

*Delegation for relations with the Mashreq countries***DMAS_PV(2010)1206_1****MINUTES**
of the meeting of 6 December 2010, from 16.15 to 17.15
Brussels

The meeting opened at 16.15 on Monday, 6 December 2010. It was chaired by Vice-Chairman Saïd el-Khadraoui until 16.45 and subsequently by Mario Scurria until 17.15.

1. Adoption of draft agenda (PE 451.222)

The draft agenda was adopted. Point 3 (Adoption of the Chairman's report on the delegation visit to Lebanon, 31 October-5 November 2010) was postponed since Chairman Mário David could not attend the meeting.

2. Chairman's announcements

- Mário David as the Chair of the Delegation has received an invitation to attend the interparliamentary meeting of the Israel Delegation with the Knesset on 8 December.
- On 9 December, 9.00-10.00, DMAS is associated to an exchange of views organised by the AFET Committee with the Ambassador-designate to Lebanon, Mrs Angelina Eichhorst. The series of meetings with new EU Ambassadors is a first in its kind. Parliament has very much insisted in being involved in the establishment of the External Action Service, also to demonstrate its increased role under the Lisbon Treaty.

4. An advanced ENP status for Jordan - Exchange of views with Domenico Gigliotti, DG Relex, European Commission

Domenico Gigliotti, Jordan desk from DG RELEX briefed the members on the main features of the advanced status granted to Jordan under the European Neighbourhood Policy. He recalled the history of Jordan's interest in an upgraded ENP relation and underlined Jordan's commitments under the political section of the Action Plan. He stated that Jordan is the first ENP country where technical negotiations have already been completed (while they are still ongoing with Morocco even if the Moroccan advanced status was granted earlier).

He emphasised the enhanced political dialogue under the new arrangements which foresee Jordan's participation in Council Working Groups and EU-Jordan summits both on an ad-hoc basis, and cooperation in multilateral bodies. Overall, granting the advanced status for Jordan

recognises the progress made by the country over time. While Mr Gigliotti could not give, at this stage, figures on financial cooperation with Jordan beyond the expiring Financial Perspectives, he stated that the EU intends to help Jordan addressing the challenges enshrined in the new Action Plan.

Asked by Saïd el-Khadraoui to elaborate on Jordan's political commitments, Mr Gigliotti mentioned the establishment of an independent electoral committee, independent bodies like an Institute for Human Rights, adequate funding for the Ombudsman, promoting the involvement of civil society, adequate access to resources for decentralised bodies (law on decentralisation), and ensuring independence of the media. He added that the past election saw the number of seats for women in Parliament double, plus one woman winning an extra seat out of the set quota.

5. Legislative elections in Jordan - Exchange of views with the Jordanian Ambassador-designate to the EU, H.E. Dr Montaser Oklah Al Zou'bi

The Chair recalled that it is a natural interest of the EP to follow closely electoral processes in neighbouring countries, and in countries with which the EU has closer relations in particular. He added that the European Parliament puts a great emphasis on elections and on the promotion of parliamentary democracy.

The Ambassador described the advanced ENP status as a "golden occasion" for Jordan to develop its relations with the EU.

On the recent legislative elections, which he called "free and fair", he highlighted the government's satisfaction with the 53% voter turnout despite the boycott of the Islamic Action Front (IAF - the main opposition party). He insisted on the far-reaching renewal of the Jordanian Parliament with 70 new-comers out of 120 MPs elected. He also admitted some "irrational behaviour" of those who lost the elections. However, he pointed to the positive feedback given by observers, including by the Belgian Ambassador who took part in a tour which the Jordanian government organised on Election Day for EU Member States Ambassadors. He attributed the IAF boycott to the party's dissatisfaction with the temporary electoral law framework.

Asked by Mario Scurria on the timing of a new electoral law the Ambassador announced that the new Parliament would amend the law within the coming months.

Asked by Miguel Portas why he started his intervention by insisting that elections were free and fair, the Ambassador replied that this label was given by NGOs and the international community and expressed his proudest over that. Mr Portas further wondered whether there is a significant opposition and what the share of Palestinian MPs is. The Ambassador informed the Members that 17 MPs from opposition parties were elected, but that no figures existed on MPs of Palestinian origin since all Jordanian citizens are eligible without discrimination.

