



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Delegation to the EU-Kazakhstan, EU-Kyrgyzstan and EU-Uzbekistan Parliamentary Cooperation Committees, and for relations with Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Mongolia

DCAS_PV(2009)1103

MINUTES
of the meeting of 3 November 2009, from 17:30 to 19:00
BRUSSELS

The meeting opened at 17:32 on Tuesday, 3 November 2009, with Paolo Bartolozzi (Chair) in the chair.

1. Adoption of the draft agenda (PE 429.740)

The agenda was adopted without amendments.

2. Announcements by the Chair

The Chair informed that this was the sole preparatory meeting for the 7th EU-Kyrgyz Republic Parliamentary Cooperation Committee that would take place on 10 and 11 November 2009. The formal Interparliamentary meeting would take place on 11 November 2009.

3. Exchange of views with the Ambassador of the Kyrgyz Republic, H.E. Mr Jyrgalbek K. AZYLOV

Mr AZYLOV was absent. He was represented by Mr. Mukashev and Mr. Kadrakunov.

Mr Mukashev congratulated the Chair on his election and stressed that the bilateral relationship with the EU was a key priority of the foreign policy of Kyrgyzstan, based on the EU 2007 partnership with countries in Central Asia: this includes cooperation on economic, democracy and security issues among others. Kyrgyzstan is willing to engage with the EU on all issues, as seen during the second round of the Human Rights dialogue which took place recently. M. Mukashev hoped the new MEPs would boost the relationship further.

He further stated that Kyrgyzstan was a relatively young state living through a transition period. The incumbent president Mr. Bakiyev had won a clear majority at the last elections

and had since initiated systemic reforms on state management in order to boost the economy; Kyrgyzstan has thus been able to minimize the adverse effects of the current financial crisis and is looking forward to increasing foreign investment from EU countries, notably in the areas of transport, energy and tourism.

Mr Mukashev also stressed Kyrgyzstan's role in fighting against global terrorism and recalled that it is in this context that it is hosting US bases which facilitate transit from/to Afghanistan; in regional policy terms, Kyrgyzstan hopes relations with other Central Asian countries will intensify, despite the sectoral disagreements that can sometimes be observed on issues like water management or trade.

The following Members spoke: BARTOLOZZI, GODMANIS, WIKSTRÖM, JEGGLE, CALLANAN.

Mr GODMANIS reminded that one of the biggest hurdles Kyrgyzstan faces is water management and suggested that Bishkek should engage in real negotiations with the neighbouring countries, with the possibility of EU mediation.

Mr Mukashev stated Kyrgyzstan was providing downstream countries sufficient water but these countries were not using the water efficiently. He stressed that Bishkek was looking for a mutually beneficial water management system, but not at the expense of the interests or the dignity of the country. This is why dams were being built. The existing system, he recalled, was inherited from Soviet times and was now inadequate. While the problem could be solved through an open and constructive dialogue, Kyrgyzstan would welcome the active involvement of international organisations such as the EU or the UN.

Ms WIKSTRÖM raised the freedom of expression issue, recalling that Kyrgyzstan's ranking had deteriorated recently in this respect.

Mr Mukashev replied that reforms taking place in his country were irreversible, and that a lot had been accomplished since independence, just 18 years ago. Things had to be put in a historical perspective, with pluralistic opinions expressed in the written press. Although the country had to develop strong state institutions, there was no trend to reverse democratic/human rights reforms. Kyrgyzstan would continue to improve the state of democracy.

Ms JEGGLE underlined that a number of reports alluded to worsening corruption in the country, with the President's entourage being allegedly involved. She also expressed concerns on food security in the country, and enquired about the precise state of affairs as to the renewal of the lease to the US military base in the republic.

