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*Delegation for relations with Israel*

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**MINUTES**  
of the meeting of 12 November 2009, 9.00-10.00  
BRUSSELS

The meeting opened on Thursday 12 November 2009 at 9.00 with Bastiaan Belder in the chair.

1. Adoption of draft agenda (PE 430.032)

The draft agenda was adopted.

2. Chair's announcements

The Chair, Mr Belder, announced that the official delegation visit to Israel could not take place until early 2010. In preparation for this, it was agreed that the Delegation Bureau would make a short visit to Israel on 16-18 November 2009.

3. Exchange of views on the EU's relations with Israel with Mr Günter Verheugen, Vice-President of the European Commission, responsible for enterprise and industry

The Chair welcomed Mr Verheugen.

Mr Verheugen gave a presentation on the EU's relations with Israel which included a liberal sprinkling of personal observations based on his own experience of the region.

- There was a feeling that Israel was becoming increasingly wary of the EU, which it saw as divided and inclined to sermonise;
- strong relations between the EU and Israel: Israel, with its keen interest and organisational abilities, was able to make the most of the opportunities afforded it by the creation of a vast market under the European neighbourhood policy;
- this was illustrated by a wealth of examples, such as the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development, the liberalisation of trade in nearly 95% of agricultural products, the compliance testing sector, 'business dialogue' and SMEs;

- the region's lack of stability is regrettable for humanitarian reasons and does not augur well for the future;
- the EU would have to stress to Israel the need to create the necessary conditions for peace and to allay distrust.

The ensuing exchange of views reached the following conclusions:

- investment in the region from European companies should be encouraged and a strong partnership with civil society should be maintained and consolidated;
- in response to a question from Gabriele Albertini, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee, regarding the hypothesis of Israel joining the EU, Mr Verheugen stated the answer would come from a wider debate on EU enlargement and its borders. As there was no official opinion on the matter, his 'personal and nonconventional' position would be, 'in principle, not to rule it out of consideration';
- the fact that relations began with the goal of setting up a vast marketplace was significant and reminiscent of a similar course of action taken in the EU's history;
- Europe must make itself sufficiently attractive to young people in education to counterbalance the pull of the USA;
- the aforementioned reactions of distrust are a judgment on the EU's willingness to act in concert;
- work focusing on the joint, supra-regional management of the vital issue of water should be undertaken.

The chair thanked Mr Verheugen for his free and concise words.

#### 4. Programme of activities for 2010

The chair said that he had proposed the following dates:

- the week of 15 February 2010 for the delegation visit to Israel
- week of 24 October 2010 for a meeting in Brussels with a delegation from the Knesset.

#### 5. Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting would be held in Brussels on Wednesday, 2 December 2009.

The meeting closed at 10.00.

**ПРИСЪСТВЕН ЛИСТ/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/  
ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/KATAΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/  
LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU REĢISTRŠ/DALYVIŲ SAŖAŠAS/JELENLÉTI ÍV/  
REĢISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŠCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/LISTÁ DE PREZENÇÁ/  
PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA**

Бюро/Mesa/Předsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/Biuras/Elnökség/ Prezydium/Birou/Predsednictvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
Bastiaan Belder, (P), Magdi Cristiano Allam (VP), Olga Sehnalová (VP).
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselők/ Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Diane Dodds, Ágnes Hankiss, Frédérique Ries, Emil Stoyanov, Hannu Takkula, Michael Theurer.
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Supplenti/ Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantys nariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/Namestniki/ Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
Gabriele Albertini, Louis Bontes, Ismail Ertug.

187 (2)
193 (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 Agenda/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/Observatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelia/Opazovalci/ Tarkkailijat/Observatörer
Ms Galit PELEG (Mission of Israel to the EU)

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 taç'-Chairman/
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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
Mr Günther Verheugen, European Commission, Commissioner for Enterprise and Industry

Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nōukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/Conseil/Consiglio/Padome/Taryba/Tanács/Kunsill/Raad/Conselho/Consiliu/Svet/Neuvosto/Rådet (*)
SNAIDAUF Jan
Комисия/Comisión/Komise/Kommissionen/Kommission/Euroopa Komisjon/Επιτροπή/Commission/Commissione/Komisija/Bizottság/Kummissjoni/Commissie/Komisja/Comissão/Comisie/Komisia/Komissio/Kommissionen (*)
LEBRUN Stéphane (Entr), WEBER Marion (Entr), SERRI Riccardo (Relex)
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 участници/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/Ini účastnici/Dруги udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare																
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<p>DG PRES DG IPOL DG EXPO DG COMM DG PERS DG INLO DG TRAD DG INTE DG FINS DG ITEC</p>	<p>KRAUSS Stefan</p>
<p>Правна служба/Servicio Jurídico/Právní 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/Rättstjänsten</p>	
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<p>GARRIGUES Christian</p>	
<p>Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asystent/Pomočnik/Avustaja/Assistenten</p>	
<p>SCREEN Erica</p>	

- \* (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Président/Priekšsēdētājs/Pirmininkas/Elnök/Chairman/Voorzitter/Przewodniczący/Preşedinte/Předseda/Predsednik/Puheenjohtaja/Ordförande
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- (F) = Длъжностно лице/Funcionario/Úředník/Tjenestemand/Beamter/Ametnik/Υπάλληλος/Official/Fonctionnaire/Funzionario/Ierēdnis/Pareigūnas/Tisztviselő/Ufficial/Ambtenaar/Urzednik/Funcionário/Functionar/Úradník/Uradnik/Virkamies/Tjänsteman