Asked by Raimón Obiols whether he expected a hardening opposition further to criticism and boycott of the election by the Islamic Action Front, the Ambassador reassured the Members saying that IAF practices peaceful opposition and that he doesn't expect any negative impact on Jordan's stability nor security.

6. Preliminary exchange of views on the legislative elections in Egypt

The Chair invited the Members to comment on the very recent legislative elections in Egypt. A first round took place on 28 November, the second on 5 December. He announced that the PE451.261v01-00

Egyptian Ambassador who was invited to this meeting was not available today, as the official results had not been published yet.

He stressed that the elections were overshadowed by widespread irregularities, violence and fraud. The ruling National Democratic Party finds itself with an unprecedented majority. Already in the first round last week it secured 217 out of 508 seats.

In sign of protest, candidates of the Muslim Brotherhood and the Wafd Party withdrew from the second round of the elections. Preliminary results indicate that the Muslim Brotherhood which held 88 seats in the outgoing parliament could get one single candidate through. The opposition as a whole seems reduced to 14 seats out of 508.

The US administration raised serious questions about the fairness of the legislative elections, saying it was disappointed by widespread reports of irregularities that cast doubt on the credibility of the poll. Egypt in turn rejected any criticism which it sees as interference in internal affairs. The Chair recalled that on the same grounds Egypt refuses the presence of international observers to its elections

The Chair said that on the EU side only President Buzek issued a statement after the first election round in which he stated: "A democratic Egypt is in the interests first and foremost of its citizens. For the EU a democratic Egypt is as important as a stable Egypt". He also deplored violence and reminded the respect of the freedom of press.

Raimón Obiols joined by Mario Scurria in the Chair expressed the Mashreq Delegation's full support for President Buzek's statement which they described as very balanced and positive. Mr Obiols insisted that next year's presidential elections will be crucial and that the EU should not let Egypt go down a path similar to what could be observed during the legislative elections.

7. Any other business

No.

8. Date and place of the next meeting

Brussels, 26 January, 10.15-11.15

The meeting closed at 17.15.

**ПРИСЪСТВЕН ЛИСТ/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/
ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/KATASTAΣH ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/
LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU REĢISTRS/DALYVIŲ SARAŠAS/JELENLÉTI IV/
REĢISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŚCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/LISTÁ DE PREZENTĀ/
PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA**

Бюро/Меса/Председниство/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Проефрео/Bureau/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/Biuras/Elnökség/ Prezydium/Birou/Predsedničtv/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidet (*)
Saïd El Khadraoui
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselők/ Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputati/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Raimon Obiols
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Supplenti/ Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantys nariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/Namestniki/ Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
Frieda Brepoels, Antonyia Parvanova, Miguel Portas, Marie-Thérèse Sanchez-Schmid, Marco Scurria

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/Hμερήσια Διάταξη Σημείο/Agenda item/Point OJ/Punto all'ordine del giorno/Darba kārtības punkts/Darbotvarkēs punktas/
Napirendi pont/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)

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Наблюдатели/Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaattejad/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/Esimene 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/
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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 kutsuta/På ordförandens inbjudan

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 (*)

Domenico Gigliotti

Други институции/Otras instituciones/Ostatní orgány a instituce/Andre institutioner/Andere Organe/Muud institusioonid/Άλλα θεσμικά όργανα/Other institutions/Autres institutions/Altre istituzioni/Citas iestādes/Kitos institucijos/Más intézmények/Istituzzjonijet oħra/Andere instellingen/Inne instytucje/Outras Instituições/Alte instituīji/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 klätesošie/Kiti dalyviai/Más résztvevők/Partecipanti oħra/Andere aanwezigen/Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Altı participantı/Iní účastníci/Drugi udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare

H.E. Montase Oklah Al-Zoubi (Embassador Jordan, Hussam Al Husseini (DCM Jordan), Rayan Said (Embassy of Lebanon), Rudolf El-Kareh, Adi Hadid, Jordan

