

*Delegation for relations with the Mashreq countries*

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DMAS\_PV(2009)1006\_0

**MINUTES**  
of the meeting of 6 October 2009, from 16.15 to 17.15  
BRUSSELS

Mr Mário David, Chair of the Delegation, opened the meeting at 16.20. He welcomed the members for the first regular meeting of the delegation and also the Ambassador of Syria.

**1. Adoption of the draft agenda**

The draft agenda was adopted.

**2. Adoption of the minutes of the constituent meeting of 17 September 2009**

The minutes were approved.

**3. Announcements by the Chair**

The Chair announced the following:

▪ Conference of Delegation Chairs

The meeting took place last Thursday.

The programme of delegation activities for 2009 was adopted.

There was a general discussion on the possibilities to travel abroad in 2010. The general feeling was that four weeks next year (turquoise weeks) would not be sufficient. The Chair of the Conference of Delegation Chairs was therefore mandated to write a letter to the President asking for flexibility. This item will be followed in the next meeting of the Conference of Delegation Chairs on 25 November 2009.

▪ Rules governing the work of delegations

**Working languages of the delegation**

The delegation agreed upon its working languages.

Translation of documents: in addition to the original language, two further languages were chosen by the delegation - French and English.

Interpretation within the working places of the EP: in the large meeting rooms, all languages are usually available. In the smaller meeting rooms, due to the lack of interpretation booths, only three active languages and three passive languages are available.

Given the linguistic composition of the delegation, the Chair proposed the following active languages: French, English and Italian; and the following passive languages: German and Portuguese.

Ms Brepoels suggested that Dutch should also be included as a passive language as there are several Dutch speaking members of the delegation.

Interpretation outside the working places of the EP: five languages (active and passive) including the language of the country should be decided upon before travelling.

### **Use of meeting rooms**

**In Strasbourg**, meetings can be held only on Wednesday afternoons (from 15.00 to 18.30) and Thursdays (9.00 to 12.00 / or until voting time, and afternoons from 15.00 to 18.30). Meeting duration is one hour.

**In Brussels**, meetings can only be held during committee meeting weeks, from Monday afternoon to Thursday afternoon (from 9.00 to 12.30, and afternoons from 15.00 to 18.30). Meeting duration is one hour. Meetings can only be held outside these timeslots in exceptional circumstances and depending on availability.

The availability of timeslots is in heavy demand by the 20 committees and 36 delegations. Members should be aware of the difficulty to book or change meeting slots.

### **Specific topics**

Upon agreement of the Bureau of the delegation, the Chair proposed to members that each meeting could be dedicated to a specific topic or country.

### **Meetings in Strasbourg or Brussels**

In order to maintain a balance between the two working places, the Chair proposed the holding of meetings in the two places, whereas Brussels would have the advantage to have more representatives from embassies, the European Commission, and NGOs present.

- File

The Chair drew the attention of members to the documentation distributed on the history of this delegation, the "bilan" 2004-2009 and the most important resolutions regarding the Mashreq area adopted by the European Parliament in the last five years.

**4. Exchange of views on the state of play of the Association Agreement with Syria in the presence of Mr Gianluca GRIPPA, Deputy Head of Near East Unit, DG RELEX, European Commission**

Mr Grippa took the floor and informed the members on:

- the state of play of the Association Agreement with Syria (the signature is foreseen before the end of this year);
- relations with Jordan (new action plan and enhancement of the relations between the two partners are in discussion);
- relations with Egypt (request for enhancement of relations with EU, new action plan)
- relations with Lebanon (Association Agreement is in force, interior problems to found a government);

The following participants took part in the discussion:

Ms Brepoels (situation of Kurds in Syria), Ms Matias (Egypt and its relation to the EU), Mr Portas (situation of Kurds in Syria, Arab refugees in Syria and the Association Agreement with Syria).

The Ambassador took the floor, underlining that:

- the Agreement was blocked during 4 years, not due to fault on the Syrian side;
- one cannot speak of minorities in Syria: all are Syrians, no distinction is made between ethnic groups or religious affiliation (the Prime Minister and the Grand Mufti are Kurds).

