



DMAG_PV(2009)1203_01

MINUTES
of the meeting of 3 December 2009, from 10.15 to 11.15
BRUSSELS

The meeting opened at 10.20 on Thursday, 3 December 2009, with Pier Antonio Panzeri (Chair), in the Chair.

1. Adoption of draft agenda (PE 430.052)

The draft agenda was adopted.

2. Approval of minutes of the meeting of 4 November 2009 (PE 430.044)

The minutes were approved.

3. Chair's announcements

The Chair informed the Members of the meeting of the Conference of Delegation Chairs of Wednesday, 25 November 2009. The Conference had unanimously approved the principle of the creation of a joint Parliamentary Committee with Morocco. The programme of activities for D-MAG in 2010 had also been adopted during that meeting.

The Chair then explained that the meeting initially scheduled for Thursday, 12 November 2009 had had to be postponed because the Ambassador had been unable to attend, and expressed the wish to quickly establish good working relations with Tunisian parliamentarians.

The Chair recalled the terms used by the European Commission concerning the implementation of the Association Agreement with Tunisia, namely that it should tend to be asymmetric within the economic and commercial spheres while making progress in the area of politics. The Progress Report prepared by the Commission noted that the economy and regulation reforms had made significant progress and were reflected in Tunisian trade with the EU and high economic growth. The Chair noted the end of tariff dismantling and the freedom of movement for industrial products with the EU since January 2008, and highlighted that Tunisia was therefore the first country to implement such measures in the context of the Euromed free trade area.

In the political field, the Chair mentioned that the EU also aimed to develop and consolidate democracy, the rule of law, and respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Tunisia had made significant commitments to democracy, governance and human rights, in the context of the Action Plan under the Neighbourhood Policy, which should now lead to concrete progress.

The Chair while congratulating Tunisia on the reform of the electoral code (which aimed to remove the clause on candidate sponsorship by at least thirty elected MPs and mayors), regretted that this had been affected by a "constitutional emergency act", which it was not conducive to.

Finally, the Chair welcomed Tunisia's interest in an enhanced partnership with the EU and said that D-MAG would carefully examine a proposal to this effect, a topic which could be included in the agenda for the next interparliamentary meeting with Tunisian members.

4. Exchange of views on the current state of political and economic relations between the EU and Tunisia in the presence of Mr Adrianus Koetsenruijter, Head of the European Commission Delegation in Tunisia and H.E Mr Abdassalem Hetira, Ambassador of Tunisia to the European Union.

Mr Koetsenruijter gave a progress report on the economic aspects of collaboration with Tunisia. Exports were falling below the target level (6%) but were still positive (3%). The agriculture and tourism sectors had seen positive developments and had grown strongly (6% for agriculture). On the liberalisation of agricultural products there he noted a lack of progress. The situation was largely positive with regard to facilitating the establishment of European business in Tunisia, since there were around 3000 European businesses present there.

On a political level, relations with Tunisia were functioning well on the whole, even though the EU would like a better response from Tunisia in the political dialogue on certain proposed topics. On recent elections, the EU had proposed a monitoring operation but Tunisia had preferred observation by the African Union and a number of Arab countries. The Commission had been given access to many polling stations. Even though the increase of pluralism was notable, there had been no public debate as in the EU, and there was still progress to be made in order to guarantee a wider diversity of opinion.

Mr Koetsenruijter concluded his speech by highlighting that the EC was awaiting the Tunisian proposal concerning the enhanced partnership with Tunisia.

H.E Ambassador Heitra highlighted the exceptional achievements of Tunisia, given the limited natural resources at its disposal. The ranking of the Tunisian education system as eighth in the world by the Davos forum was a good illustration of these achievements. He summarised the situation on women's rights, which was exceptional in the context of the Arab-Muslim world, gender equality and equal treatment, the quality of the health system, retirement etc. Tunisia was a country with rights under the European Union Charter of fundamental rights and had always been governed in the spirit of interdependence and the inclusiveness of rights.

On the political dialogue, H.E Ambassador Heitra noted that time was needed for an opposition to develop and that Tunisia was a young democracy whose first multi-party elections had taken place in 1989. He explained that EU ambassadors had been able to freely observe voting during the previous elections and the atmosphere in which they took place. Every five years, the Head of State stood for election, presenting an assessment of his achievements and an election manifesto, which could explain his proportion of the vote in the elections. Tunisia's achievements are recognised on the international level as well as by the Tunisian people.

Referring to the report adopted by the United Nations Human Rights Council (see the Universal Periodic Review of the UN Human Rights Council), he noted that the assessments of the EU Member States who are members of the Human Rights Council were excellent. The case of Tunisia should be analysed in comparison with other countries of the European Neighbourhood Policy. Tunisia had been struck by this constant preoccupation with all its dysfunctions instead of acknowledging the efforts it had put into place.