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 sekretariáts/Frakciju sekretorija/Képviselőcsoportok titkársága/Segretarijat 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	Jorge SOUTULLO
S&D	
ALDE	Isabella Marzullo
ECR	
Verts/ALE	
GUE/NGL	Stefano Squarcina
EFD	
NI	

Кабинет на председателя/Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelář předsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinet des Präsidenten/Presidendi kantselei/Γραφείο Προέδρου/President's Office/Cabinet du Président/Gabinetto del Presidente/Priekšsēdētāja kabinets/Pirmininko kabinetas/Elnöki hivatal/Kabinet tal-President/Kabinet van de Voorzitter/Gabinet Przewodniczącego/Gabinete do Presidente/Cabinet Președinte/Kancelária predsedu/Urad predsednika/Puhemiehen kabinetti/Talmannens kansli	
Dariusz SEROWKA	
Кабинет на генералния секретар/Gabinete del Secretario General/Kancelář generálního tajemníka/Generalsekretærens Kabinet/Kabinet des Generalsekretärs/Peasekretáři býro/Γραφείο Γενικού Γραμματέα/Secretary-General's Office/Cabinet du Secrétaire général/Gabinetto del Segretario generale/Generalsekretára kabinets/Generalinio sekretoriaus kabinetas/Főtitkári hivatal/Kabinetta-Segretarju Ģenerali/Kabinet van de secretaris-generaal/Gabinet Sekretarza Generalnego/Gabinete do Secretário-Geral/Cabinet Secretar General/Kancelária generálneho tajomníka/Urad generalného sekretarja/Pääsihteerin kabinetti/Generalsekreterarens kansli	
DG PRES	
DG IPOL	
DG EXPO	Heike Hoffman (Policy Dept), Djamila Chikhi (AFET)
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/Тeisēs tārnyba/Jogi szolgálat/Servizz legali/Juridische Dienst/Wydział prawny/Serviço Jurídico/Serviciu Juridic/Právny servis/Pravna služba/Oikeudellinen yksikkö/Rättsjänsten	
Секретариат на комисията/Secretaría de la comisión/Sekretariát výboru/Udvalgssekretariatet/Ausschussekretariat/Komisjoni sekretariaat/Γραμματεία επιτροπής/Committee secretariat/Secrétaireat de la commission/Segreteria della commissione/Komitejas sekretariāts/Komiteto sekretoriatas/A bizottság titkársága/Segretariat tal-kumitat/Commissiesecretariaat/Sekretariat komisi/Secretariado da comissão/Secretariat comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottsekretariatet	
Stefan Krauss, Michael Reinprecht.	
Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistant/Assistenz/Boŋθóć/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asystent/Pomočník/Avustaja/Assistenter	
Lars Nielsen.	

- * (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Président/Priekšsēdētājs/Pirmininkas/Elnök/President/Voorzitter/Przewodniczący/Președinte/Predsesda/Predsednik/Puheenjohtaja/Ordförande
 (VP) = Заместник-председател/Vicepresidente/Místopředseda/Næstformand/Stellvertretender Vorsitzender/Aseesimees/Avtutpróedros/Vice-Chair(wo)man/Vice-Präsident/Priekšsēdētāja vietnieks/Pirmininko pavaduotojas/Alelnök/Viči President/Ondervoorzitter/Wiceprzewodniczący/Vice-Presidente/Vicepreședinte/Podpredsesda/Podpredsednik/Varapuheenjohtaja/Vice ordförande
 (M) = Член/Miembro/Člen/Medlem./Mitglied/Parlamendiilige/Méλoς/Member/Membre/Membro/Deputāts/Narys/Képviselő/Membri/Lid/Członek/Membro/Člen/Poslanec/Jäsen/Ledamot
 (F) = Должностно лице/Funcionario/Úředník/Tjenestemand/Beamter/Ametnik/Υπάλληλος/Official/Fonctionnaire/Funzionario/Ierēdnis/Pareigūnas/Tisztviselő/Ufficjal/Ambtenaar/Urzédník/Funcionário/Funcionár/Úradník/Uradnik/Virkamies/Tjänstemän