



Delegation for relations with the Arab Peninsula

DARP_PV(2013)0220_1

MINUTES

of the meeting of 20 February 2013, from 17.30 to 18.30
Brussels

The meeting opened at 17.35 on Wednesday, 20 February 2013, with Angelika Niebler (Chair) in the chair.

1. Adoption of the draft agenda (PE 495.814)

The draft agenda was adopted without modification.

2. Adoption of the minutes of the meetings of 23 January 2013 (PE 495.812)

The minutes of the meeting of 23 January 2013 were approved with one modification.

3. Chair's announcements

The Chair welcomed a group of visitors from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. With a view to the planned working group visit to the Kingdom of Bahrain from 29 April to 1 May 2013, she informed that the second National Dialogue in Bahrain had started on 10 February 2013 and expressed her hope that this dialogue would contribute to solve the political and socio-economic tensions in the country.

4. Exchange of views on the humanitarian situation in Yemen with Mrs Sophie Vanhaeverbeke, Team leader for the occupied Palestinian Territory, Lebanon and Yemen, European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO)

The Chair recalled that Yemen was the poorest country on the Arab Peninsula, which was suffering from a severe food crisis, displacements resulting from internal conflicts, and an immense influx of refugees from the Horn of Africa. She invited Mrs Vanhaeverbeke to present the EU humanitarian action which has been put in place to remedy this situation.

Mrs Vanhaeverbeke (EEAS) stated that Yemen was going through a two-year transition which should lead to a new constitution and to elections in February 2014. In spite of the progress achieved since the revolution of 2011, the country is facing many challenges. The transition process is lacking behind and the National Dialogue is finally scheduled to start on 18 March 2013. Yet, the lack of trust among the different parties remains a major challenge for its success. As far as security is concerned, the situation continues to be very fragile in several parts of Yemen. Internal conflicts led to casualties and displacement of population. Yemen faces severe economic challenges and is one of the poorest countries in the world. A large part of the population suffers from malnutrition, and there are high numbers of refugees, many of whom are victims of crime and human trafficking.

The United Nations launched the 'Yemen Humanitarian Response Plan' which includes emergency operations, early recovery and development projects linked to poverty alleviation. It seeks 716 million USD for 2013, which represents a 22% increase compared to 2012. The European Community Humanitarian Office (ECHO) has programmed 33 million Euros for Yemen for 2013, which will above all be used to tackle malnutrition in the coastal areas and to help displaced persons in the northern and southern parts of the country. Mrs Vanhaeverbeke emphasized that strong coordination among all the donors is essential in terms of priority setting, implementation and monitoring.

There are several challenges for humanitarian assistance in Yemen. Due to security problems such as kidnapping of foreigners, the most affected areas often cannot be reached. The access to the Houthi-controlled area is difficult, and therefore, the humanitarian focus has drastically shifted from the North to the South of the country, although both areas should have international attention. Many humanitarian agencies which are present in Yemen have difficulties in getting visas for their staff. Furthermore, the local capacity is very weak and needs to be strengthened.

Mrs Vanhaeverbeke informed Members that representatives of the European Community Humanitarian Office visited the Abyan Governorate in Yemen in January 2013. She reported that many displaced persons had already returned to their homes but several towns have been damaged during the conflict. Several areas still require demining and mine risk education. Although economic activities are taken up again, much remains to be done, both concerning humanitarian intervention but also measures that improve law and order as well as infrastructure.

Members asked with which other organisations the EU was cooperating regarding its humanitarian assistance to Yemen, in which ways the other countries of the Arab Peninsula supported Yemen (Garcés Ramón), if the humanitarian assistance really arrived where it was most urgently needed and if the national dialogue was representative (Krahmer).

Mrs Vanhaeverbeke explained that the EU was cooperating with several organisations such as the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), UNICEF, the International Committee of the Red Cross, OXFAM, Médecins du Monde, Save the Children, and Action Contre la Faim. According to her, the aid programmes do in general reach the population in need, but not all areas are accessible. While humanitarian assistance aims to alleviate the suffering, it does not tackle the origin. Therefore, ECHO closely cooperates with the European External Action Service and the European Commission's Directorate General for Development and Cooperation in order to link humanitarian assistance with development policies. As far as the support of the other countries of the Arab Peninsula is concerned, she stated that Saudi Arabia was a major funding actor in the region.

Willem Brinkmann (EEAS) informed that the "Friends of Yemen" group would meet on 7 March 2013 in London. He stated that the National Dialogue seemed to be inclusive but that it was difficult to know who was really independent.

H.E. Mr. Faisal H. Trad, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, thanked the Chair for having welcomed the group of visitors from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

5. Any other business

None.

6. Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting will take place in Brussels on 26 March 2013.

The meeting closed at 18.30.

**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 SAŪAŠAS/JELENLÉTI ÍV/
REĢISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŠCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/LISTÁ DE PREZENȚĂ/
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 (*)
Angelika Niebler (P), Holger Kraemer (VP)
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselők/ Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Vicente Miguel Garcés Ramón, Jacek Włosowicz
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Supplenti/ Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantys nariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleantî/Náhradníci/Namestniki/ Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
Paul Rübig

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/Darbotvarkės 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/Observatorzy/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

Ms Sohie Vanhaeverbeke, ECHO

Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Νόυκογυ/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 (*)

Европейска служба за външна дейност/Европскá 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 Działań Zewnętrznych/Serviço Europeu para a Acção Externa/Serviciul european pentru actiune
externă/Európska služba pre vonkajšiu činnosť/Evropska služba za zunanje delovanje/Euroopan ulkosuhdehallinto/Europeiska
avdelningen för yttre åtgärd (*)

Mr Murat Mustij

Mr Willem Brinkmann

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
toimelimet/Andra institutioner/organ

Други учасници/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/Drugi udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare

H.E. Mr Faisal Trad, Ambassador of Saudi Arabia
 Mr Mohamed Charfi, Saudi embassy
 Mr Khalid Fila, Oman embassy
 Ms Kifah Al Lawati, Oman embassy
 Ms Abeer Adnaih, Kuwait embassy
 Mr Sami Al Shammass, Kuwait embassy
 Mr Hassin Al Hammadi, Qatar embassy
 Mr Abdelhakam Dala, Yemen embassy
 Ms Hanan Al Wareeth, Yemen embassy
 Mr Abdulaziz M. Alhaid, Saudi Arabia
 Mr Emad Aldajjy, Saudi embassy
 Mr Youssef Algarah, MOFA
 Mr Thamer Alghosaibi, Saudi embassy
 Mr Ajmad A. Kundi, Saudi embassy

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/Secrétariat des groupes politiques/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko grupu sekretariāts/Frakciju sekretoriat/Képviseletcsoportok titkársága/Sekretarjat gruppi političi/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secr. dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupin/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristöt/Gruppernas sekretariat

PPE	Mr Mauro Belardinelli
S&D	Ms Ciara Drehan
ALDE	Ms itziar Munoa Salaverria
ECR	
Verts/ALE	
GUE/NGL	
EFD	
NI	

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/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/Peasekretäri büroo/Γραφείο Γενικού Γραμματέα/Secretary-General's Office/Cabinet du Secrétaire général/Gabinetto del Segretario generale/Generālsekretāra 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/Ģenerāldirektorāts/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/Direttorat Generali/Direktoraten-generaal/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direcții Generale/Generálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni direktorat/ Pääosasto/Generaldirektorat	
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Judith Bürger	
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/
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