Mr Mukashev accepted that there were certain problems with corruption in Kyrgyzstan, but stressed that the government had started its tenure by recognising them, and had announced a series of measures in order to tackle corruption and reducing bureaucratic obstacles. He reiterated the willingness of his authorities to implement reforms. As to food security, the food shortages could not be attributed to low food production, but to inefficient marketing; in view of the approaching winter, the government would make new efforts in this respect. Mr Mukashev also reminded that Kyrgyzstan was the first country in Central Asia to help the international community fight against terrorism in 2001, and stressed there was no reorientation in Kyrgyz foreign policy: "we have proven to be a reliable partner".

Mr CALLANAN recalled that some years ago Kyrgyzstan was the most open country in Central Asia, and many observers had high hopes that the country, especially after the Tulip revolution, would walk the road of human rights, democracy, and freedom. However, the last presidential elections were widely seen as deeply flawed, with massive ballot stuffing - which was rather ironic, as the President would probably have won anyway. The government reassurances that it was willing to tackle corruption could only be taken with a pinch of salt since all international businessmen "will tell you openly that bribes are needed", and rumours of the President's family being involved in such schemes were widespread; likewise, reports of clampdown on the press and TV were deeply depressing.

Mr Mukashev refused to comment on the rumours concerning the President's family, underlining there were no concrete facts or proofs that would prove such an assertion. He repeated that the Government recognised there were shortcomings, which it was trying to solve. As to the Presidential elections, Mr Mukashev stressed that apart from the EU assessment, there were a number of others which had found the elections to be pluralistic and competitive.

4. Exchange of views on current EU/Kyrgyzstan relations with representatives from the European Commission, DG RELEX

The Commission representative stated that Kyrgyzstan was the most democratic country in Central Asia, but with room for improvement. He recalled of the recent EU Presidency statement, and of the ODIHR/OSCE conclusions - with Kyrgyzstan belonging to the OSCE. There were positive elements in the last election: a real choice of candidates, a major engagement of civil society; these were facts, and not to be taken for granted in a Central Asian context. However, the elections had failed to meet key standards: inadequate voters registers, ballot stuffing, and absentee voting. All this pointed out to a negative assessment.

Furthermore, Kyrgyzstan had since then seen the harassment of opposition parties, the closure of independent press, and many incidents against journalists. These were also facts, and they had been raised by the EC in the context of human rights dialogue maintained with the authorities. In this respect, the EC stressed that the Kyrgyz authorities had always maintained a very constructive and positive attitude in the framework of political dialogue. Kyrgyzstan was also the only country in the region with which the EC had a regular dialogue on water management issues. More generally, the European Commission was keen to ensure continuity of reforms and efforts in the Kyrgyz Republic, and would take this into account during the mid-term review of the support programme, which would also be discussed at the EP. The EC also recalled that it had allocated to Kyrgyzstan in the last 18 months 7 Million Euros via the global food facility, bringing total EU aid to approximately 12 million Euros.

Ms WIKSTRÖM enquired on the possibility of the Kyrgyz Republic becoming, especially in the south, a breeding ground for international radical movements. On behalf of the EC, Mr MALDONADO stated that brutal repression would only be counter-productive and provoke more radical patterns in the long term. Whatever moves to combat radical Islamism should be taken in full respect of freedom of religion and respect of the rule of law and human rights.

5. Preparation of the 7th EP/Kyrgyzstan Parliamentary Cooperation Committee (10-11 November in Brussels)

Members had received in their dossier a copy of the draft agenda for the Parliamentary Cooperation Committee. The Chair further informed MEPs that invitations would be sent out

as soon as possible for the dinner and lunch that would take place in honour of the Kyrgyz delegation. A further dossier with background information would be distributed on 11 November. Members would also receive a briefing paper produced by the European Parliament's Policy Unit.

6. Draft calendar of delegation activities in 2010

The Chair drew the attention to Members to the draft calendar of delegation activities that were provisionally scheduled for 2010 and distributed. This document took account of the most recent meetings with the counterpart parliaments, and proposed:

Outgoing missions

Kazakhstan (week 7), Turkmenistan (week 21), Uzbekistan (week 44)

Incoming missions

Tajikistan (week 39)

The Chair further indicated that in 2011 priority could be given to visits to the Kyrgyz Republic and Mongolia; the Chair also stressed that these dates were only indicative and were subject to the agreement of the counterpart parliaments.
No Members took the floor under this point.

