



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

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*Delegation for relations with Iraq*

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**D-IQ\_PV2901\_01**

**MINUTES**  
of the meeting of 29 January 2014, from 11.30 to 12.30  
Brussels

The meeting opened at 11.41 on Wednesday, 29 January 2014, with Struan Stevenson (Chair) in the chair.

**1. Adoption of draft agenda (PE 514.056)**

Draft agenda was adopted.

**2. Approval of minutes of the meetings of 7 November 2013 (PE 514.048)**

Minutes were approved.

**3. Chair's announcements**

The Chair thanked all the speakers for coming. He also thanked the Kurdistan Regional Government representation in Brussels and the Iraqi embassy for the excellent cooperation in organising the Delegation meeting.

**4. Debate on "Situation of women in Iraq"**

**Mrs Paxshan Zangana** thanked for the opportunity and started by saying that we should take in consideration the historical context and start the analysis from there: all current problems are inherited from the past regimes. KRG has promoted, from the start, women rights, and Human Rights in general. This resulted in a series of legislative acts in favour of women. The

objective is to allow women to fully participate in society. This struggle has to go hand in hand with changing mentality, she continued. Moreover, in this process democracy is important and within it the Human Rights. It is necessary to join sustainable development and empowerment of women. Implementation must come from different ministries, not from only one: actions need to be coordinated. The High Council for Women Affairs is acting in an Inter-ministerial way, trying to coordinate different Ministries. Discrimination is a social problem in the region. There is partnership between Government and civil society in order to tackle the issue. We also have to mention EU and EP's possible role: important to get benefit from the European experience. She mentioned the just finished EUJUST Lex mission. She added Kurds are living in very transitional period: there is struggle between two parties, a conservative and a progressive one, and it is not clear which one will prevail. On the other side there are a lot of successful opportunities, there is a political will for supporting and achieving equality among men and women. She concluded by wishing that EU opens a representation office in Erbil. She expressed the wish to work together with the EU on projects of common interest, especially in this moment, in which the KRG adopted a 4 year national strategy for combating violence against women.

**Mrs Chenar Saed** showed, with the aid of a presentation, the current progress of women' participation in Kurdish political life. She showed, for instance, that the rate of women in political parties increased (in the top positions) until 1996, then it decreased, but after 2009 increased again quite well. In KRG Cabinet the rate of women Ministers increased until now, but is now decreasing, with the eighth Cabinet in formation. The High Council for Women Affairs therefore works as a lobby in order to increase women' rate in the current Cabinet. They hope to obtain between 3 and 5 woman Ministers. Concerning woman judges, they are 3,8% in whole Iraq, 5,67% in Kurdistan. Rate of employed women in public sector in Kurdistan is 40% women and 60% men. But there are 55% men and 45% women in Ministry of Education... Therefore it can be seen that women are becoming more participative. However, the rate of men and women in educational high positions is weak (for instance in Universities and Colleges). In Parliament the woman quota increased from 25% to 30%, due also to NGO pressure and to pressure by the High Council.

**Mrs Florin Seudin** briefed the audience on the main policies of the Kurdistan Regional Government for protection of women. There is first of all the establishment of the High Council of Women Affairs, the head of which is the Prime Minister; it is active throughout 6 ministries, there are 7 activists from the civil society (currently all women), and one Director General. The main duties of the High Council are to design policies oriented towards equality. The High Council is not an implementing organ; it is rather the Ministries who act following recommendations by the Council. The High Council works in partnership with civil society. Moreover, since 2007 the Ministry of Interior has a Directorate General for women, whose task is to deal with investigations concerning violence against women. In the last three years the number of complaints increased, which means that there is more awareness about laws and about the possibility to make complaints. There are also High Provincial Offices in Governorates working directly with Governors; special committees following cases in police station; a National Strategy (2012) for 4 years; in addition, there is an inter-ministerial working group, under the supervision of High Council for Women Affairs. Importantly, there are shelters for women victims of violence (4 of them), with psychologists and physicians ready to help.

Concerning legislation, the most important law is the "Person Status Law from 2008", in  
PE527022v01-00

which 25 articles had been amended differently in Kurdistan than in the rest of Iraq, more in favour of women. Mrs Seudin also mentioned the Domestic Violence Law and the Communication Device Abuse Law. She concluded by informing the audience that there are four specialised courts in Kurdistan, dealing with violence against women.