Ms Tzavela joined the Ambassador in his statement.

**5. Calendar of meetings in 2009 and planning of delegation visits in 2010**

The Chair informed members that for this year one further meeting (on 16 November, to which the Lebanese Ambassador will be invited to give us more information on the current situation in his country) is planned.

For 2010, beside the normal meetings, the following activities are planned:

- Incoming delegations:
  - Jordan (5-6 October 2010)
  - Egypt (9-10 November 2010)
- Outgoing delegations:
  - Syria (22-28 May 2010)
  - Lebanon (date still to be fixed, depending on the current situation and urgency)

With regard to the quota, 21 members (not including the Chair) could travel in 2010 and 2011.

## **6. Date and place of next meeting**

Next meeting is scheduled for Monday 16 November 2009 from 16.15 to 17.15 in Brussels.

**ПРИСЪСТВЕН ЛИСТ/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ  
LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/ ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE  
NIMEKIRI/КАТАСТАСИ ПАРОНТОН/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/  
LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU  
REĢISTRS/DALYVIŲ SĀRAŠAS/JELENLÉTI ÍV/ REĢISTRU TA'  
ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŚCI/LISTA DE  
PRESENÇAS/LISTĀ DE PREZENTĀ/ PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM  
NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA**

Бюро/Mesa/Předsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/Biuras/Elnökség/Prezydium/Birou/Predsedníctvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)	
Mário David (P), Marisa Matias (1 VP), Saïd El Khadraoui (2 VP)	
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselők/ Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputaťi/Jäsenet/Ledamöter	
Dominique Baudis, Vasilica Viorica Dăncilă, Luigi de Magistris, Martin Ehrenhauser, Lorenzo Fontana, Tokia Saïfi, Ivo Vajgl	
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedforträdere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Avatplηρωτές/Substitutes/S uppléants/Supplenti/ Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantys nariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/Namestníci/ Varajäsenet/Suppleanter	
Frieda Brepoels, Kurt Lechner, Norbert Neuser, Miguel Portas, Sylvana Rapti, Marie-Thérèse Sanchez-Schmid, Marco Scurria, Niki Tzavela	
187 (2)	
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 Aģenda/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/Vaatilejad/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/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 tac-'Chairman'/ 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

Gianluca Grippa (Commission européenne)

Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nõukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/Conseil/Consiglio/Padome/Taryba/Tanács/Kunsill/Raad/Conselho/ Consiliu/Svet/Neuvosto/Rådet (\*)

Комисия/Comisión/Komise/Kommissionen/Komission/Euroopa  
Komisjon/Επιτροπή/Commission/Commissione/Komisija/Bizottság/  
Kummissjoni/Comissie/Komisja/Comissão/Comisie/Komisia/Komissio/Kommissionen (\*)

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 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 klātesošie/Kiti dalyviai/Más résztvevők/Partecipanti ohra/Andere aanwezigen/ Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Altı participanrı/Iní účastníci/Drugi udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare

Ayman Soussan (Ambassadeur de Syrie), Hussein Sabbagh (Mission de Syrie), Adi Hadid (Ambassade de Jordanie), Paolo Barabesi (HRWF), Christos Trapouzanlis (Assistant de VP Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou), Tim Van Uytfang (Représentation du Royaume Uni)

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NI	

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Dariusz Serowka

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DG EXPO	Camelia Oaida, Laure Enciso y Berge, Barbara Ajmi, Nicole Devos
DG COMM	
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DG INLO	
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Michael Reinprecht, Hans-Hermann Kraus, Vesselina Veleva	
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Erica Screen	

\* (P) =

Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Président/Priekšsēdētājs/Pirmininkas/  
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Vorsitzender/Aseesimees/Αντιπρόεδρος/ Vice-Chair(wo)man/Vice-Président/Priekšsēdētāja vietnieks/Pirmininko pavaduotojas/Alelnök/Viči 'Chairman'/Ondervoorzitter/Wiceprzewodniczący/Vice-

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(M)=

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(F) = Должностно

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