



Delegation for relations with Iraq

D-IQ_PV(2009)1110_1

MINUTES
of the meeting of 10 November 2009, from 10.15 to 11.15
BRUSSELS

The meeting opened at 10.25 on Tuesday, 10 November 2009, with Mr. Struan Stevenson (ECR, UK) (Chair) in the chair.

1. Adoption of draft agenda (PE430.031)

The agenda was approved, with an addition regarding the exchange of views on political situation in Iraq with Mr. William Spencer, Executive Director of the Institute for International Law and Human Rights.

2. Approval of minutes of the constituent meeting of 30 September 2009 (PE428.417)

The minutes were approved.

3. Chair's announcements

- The Chair referred to the horrendous attack perpetrated in Baghdad on 25 October 2009, with hundreds of victims, and sent a clear message of strong condemnation of the attack, while conveying deep condolences to the families of the victims and assuring the Iraqi people and the Iraqi authorities of the determination of the European Parliament of continued dialogue towards longstanding peace and security.
- Reference was made, as a concrete element of the intense dialogue held with the Iraqi partners, at the visit to the European Parliament of Mr. Massoud Barzani, the President of the Autonomous Kurdish Government in Iraq, who had a very interesting and substantive intervention at the AFET meeting of 10 November 2009.
- The Chair informed on the results of his recent visit to Jordan (26-28 October 2009), at the invitation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Jordan, Mr. Abdelhadi Al-Majali. The purpose of the visit was to have an exchange of views with various political figures involved in the political process in Iraq, as well as with key

political personalities within the Jordanian parliament and government, in order to gain a greater understanding of the current situation, in the perspective of the upcoming elections in Iraq. A special mentioned was made regarding the need of opening enough voting centres for the Iraqis who have fled the violence in their country and are living in other countries, especially in the Arab world. The report of the visit will be distributed to the Members.

4. Exchange of views on the overall situation in Iraq, including the electoral process and state of play of negotiations on the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) EU-Iraq, in the presence of Ms. Patricia LLOMBART CUSSAC, Head of Unit for relations with the Gulf countries, Iran, Iraq and Yemen at the European Commission

Ms. Patricia Llobart Cussac presented the state of play of the EU's relations with Iraq, addressing mainly:

- a) The overall situation in Iraq: security, political; economical

The situation has improved; there are elements towards stable and prosperous country on medium term, if the security situation and the political stability will be enhanced.

Security: the recent attacks were meant to undermine Prime Minister Al Maliki, who contributed to the increase of security since 2008; at present, the sectarian violence, witnessed few years ago, has much dropped, violence still persist, but not chains of violence; the Iraqi security forces are, now, better trained and equipped.

Political front: learning process; high participation in the first regional elections, including Kurdistan region; the political process is still fragile; the Council of Representatives still has important issues to decide on with regard to the oil and gas law, as well as regarding national reconciliation;

Economy: the number of investments from EU Member States is increasing (trade in goods and services - energy), however the major reconstruction projects are still pending; dependence on oil sector still very high; the population cannot perceive the benefits from the economy: basic services still poor, employment is a challenge (seen as incapacity to deliver of the Prime Minister).

- b) The preparations for the parliamentary elections of January 2010:

The Council of Representatives of Iraq is about to adopt the electoral law, a major step for the forthcoming elections of January 2010; progress: the system of open voting lists, and the provisions regarding the minorities, as requested by the international community; the electoral law is essential for the preparations to be organised by the Iraqi High Electoral Commission (IHEC), who has an essential role in the election process; The European Commission is supporting IHEC, through UN; there is a political debate in Iraq, which is a good sign, coalitions are still in process of being established (Shiia, Sunni, Kurdish)

- c) Relations with neighbouring countries

The relation with Turkey is enhancing; the close relation with Iran is perceived in different ways; with Syria a decrease is taking place (accusations of orchestrating the attack of 25 October); with Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates is a relation in construction.

- d) The EU relations with Iraq, including the status of negotiations of the EU-Iraq Partnership and Cooperation Agreement

The support granted by EU to Iraq, towards building a stable and prosperous state, has many layers, from the assistance to organise democratic elections, to the establishment of the rule of

law (through CFSP instruments), including human rights protection system, as well as to enhancing the access to basic services: water, sanitation, education.

The issue of refugees is closely monitored; the objective, for the coming years, is to create the conditions for the return of the refugees, linked with the security situation and to the advancements on sectarian reconciliation.

The negotiations of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) EU - Iraq are well advanced, both parties expressing the interest of adopting the agreement as soon as possible. The PCA includes political dialogue, area of cooperation to which the role of the European Parliament is essential.

Future objectives of the Commission with regard to the cooperation with Iraq: conclude the PCA negotiations; upgrade from annual to multi-annual assistance programmes; advance the energy cooperation; further support to the political process and democracy building in Iraq.

