many years dedicated all its energy to revitalising the peace process by taking decisive action - such as the creation of the High Council for Peace. As things stood, though, 'we are alas forced to admit that no tangible result has been obtained'. The only response to the Afghan Government's call for peace had been blood, executions and violence. Senior government officials responsible for negotiating peace were now priority targets. History would judge, but 'we have done everything we could, and even accepted certain demands regarding the composition of the government'. Pakistan continued to harbour members of the Taliban: 'we have proof of the Pakistani secret service's involvement and of their support for the Taliban - with whom direct talks are now pointless'.

Mr Tandar announced, however, that the option of a political settlement had not been abandoned: 'it is only the choice of negotiating partners that is different'; he hoped that Pakistan would hold talks with Afghanistan, which was after all a sovereign power. By the same token, President Karzai certainly intended to make his planned official visit to New Delhi. Would this visit stir up regional tensions? 'We are not psychiatrists. If we are surrounded by sick people, let them seek treatment'.

That being said, Afghanistan would never be a threat to its neighbours, 'and we are ready to make any binding commitment to that effect'. The Ambassador explained that his country was reaching out to Pakistan's civil society, its Parliament and its Government - even though in fact the Pakistan army was really in control.

Mr Arlacchi, vice-chair, spoke. He fully endorsed Ambassador Tandar's analysis, highlighting the need for realism. This was also the view of the US, which had changed its strategy in the previous few months. Addressing the representative of the European External Action Service (EEAS), he wondered if it might also review its approach, taking greater account, for example, of Parliament's point of view. He emphasised that since the adoption in plenary of the report on a new strategy for Afghanistan, 'not one single element has been taken into account'.

Ms Muscheidt (EEAS) rejected this suggestion, at the same time calling for a broader discussion. She mentioned that issues such as international aid effectiveness had also been looked into in other forums (the Paris Declaration Evaluation, for example). She also emphasised that, irrespective of internal European Parliament debates, an Afghan national development strategy had already been drawn up, and that, for the EEAS, this overrode all other considerations. Ms Muscheidt particularly stressed the importance of the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF), to which the EU was a contributor. Parliament was kept informed, in detail, about the use of these funds on a six-monthly basis, and she deplored the fact that the information was not being passed on to all the relevant individuals and bodies in Parliament.

5. Any other business

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6. Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the delegation would be held on Tuesday, 22 November 2011 at 9.00. The Chair stated that it would involve an exchange of views, by video-conference between Brussels and Kabul, with NGOs active in Afghanistan; since video-conference interpreting was possible only in exceptional cases, the meeting would therefore in all likelihood be held in English.

The meeting closed at 18.28.

ПРИСЪСТВЕН ЛИСТ/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/
 ANWESENHEITSLISTE/ΚΟΗΛΟΛΙΑΤΕ ΝΙΜΕΚΙΡΙ/ΚΑΤΑΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/
 LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/ΑΡΜΕΚΛΕΪΜΟΥ ΡΕΓΙΣΤΡΟΣ/DALYVIŲ SĄRAŠAS/JELENLĒTI ĪV/ REGISTRU TA'
 ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŠCI/LISTA DE PRESENCAS/LISTĂ DE PREZENȚĂ/ PREZENČNÁ
 LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA

Бюро/Мesa/Předsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/Biuras/Elnökség/ Prezydium/Birou/Predsednictvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
Thijs Berman, Pino Arlacchi
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselők/ Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Andrea Cozzolino, Carlo Fidanza
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Supplenti/ Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantys nariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/Namestniki/ Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
Iosif Matula

187 (2)
193 (3)
49 (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 fuq l-aġenda/Agendapunt/Punkt porządku dziennego/Ponto OD/Punct de pe ordinea de zi/Bod programu schôdze/ Točka UL/Esityslistan kohta/Föredragningslista punkt)

Наблюдатели/Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaatlejad/Παρατηρητές/Observers/Observateurs/Osservatori/ Novērotāji/Stebėtojai/Megfigyelők/Osservatori/Waarnemers/Obserwatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelia/Opazovalci/ Tarkkailijat/Observatörer

По покана на председателя/Por invitación del presidente/Na pozvání předsedy/Efter indbydelse fra formanden/Auf Einladung des Vorsitzenden/Esimehe 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 tal-President/ Op uitnodiging van de voorzitter/Na zaproszenie Przewodniczącego/A convite do Presidente/La invitația președintelui/Na pozvanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan
Tandar Hamayoun (Ambassador)

Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nōukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/Conseil/Consiglio/Padome/Taryba/Tanács/Kunsill/Raad/Conselho/Consiliu/Svet/Neuvosto/Rådet (*)	
Комисия/Comisión/Komise/Kommissionen/Kommission/Euroopa Komisjon/Επιτροπή/Commission/Commissione/Komisija/Bizottság/Kummissjoni/Commissie/Komisja/Comissão/Comisie/Komisia/Komissio/Kommissionen (*)	
Sara Zennaro	
Европейска служба за външна дейност/Evropská služba pro vnější činnost/EU-Udenrigstjenesten/Europäischer Auswärtiger Dienst/Euroopa välisteenistus/Ευρωπαϊκή Υπηρεσία Εξωτερικής Δράσης/European External Action service/Servicio Europeo de Acción Exterior/Service européen pour l'action extérieure/Servizio europeo per l'azione esterna/Eiropas Ārējās darbības dienests/Europos išorės veiksmų tarnyba/Európai Külügyi Szolgálat/Servizz Ewropew għall-Azzjoni Esterna/Europese dienst voor extern optreden/Europejska Służba Działañ Zewnętrznych/Serviço Europeu para a Acção Externa/Serviciul european pentru acțiune externă/Európska služba pre vonkajšiu činnost/Evropska služba za zunanje delovanje/Euroopan ulkosuhdehallinto/Europeiska avdelningen för yttre åtgärd (*)	
MUSCHEIDT Betina	
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/Istituzjonijiet oħra/Andere instellingen/Inne instytucje/Outras Instituições/Alte instituții/Iné inštitúcie/Druge institucije/Muut toimeelimeet/Andra institutioner/organ	
Други учесници/Otros participantes/Ostatní účastníci/Endvidere deltog/Andere Teilnehmer/Muud osalejad/Επίσης Παρόντες/Other participants/Autres participants/Altri partecipanti/Citi klātesošie/Kiti dalyviai/Más résztvevők/Partecipanti oħra/Andere aanwezigen/Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Alți participanți/Iní účastníci/Dруги udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare	
Ewa Zubek, Ivan Stojanovski, Kara Zurer, Marco Dugnani, Paolo Borchia, Agnieszka Kazmierczik, Irma Álvarez Cuéllar, Jasmine Barahman, Lucente Stefania, Munir Ghiasy, Naem Polyesh, Sergio Fabozzi	
Секретариат на политическите групи/Secretaría de los Grupos políticos/Sekretariát politických skupin/Gruppernes sekretariat/Sekretariat der Fraktionen/Fraktsioonide sekretariaat/Γραμματεία των Πολιτικών Ομάδων/Sekretariats of political groups/Secrétariat des groupes politiques/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko grupu sekretariāts/Frakciju sekretoriai/Képviseletcsoportok titkársága/Sekretarjat gruppi politici/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Sec. dos grupos políticos/Sekretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupin/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristöt/Gruppernas sekretariat	
PPE S&D ALDE ECR Verts/ALE GUE/NGL EFD NI	Rino Trombetta, Anne Vahl Brigitte Bataille, Kaya Anmarie McCornet
Кабинет на председателя/Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelář předsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinett des Präsidenten/Presidendi kantselei/Γραφείο Προέδρου/President's Office/Cabinet du Président/Gabinetto del Presidente/Priekšsēdētāja kabinets/Pirmminiko kabinetas/Elnöki hivatal/Kabinett 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/Kancelář generálního tajemníka/Generalsekretærens Kabinet/ Kabinett des Generalsekretärs/Peasekretäri büroo/Γραφείο Γενικού Γραμματέα/Secretary-General's Office/Cabinet du Secrétaire général/Gabinetto del Segretario generale/Generalsekretära kabinets/Generalinio sekretoriaus kabinetas/Főtitkári hivatal/Kabinett tas- Segretarju Generali/Kabinet van de secretaris-generaal/Gabinet Sekretarza Generalnego/Gabinete do Secretário-Geral/Cabinet Secretar General/Kancelária generálneho tajomníka/Urad generalnega sekretarja/Pääsihteerin kabinetti/Generalsekreterarens kansli

Генерална дирекция/Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/ Directorate-General/Direction générale/Direzione generale/Generāldirektorāts/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/Direktorat Generali/Direktoraten-generaal/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direcții Generale/Generálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni direktorat/ Pääosasto/Generaldirektorat	
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Philippe Kamaris	
Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asystent/Pomočnik/ Avustaja/Assistenten	
Nekane Azpiri	

- * (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Président/Priekšsēdētājs/Pirmininkas/
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