7. Any other business

No points were raised.

8. Date and place of next meeting

Mr BARTOLOZZI informed that the next regular meeting of the delegation would take place on 1 December at 1615 hrs in Brussels.

The meeting closed at 18:50.

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

Бюро/Mesa/Předsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/Biuras/Elnökség/ Prezydium/Birou/Předsednictvo/Předsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
Paolo Bartolozzi (P), Alfreds Rubiks (VP)
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselők/ Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Bogdan Kazimierz Marcinkiewicz, Ivair Padar, Miloslav Ransdorf, Peter Simon, Csanád Szegedi, Inese Vaidere
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Supplenti/ Aizstājēji/Pavadojuantys nariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/Namestniki/ Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
Piotr Borys, Ivars Godmanis, Elisabeth Jeggle, Kyriacos Triantaphyllides, Cecilia Wikström, Joachim Zeller

187 (2)
Martin Callanan
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/Obserwatorzy/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/Εσιμεhe 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/
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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

Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nðukogu/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 (*)
Victor Andres Maldonado, Carlos Freitas de Silva
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 ohra/Andere instellingen/Inne instytucje/Outras Instituições/Alte instituții/Iné inštitúcie/Druge institucije/Muut toimielimet/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 ohra/Andere aanwezigen/Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Alți participanți/Ini účastnici/Drugi udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare	
Jenish Kadrakunov, Daniar Mukashev (Kyrgyzs Embassy)	
Секретариат на политическите групи/Secretaría de los Grupos políticos/Sekretariat politických skupin/Gruppenes 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 sekretoriai/Képviselőcsoportok titkársága/Sekretarjat gruppi politici/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secr. dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariat politických skupin/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristö/Gruppenas sekretariat	
PPE	Elisabetta Montano
S&D	Ambroise Perrin
ALDE	Mide Ni Shuilleabhain
ECR	
Verts/ALE	Paolo Bergamaschi
GUE/NGL	
EFD	Eggle Kropaite
NI	

Кабинет на председателя/Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelář předsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinett des Präsidenten/Presidendi kantslelei/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 Preşedinte/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/Generalsekretära 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 generálního 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/Generāldirektorāts/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/Direttorat Generali/Direktoraten-generaal/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direcții Generale/Generálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni direktorat/Pääosasto/Generaldirektorat	
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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	
Секретариат на комисията/Secretaría de la comisión/Sekretariat výboru/Udvalgssekretariatet/Ausschusseksretariat/Komisjoni sekretariaat/Γραμματεία επιτροπής/Committee secretariat/Secrétariat de la commission/Segreteria della commissione/Komitejas sekretariāts/Komiteto sekretoriatas/A bizottság titkársága/Sekretarjat tal-kumitat/Commissiesecretariaat/Sekretariat komisji/Sekretariado da comissão/Secretariat comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottssekretariatet	
Tim Boden	
Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asystent/Pomočnik/Avustaja/Assistenten	
Kathleen Huygen	

- * (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Président/Priekšsēdētājs/Pirmininkas/Elnök/Chairman/Voorzitter/Przewodniczący/Preşedinte/Predseda/Predsednik/Puheenjohtaja/Ordförande
- (VP) = Заместник-председател/Vicepresidente/Místopředseda/Næstformand/Stellvertretender Vorsitzender/Aseesimees/Αντιπρόεδρος/Vice-Chair(wo)man/Vice-Président/Priekšsēdētāja vietnieks/Pirmininko pavaduotojas/Alelnök/Víci 'Chairman'/Ondervoorzitter/Wiceprzewodniczący/Vice-Présidente/Vicepreşedinte/Podpredseda/Podpredsednik/Varapuheenjohtaja/Vice ordförande
- (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/Funcionar/Úradník/Uradnik/Virkamies/Tjänsteman