5. Exchange of views with Mr. William Spencer, the Executive Director of the Institute for International Law and Human Rights

Mr. William Spencer stressed that the legal framework is a prerequisite for development and, in this context, referred to seven human rights issues, highly important to be tackled:

- the impunity of Iraqi officials: establishment of Iraqi Human Rights Commission (possible vote in December), seen as a prerequisite for cultural respect;
- minorities issue: needs more legislation and clear implementation of the respective articles in the Constitution and in the Electoral Law;
- refugees and IDPs: represent 10% of the Iraqi population; still important issues to be tackled, including participation to vote; laws needed for establishing IDs and legal names;
- social and economic rights;
- gender issue: more provisions needed for women care;
- reconciliation;
- constitutional order: legal clarifications needed in the relation of the regions with the central power.

The debates following the presentations focused mainly on the political aspects and specifically on the forthcoming elections. The importance to show EU solidarity with the democratic electoral process was stressed. At the same time, the security situation was evoked in the context of a possible visit to Baghdad, prior the elections, of the Bureau of the EP Delegation for relations with Iraq. The Commission representative stressed that the Delegation of the Commission in Baghdad does not have the capacity to provide the necessary logistical and security support for the EP delegation. It was specified that the Commission is considering sending electoral experts, only for technical advice to the IHEC, but electoral observation mission is not envisaged.

Mr. Spencer suggested that parliamentary dialogue and assistance in setting up a government, after elections, could be of great help for the Iraqi partners.

The proposal of the Chair to extend invitations to the Iraqi political leaders participating in elections, in order to attend one of the meetings of the Delegation, possibly in December, was agreed by the Members.

6. Exchange of views and adoption of the 2010 calendar of activities

The draft calendar of activities, distributed to the Members, was approved.

7. Any other business

8. Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on 2 December 2009, in Brussels.

The meeting closed at 11.20.

**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 (*)
Struan Stevenson (P), Esther de Lange (1 VP), Silvia Costa (2 VP)
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselők/ Membri/Leden/Poslowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Jill Evans, Ana Gomes, Andres Perello Rodriguez, Giancarlo Scotta', Artur Zasada
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Supplenti/ Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantys nariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/Namestniki/ Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
John Attard-Montalto, Jelko Kacin

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

<p>По покана на председателя/Por invitación del presidente/Na pozváni 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 tač-'Chairman'/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</p>

<p>Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nðukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/Conseil/Consiglio/Padome/Taryba/Tanács/Kunsill/Raad/Conselho/Consiliu/Svet/Neuvosto/Rådet (*)</p>
<p>Комисия/Comisión/Komise/Kommissionen/Kommission/Euroopa Komisjon/Επιτροπή/Commission/Commissione/Komisija/Bizottság/Kummissjoni/Commissie/Komisja/Comissão/Comisie/Komisia/Komissio/Kommissionen (*)</p>
<p>Ms Patricia Llobart Cussac Ms Julita Bas</p>
<p>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 oħra/Andere instellingen/Inne instytucje/Outras Instituições/Alte instituții/Iné inštitúcie/Druge institucije/Muut toimielimet/Andra institutioner/organ</p>

<p>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/Iní účastníci/Dруги udeleženci/Muut osallistajat/Övriga deltagare</p>																
<p>Belal Ateya, Iraq embassy B'Chir, Journalist Giovannini, Institute for International Law and Human Rights Mr Spencer, Institute for International Law and Human Rights Hannah Percival, Election Observation</p>																
<p>Секретариат на политическите групи/Secretaría de los Grupos políticos/Sekretariát politických skupin/Gruppernes sekretariat/Sekretariat der Fraktionen/Fraktioonide sekretariaat/Γραμματεία των Πολιτικών Ομάδων/Sekretariats of political groups/Sekretariat des groupes politiques/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko grupu sekretariāts/Frakciju sekretoriat/Képviseletcsoportok titkársága/Sekretarjat gruppi polițici/Fraciesekretariat/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secr. dos grupos políticos/Sekretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupin/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristöt/Gruppernas sekretariat</p>																
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Dariusz Serowka	
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DG PRES DG IPOL DG EXPO DG COMM DG PERS DG INLO DG TRAD DG INTE DG FINS DG ITEC	Michael Reinprecht, Suzanne Steeman, Basel Abusaid Gina Wharton
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	
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Camelia Oaida	
Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asystent/Pomočnik/Avustaja/Assistenten	
Nicole Devos	

- * (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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(M) = Член/Miembro/Člen/Medlem./Mitglied/Parlamendiliige/Μέλος/Member/Membre/Membro/Deputāts/Narys/Képviselő/Membru/Lid/Członek/Membro/Membru/Člen/Poslanec/Jäsen/Ledamot
(F) = Длъжностно лице/Funcionario/Úředník/Tjenestemand/Beamter/Ametnik/Υπάλληλος/Official/Fonctionnaire/Funzionario/Ierēdnis/Pareigūnas/Tisztviselő/Ufficial/Ambtenaar/UrządNIK/Funcionário/Functionar/Úradník/Uradnik/Virkamies/Tjänsteman