

*Delegation for relations with Iraq***D-IQ\_PV(2012)1018\_1****MINUTES**  
of the meeting of 18 October 2012, from 10.15 to 11.15  
Brussels

The meeting opened at 10.19 on Thursday, 18 October 2012, with Struan Stevenson (Chair) in the chair.

**1. Adoption of draft agenda (PE 495.776)**

Draft agenda was adopted.

**2. Approval of minutes of the meetings of 18 September 2012 (PE490.253)**

Minutes were approved. Also the Report of the fourth Interparliamentary Meeting EP - Iraqi Council of Representatives, of 25 September 2012, was approved.

**3. Chair's announcements**

Mr Stevenson suggested dedicating the meeting to the children. He condemned in the strongest terms the barbaric assassination attempt in Pakistan of Malala Yousafzai, a 14 year old girl, whose only "guilt" was asking for girls' education.

He underlined the importance stressed to the Children' Rights by the European Parliament, and listed some most common abuses children still have to suffer in many parts of the world, Iraq included.

Among these, Mr Stevenson mentioned access to school, orphanage related problems, human trafficking, slavery, kidnapping and exploitation of children.

Unfortunately, in Iraq children also suffer from a heavy legacy of using unconventional or poisonous weapons. Severe malformations and diseases might be found, due to heavy metals and probably radioactive materials, especially in small children.

Subsequently, the Chair passed the word to Mr Babille, UNICEF representative in Iraq, who has a long and rich experience on the field in children related issues. He served in many countries, from India and Ethiopia to Angola or Sudan.

#### **4. Exchange of views on Children Rights situation in Iraq:**

***Key speaker: Dr Marzio Babille, UNICEF Representative in Iraq***

Dr Babille made an exhaustive report on Children Rights in Iraq, based on detailed researches, which took years to be accomplished.

He started describing some socio-demographic factors potentially afflicting children: nearly half of Iraqi population is under 18, i.e. 16.8 million people. Children under 5 are 5.6 million. There is a 23% poverty rate (less than 2 USD per day) and a 17% unemployment rate among the population. Moreover, only 18% of women have an employment, internet use is low (5%), while there are many mobile subscribers (78%); 14% of the population does not have electricity. Iraq is ranking low in the Human Development Index (num. 132), there is still a relatively low income per capita, and the security threats are high in some regions.

There are two Syrian refugee camps, one in Domiz (autonomous Iraqi Kurdistan) and the other in Al Qaim. In both camps, UNICEF is satisfied with the cooperation with local authorities concerning specifically displaced children.

In Iraq, one child out of three is deprived of several rights, depending on the Governorate. Wide disparities exist among regions.

In general, progress has been recorded in:

- Birth registration;
- Gender parity in school;
- Primary school attendance;
- Full immunization of children (except measles);

An insufficient progress was recorded for:

- Infant mortality - more than half of all children under 5 who die, die in their first month of life;
- Measles immunization coverage;
- Malnutrition;
- Child labour;

An unfortunately a stalled or regressive situation must be reported on:

- Breastfeeding - UNICEF has an early and exclusive breastfeeding approach;
- Treatment of diarrhoea;
- Pneumonia;
- Early marriage;

- Low birth weight rate;
- Net primary school completion rate;
- Domestic violence and violent discipline;
- Knowledge of HIV;
- Iodized salt supplementation;

He added that one child out of four has stunted physical and intellectual growth. Concerning water and sanitation facilities, the access is improving, but large margins of progress exist.

In children education and literacy rates, there has not been any improvement since 2006. School attendance is better in the North of Iraq, especially in the Kurdistan region, while 400.000 children do not complete primary school on time.

Four in five children experience violent discipline and suffer, therefore, from severe physical punishment, with the use of the stick or of a metal bar. There is a need to empower provincial councils, which can enhance or transform the way children are educated in a longer term.

Moreover, 1.3 million women suffer from female genital mutilation and cutting. Apparently the problem is much more consistent in the Kurdistan area, but caution needs to be used on these data, since it is possible that women more on the South are not able to speak openly. Women parliamentarians have been mobilised. They are clearly promoting the message that in the new Iraq there is no space for FGM!

Child labour is also a problem: one child out of twenty has to work, especially in the Southern provinces. On the other hand, there is a high and rising youth unemployment (30%), exacerbated by low education and skills levels.

At a policy and strategic level, UNICEF work consists in supporting the already existing national programmes, especially the National Development Program, which is entering in a new planning phase - discussions are going on in order to prepare a new one during this autumn.

After Dr Babille's speech, Mr Perello Rodriguez observed that it is strange that the boost in oil revenue did not have, until now, an effect on income, services distribution and quality of life of the Iraqi people.