Following these contributions Mr Preda spoke out about guaranteeing the freedom of the press in Tunisia. Mr. Iacolino said that while the economic progress achieved by Tunisia was significant, efforts on the political level should be continued. Mrs Ayala noted that it was important to establish close relations between D-MAG and Tunisian members. Mrs Romero added the idea that economic liberalisation should be accompanied by political reforms. Finally, Mrs Vergiat actively criticised the human rights situation in Tunisia.

The Chair reminded Members that their statements should be made during the allocated time for the delegation's meeting. He asked the speakers to reply in one minute, and to maybe circulate the written answers to Members if they wished.

Mr Koetsenruijter replied to members' questions as a whole saying that the enhanced partnership should go further in the areas of security and defence, in accordance with the desire expressed by Tunisia. The dynamisation of European and Tunisian investments needed to be taken further and discussions on governance should be broadened.

H.E Ambassador Heitra expressed regret at not having enough time to reply to the questions

raised. He recalled that Tunisia wished to discuss human rights issues, but within a political framework, which existed and for which there was an institutional framework (e.g. Subcommittee on Human Rights).

The meeting closed at 11.35.

**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 PREZENŤÁ/
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 (*)
Pier Antonio Panzeri (P), Ernst Strasser (VP 1)
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselők/ Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Salvatore Iacolino, Cristian Dan Preda, Carmen Romero López
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Supplenti/ Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantys nariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/Namestniki/ Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
Inés Ayala Sender, Iliana Malinova Iotova, Renate Sommer

187 (2)
Paul Rübige
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/Stebētājai/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/Pëc priekšsēdētāja uzaicinājuma/Pirmininkui pakvietus/Az elnök meghívására/Fuq stedina taç-'Chairman/
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Op uitnodiging van de voorzitter/Na zaproszenie Przewodniczącego/A convite do Presidente/La invitația președintelui/Na pozwanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan
M. Adrianus Koetzenruijter, Chef de la Délégation CE en Tunisie S.E. M. Abdessalem Hetira, Ambassadeur de la Tunisie auprès de l'UE

Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Νόηκογο/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 (*)
Joao De Santana, Desk Tunisie Maurizio Caldarone, Desk Tunisie
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 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 oħra/Andere aanwezigen/Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Alți participanți/Ini účastnici/Dруги udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare	
Nada Meslameni et J. Ayala, Ambassade de Tunisie Abderahmane Tameur, Ambassade d'Algérie Samia Herrag, Mission du Maroc Long, ULB Ouariachs et Brahimi, HRW B-Chir, Agence Europe Tim van Uytfang, UK Perm Rep	
Секретариат на политическите групи/Sekretaría de los Grupos políticos/Sekretariát politických skupin/Gruppernes sekretariat/Sekretariat der Fraktionen/Fraktsioonide sekretariaat/Γραμματεία των Πολιτικών Ομάδων/Sekretariats of political groups/Secrétariat des groupes politiques/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko grupu sekretariāts/Frakciju sekretoriai/Képviseletcsoportok titkársága/Sekretarjat gruppi politici/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secr. dos grupos políticos/Sekretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupin/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristö/Gruppernas sekretariat	
PPE S&D ALDE ECR Verts/ALE GUE/NGL EFD NI	Andrea Laskavá, Paolo Licandro Isabel Jubete Salvador, Marisol Guirao Galdon Itziar Munoa, Isabella Marzullo Chiara Tamburini

Кабинет на председателя/Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelář předsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinett des Präsidenten/Presidendi kantselēi/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/Urząd predsednika/Puhemiehen kabinetti/Talmannens kansli	
Dariusz Serowka	
Кабинет на генералния секретар/Gabinete del Secretario General/Kancelář generálního tajemníka/Generalsekretærens Kabinet/Kabinett des Generalsekretærs/Peasekretæri büroo/Γραφείο Γενικού Γραμματέα/Secretary-General's Office/Cabinet du Secrétaire général/Gabinetto del Segretario generale/Generalsekretæra kabinets/Generalinio sekretoriaus kabinetas/Főtitkári hivatal/Kabinett tas-Segretarju Ġenerali/Kabinet van de secretaris-generaal/Gabinet Sekretarza Generalnego/Gabinete do Secretário-Geral/Cabinet Secretar General/Kancelária generálneho tajomníka/Urząd 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/Direktorat Ġenerali/Direktoraten-generaal/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direcții Generale/Generálne 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	Nereo Penalver Michael Reinprecht, Hans-Hermann Kraus
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/Servizo 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/Secretariado da comissão/Sekretariat comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottssekretariatet	
Isabelle Montoya	
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
(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/Urządник/Funcionário/Functionar/Úradník/Uradnik/Virkamies/Tjänsteman