**Mrs Haifa Zangana** focused on women' right as citizens and on violence based on their gender. She said that Iraq is almost a war zone. Women, more than anybody else, are subject to rape and violence. In Anbar province assault of Iraqi army is continuous, Fallujah and Ramadi are subjected to siege, and IDPs are a lot. UN says 140.000 people are homeless; most of them are women, since men are not allowed to leave cities, on top of the 1, 4 million people already displaced. It is impossible to deliver humanitarian aid, people are without food and clothing; sanitary conditions are inadequate. There is a new manufacturing of identity in Iraq today, and this is reflected on education, health services...There are extreme levels of trauma. Regression of women' situation is devastating; indeed women had been to the point of almost gender equality, now they are looking after basic survival.

There are 1 million widows, 5 million orphans. Nearly 10.000 civilians were killed in 2013. There are no basic services because of widespread corruption, which consumes the oil generated welfare. Death penalty is not just touching men: Iraq is a slaughterhouse, generating children which are likely to grow up as terrorists, or begging in the streets... Concerning education: 92% of Iraqi children suffer from learning impediments (no toilets in schools, etc.). Kidnapping, killing of academics, scientists, many of them women, are at the order of the day. Middle class people are leaving the country. Out of 44 Ministers only 1 is a woman, she has no portfolio. And she does not recognise equality between genders.

Muta'a is a "pleasure" (for men...) form of marriage, returning actual today, due to unemployment and poverty...In presence of a cleric, the marriage has a limited duration, from 10 minutes on.. It is especially widespread among the Shia. These marriages are often supported by religious institutions, which try to convince women to accept this situation. Polygamy is promoted by some officials, politicians, as a solution to the problem of widows, instead of small loans, etc... Also some charities promote polygamy as a mean to resolve poverty! Trafficking in persons, in general for begging, prostitution, or selling organs to Gulf Area and to Europe, is widespread.

According to Mrs Haifa Zangana, in this dramatic situation Europe should do the following:

- A Special Rapporteur should be appointed, to monitor the situation;
- Looking at the root causes of terrorism in government policy and addressing them: these are sectarianism, corruption and lack of basic services, violations of human rights, increasing unemployment and organised gangs and militias flourishing under a kleptocratic government;
- Stop supplying arms to a regime using it against its people;
- Expose corruption and demand transparency in where Iraqi wealth is stashed;

**Mr Stevenson** thanked all the speakers and reminded everyone that on 19 February 2014 in the afternoon there is going to be, in the European Parliament, a very high level Conference on Human Rights in Iraq, in presence of high Iraqi religious authorities, of the former Prime Minister Mr Allawi, of the Chair of the Council of Representatives' Human Rights Committee

Mr Al-Jabori, and of other eminent speakers, and urged everyone to attend this Conference.

## **5. Any other business**

Mr Stevenson reminded everyone that on 19 February 2014 in the afternoon there is going to be, in the European Parliament, a very high level Conference on Human Rights in Iraq, in presence of high Iraqi religious authorities, of the former Prime Minister Mr Allawi, of the Chair of the Council of Representatives' Human Rights Committee Mr Al-Jabori, and of other eminent speakers, and urged everyone to attend this Conference.

## **6. Date and place of next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on the 13 February 2014, from 11:30 to 12:30 in Brussels.

The meeting closed at 12.50.

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

Бюро/Меса/Председништво/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Проеџрејо/Bureau/Predsjedništvo/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/Biuras/Elnökség/ Prezydium/Birou/Predsedničtvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidet (*)
Struan Stevenson
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Zastupnici/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselők/ Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputati/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Silvia Costa, Andrés Perelló Rodríguez
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναληφωτές/Substitutes/Zamjenici/Suppléants/Supplenti/Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantysnariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/Namestniki/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
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187 (2)	
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193 (3)	
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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/Točka dnevnog reda/Point OJ/Punto all'ordine del giorno/Darba kārtības punkts/Darbotvarkēs punktas/ Napirendi pont/Punt Agenda/Agendapunt/Punkt porządku dzennego/Ponto OD/Punct de pe ordinea de zi/Bod programu schôdze/ Točka UL/Eesityslistan kohta/Föredragningslista punkt)	##
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Наблюдатели/Observadores/Pozorovatéř/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaattlejad/Паратηρητές/Observers/Promatrači/Observateurs/  
Osservatori/Nověrotáji/Stebétojai/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/Esimehe kutsel/Me πρόσκληση του Προέδρου/At the invitation of the Chair(wo)man/Na poziv predsjednika/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 invitāția  
președintelui/Na pozvanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan

