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*Delegation for relations with the Mashreq countries*

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**DMAS\_PV(2012)0425\_1****MINUTES**

of the meeting of 25 April 2012, from 10.15 to 11.15  
Brussels

The meeting opened at 10.15 on Wednesday, 25 April 2012, with Mário David (Chair) in the chair.

**1. Adoption of draft agenda (PE 476.432)**

The draft agenda was adopted.

**2. Adoption of the minutes of the meeting of 21 March 2012 (PE 476.433)**

The minutes were adopted.

**3. Chair's announcements**

The Chair informed that the focus of the meeting would be the forthcoming visit of a DMAS working group to Egypt on 30 April-4 May. All the members of this Delegation were present.

**4. Exchange of views with Andreu Claret, Executive Director of the Anna Lindh Foundation, Alexandria**

Andreu Claret explained that Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF), created seven years ago in order to promote inter-cultural dialogue in the framework of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership, is adapting its approach and shifting resources to the southern countries in response to the Arab Spring. It now specially focuses on social actors for change according to a 'four D' strategy: dialogue, diversity, democracy, development. A new programme "Citizens for dialogue" benefits from additional EU funding of €3million. It focuses on capacity-building and promoting South-South exchanges between civil societies and new emerging actors.

Claret stressed that ALF is trying best to get not affected by the paralysis affecting the UfM in the last years, due to the developments in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. He said it is time

again to reinforce the Euro-Mediterranean dimension. He noted positively that a EuroMed ministerial meeting on intercultural dialogue and citizenship is planned. EP and PA UfM should be present at the ALF Forum in Marseille on 28-31 March 2013. At the same time, ALF is advocating at national and regional levels of government in order to bring intercultural dialogue to the agenda.

In the Mashreq, ALF is trying to develop its activities in the difficult context of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Although the Syrian state has officially withdrawn from the UfM, ALF is still working with the Syrian society, partly with Syrians in neighbouring countries.

Claret added that ALF's budget has increased thanks to the extra funding from de EU, but it has not still attained the goal of sustainability.

Discussion focused on the impact of the Egyptian NGO crackdown on ALF (none according to Claret since ALF is only working with legally registered NGOs and recognised as a Mediterranean institution), and on the impact of the current populist and xenophobic strive in Europe on the feasibility of intercultural dialogue which Claret recognises as a clear challenge. Asked on the prospect of fair presidential elections in Egypt, Claret considered that the recent exclusion of key presidential candidates might even enhance the plurality of the elections. He finally made a strong case to improve mobility for actors from the southern Mediterranean now.

#### **5. Exchange of views with Heba Morayef, Middle East and North Africa researcher for Human Rights Watch, Egypt**

Heba Morayef gave the Delegation a series of practical advice on human rights issues to be raised during their visit to Egypt. She invited the Members to use positively the People's Assembly's readiness to engage internationally in order to make in particular the Islamists understand that human rights are part of foreign relations.

She considered that the Delegation should address the new NGO law under discussion with the HR Committee: in particular the receipt of foreign funding without prior authorisation and registration of NGOs. The Freedom and Justice Party so far is not in favour of a liberal NGO regime. In order to be more effective, members should opt for a very "technical" approach, reminding Egypt its international commitments, pointing to different European practices, and recalling the implications of the issue for EU funding. Many donors can't implement their projects right now. All this should be reflected in the EU country strategy. She pledged for an overall EU strategy for NGOs while considering the monitoring of NGO trials by the EU Delegation as a positive move.

Morayef illustrated how the repressive penal code allows criminal defamation like in cases as Asmaa Mahfouz and Kamal Abbas, whom the Delegation will meet. Discussions in the legislative committee of the People's Assembly for a new Freedom of Assembly are halted. A key message to the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces (SCAF) should be that military trials for civilians should be absolutely banned. Accountability should be a priority. She further invited the Members to raise the issue of the Emergency law which still allows for administrative detention and emergency security courts.