## **5. Any other business**

The next meeting of the D-IQ will deal with an equitable distribution of the oil-production-generated income.

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

Brussels, 27 November 2012

The meeting closed at 11:19.

LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/ ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE  
NIMEKIRI/KATASTASI ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/  
LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU  
REĢISTRĀS/DALYVIŲ SARAŠAS/JELENLÉTI ĪV/ REĢISTRU TA'  
ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŚCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/LISTĀ  
DE PREZENĀ/ PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM  
NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA

Бюро/Меса/Председниство/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/Biuras/Elnökség/ Prezydium/Birou/Predsedničtv/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
Struan Stevenson (P)
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselők/ Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputati/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Andres Perello Rodriguez
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Supplenti/ Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantys nariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/Namestniki/ Varajäsenet/Suppleanter

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 punt/Punt fuq l-agenda/Agendapunt/Punkt porządku dzennego/Ponto OD/Punct de pe ordinea de zi/Bod programu schôdze/ Točka UL/Esityslistan kohta/Föredragningslista punkt)	

Наблюдатели/Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaatilejad/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/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 invitāția președintelui/Na pozvanie  
predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan

Marzio Babille, UNICEF representative for Iraq

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 (\*)

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/Service européen pour l'action extérieure/Servizio europeo per l'azione esterna/Eiropas Ārējās darbības  
dienests/Europos išorēs veiksmų tarnyba/Európai Külügyi Szolgálat/Servizz Ewropew għall-Azzjoni Esterna/Europese dienst voor  
extern optreden/Europejska Służba Działal 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 (\*)

Други институции/Otras instituciones/Ostatní orgány a instituce/Andre institutioner/Andere Organe/Muud institutsioonid/  
Āllāa θεσμικά όργανα/Other institutions/Autres institutions/Altre istituzioni/Citas iestādes/Kitos institucijos/Más intézmények/  
Istituzzjoni jiet ohra/Andere instellingen/Inne instytucje/Outras Instituições/Alte instituīii/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/Parteicipanti ohra/Andere aanwezigen/Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Altı participantı/Iní účastníci/Dragi udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare

Maytham Al Rikabi, Saas Wallas, embassy of Iraq - Pierre-Yves Brundseaux, Aurore Deschamps, UNICEF - Laetitia Ruiz, HRW - Carlos Kurdi - Zana Kurda - Merry Fitzgerald, EU- Turkmen friendship - Hassan Aydinli, Iraqi Turkmen representative in EU

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/Secrétaire des groupes politiques/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko grupu sekretariāts/Frakcijų sekretoriai/Képviselőcsoporthoz 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	Giannella Roberto
S&D	Marisol Guirao Galdon
ALDE	Mirena Pencheva
ECR	
Verts/ALE	
GUE/NGL	
EFD	
NI	

Кабинет на председателя/Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelář předsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinett des Präsidenten/Presidenti kantselei/Προφέτο Προέδρου/President's Office/Cabinet du Président/Gabinetto del Presidente/Priekšsēdētāja kabinets/Pirmininko 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/Peasekretäribüro/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 Ĝenerali/Kabinet van de secretaris-generaal/Gabinet Sekretarza Generalnego/Gabinete do Secretário-Geral/Cabinet Secretar General/Kancelária generálneho tajomníka/Urad generalného sekretarja/Pääsihteerin kabinetti/Generalsekretærrens kansli

Генерална дирекция/Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/  
 Directorate-General/Direction générale/Direzione generale/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/Direktorat  
 Československá generálna riaditeľstvo/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/Teisēs tarnyba/Jogi szolgálat/Servizz legali/Juridische Dienst/Wydział prawny/  
 Serviço Jurídico/Serviciu Juridic/Právny servis/Pravna služba/Oikeudellinen yksikkö/Rättstjänsten

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Rok Kozelj, Robertino Babic, Nicole Devos

Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Bonjčoč/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asystent/Pomočník/Avustaja/Assisternt

- \* (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Président/Priekšsēdētājs/Pirmininkas/Elnök/President/Voorzitter/Przewodniczący/Președinte/Predesa/Predsednik/Puheenjohtaja/Ordförande
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- (M) = Член/Miembro/Člen/Medlem./Mitglied/Parlamendiige/Méλoč/Member/Membre/Membro/Deputāts/Narys/Képviselő/Membri/Lid/Członek/Membro/Membru/Člen/Poslanec/Jäsen/Ledamot
- (F) = Должностно лице/Funcionario/Úředník/Tjenestemand/Beamter/Ametnik/Υπάλληλος/Official/Fonctionnaire/Funzionario/Ierēdnis/Pareigūnas/Tiszttviselő/Ufficjal/Ambtenaar/Urzédnik/Funcionário/Funcționar/Úradník/Uradnik/Virkamies/Tjänstemann