**Mrs Paxshan Zangana:** Minister, promoter of Women rights in Kurdistan, former Head of Women Affairs in Kurdistan Parliament;

**Mrs Florin G. Seudin:** Director General of the KRG High Council of Women Affairs;

**Mrs Chenar Saed:** Former KRG Minister, Academic and Promoter of Women Rights;

**Mrs Haifa Zangana,** expert on the situation of women in Iraq.

Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nõukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/Vijeće/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 (\*)

##

Европейска служба за външна дейност/Evropská služba pro vnější činnost/EU-Udenrigstjenesten/Europäischer Auswärtiger  
Dienst/Euroopa väliseenistus/Ευρωπαϊκή Υπηρεσία Εξωτερικής Δράσης/European External Action service/Servicio Europeo de  
Acción Exterior/Europiska služba za vanjsko djelovanje/Service européen pour l'action extérieure/Servizio europeo per l'azione  
esterna/Eiropas Ārējās darbības dienests/Europos išorēs veiksmu tarnyba/Európai Külügyi Szolgálat/Servizz Ewropew ghall-Azzjoni  
Esterna/Europeiske dienst voor extern optreden/Europejska Služba Działal Zewnętrznych/Serviço Europeu para a Ação  
Externa/Serviciul european pentru acțiune externă/Europiska služba pre vonkajšiu činnost/Europiska služba za zunanje  
delovanje/Euroopan ulkosuhdehallinto/Europeiska avdelningen för yttrre åtgärd (\*)

##

Други институции/Otras instituciones/Ostatní orgány a instituce/Andre institutioner/Andere Organe/Muud institutsioonid/  
Аллаа өзүүмикээр оруулсан/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

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

Wakas Saad Alhayani - Iraqi Embassy, Zana Kurda - KRG-EU Mission, Delavar Ajgeiy - KRG

Секретариат на политическите групи/Secretaría de los Grupos políticos/Sekretariát politických skupin/Gruppernes sekretariat/Sekretariat der Fraktionen/Fraktsioonide sekretariaat/Γραμματεία των Πολιτικών Ομάδων/Secretariats of political groups/Tajništva klubova zastupnika/Sekrétaire des groupes politiques/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko grupu sekretariáts/Frakciju sekretoriai/Képviselőcsoportok 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	Roberto GIANNELLA
S&D	Maria Soledad GUIRAO GALDON
ALDE	Airis MEIER
ECR	##
Verts/ALE	##
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Кабинет на генералния секретар/Gabinete del Secretario General/Kancelář generálního tajemníka/Generalsekretærens Kabinet/Kabinett des Generalsekretärs/Peasekretáři Büro/Γραφείο Γενικού Γραμματέα/Secretary-General's Office/Urad glavnog tajnika/Cabinet du Secrétaire général/Gabinetto del Segretario generale/Generalsekretára kabinet/Generalinio sekretoriaus kabinetas/Főtitkári hivatal/Kabinet tas-Segretarju Ğenerali/Kabinet van de secretaris-generaal/Gabinet Sekretarza Generalnego/Gabinete do Secretário-Geral/Cabinet Secretar General/Kancelária generálneho tajomníka/Urad generalného sekretarja/Pääsihteerin kabinetti/Generalsekretärarens kansli

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Генерална дирекция/Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/ Directorate-General/Glavna uprava/Direction générale/Direzione generale/Generaldirektoráts/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/ Direttorat Generali/Directoraten-generala/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direcții Generale/Generálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni direktorat/ Pääsasto/Generaldirektorat	
DG PRES	##
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Rok KOZELJ, Robertino BABIC	
Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Боŋθóć/Assistant/Assistente/Paīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asystent/Pomočník/ Avustaja/Assister	
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