#### **6. Any other business**

At the beginning of the meeting, a minute of silence was observed in the memory of deceased

Member Miguel Portas.

At the suggestion of Marietje Schaake, the Chair added an intervention of Daniel Calingaert from Freedom House to the agenda. Calingaert recommended the Delegation to remind Egypt its international commitments with regard to NGO activities. He explained that Freedom House was among the organisations targeted in the recent crackdown on civil society, which did not only affect foreign NGOs but also the Egyptian ones.

**7. Date and place of next meeting**

Brussels, 30 May 2012, 10.15-11.15, ASP 5E2.

The meeting closed at 11.15.

**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 PREZENTÁ/  
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 (*)
Mário David
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselők/ Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Saïd El Khadraoui, Sajjad Karim, Raimon Obiols, Ivo Vajgl
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Supplenti/ Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantys nariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleantî/Náhradníci/Namestniki/ Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
Frieda Brepoels, Marco Scurria

187 (2)
Marietje Schaake
193 (3)
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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/Darbotvarkés 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)
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Наблюдатели/Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaatlejad/Παρατηρητές/Observers/Observateurs/Osservatori/ Novērotāji/Stebētōjai/Megfigyelők/Osservatori/Waarnemers/Obszatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelia/Opazovalci/ Tarkkailijat/Observatörer
Ronny Noerens,(Office of Lebanese Parliament), Awad Chamas (C.E.F.I.), Olga Zykova (Mission of Russia to the EU)

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 pozwanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan
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Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nõukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/Conseil/Consiglio/Padome/Taryba/Tanács/Kunsill/Raad/Conselho/Consiliu/Svet/Neuvosto/Rådet (*)
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Комисия/Comisión/Komise/Kommissionen/Kommission/Euroopa Komisjon/Επιτροπή/Commission/Commissione/Komisija/Bizottság/Kummissjoni/Commissie/Komisja/Comissão/Comisie/Komisia/Komissio/Kommissionen (*)
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Европейска служба за външна дейност/Европска служба 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 veiksmy tarnyba/Európai Külügyi Szolgálat/Servizz Ewropew għall-Azzjoni Esterna/Europese dienst voor extern optreden/Europejska Służba Działañ Zewnętrznych/Serviço Europeu para a Acção Externa/Serviciul european pentru actiune externă/Európska služba pre vonkajšiu činnost/Evropska služba za zunanje delovanje/Euroopan ulkosuhdehallinto/Europeiska avdelningen för yttre åtgärd (*)
Rochard
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
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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/Altji participantġi/Iní účastníci/Drugi udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare

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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/Fraczijų sekretoriai/Képviselőcsoportok titkársága/Sekretarjat gruppi poliitiċi/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secr. dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupin/Sekretariat poliitiċnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristö/Gruppernas sekretariat

PPE	Jorge Soutullo, Virginia Millán de Silva
S&D	Valborg Linden Jonsten, Jörgen Siil
ALDE	-
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 Preşedinte/Kancelária predsedu/Urad predsednika/Puhemiehen kabinetti/Talmanens kansli

Aurelien Lépine-Kouas, William Lacy

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/Ġenerālsekretära 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

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Генерална дирекция/Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/ Directorate-General/Direction générale/Direzione generale/Ģenerāldirektorāts/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/Direttorat Ġenerali/Direktoraten-generaal/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direcții Generale/Generálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni direktorat/ Pääosasto/Generaldirektorat	
DG PRES	-
DG IPOL	-
DG EXPO	Michael Reinprecht, Aydan Bahadır
DG COMM	-
DG PERS	--
DG INLO	-
DG TRAD	-
DG INTE	-
DG FINS	--
DG ITEC	-
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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Секретариат на комисията/Secretaría de la comisión/Sekretariát 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	
Stefan Krauss	
Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asystent/Pomočnik/ Avustaja/Assistenten	
Lars Nielsen	

- \* (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Président/Priekšsēdētājs/Pirmininkas/  
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