



EURO-LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

Committee on Political Affairs, Security and Human Rights

Minutes of the meeting

Tuesday 21 February 2012 from 17.00 to 20.00
Wednesday 22 February 2012 from 15.00 to 18.00
Thursday 23 February 2012 from 9.00 to 13.00
Mexico City

The meeting was called to order on Tuesday 21 February 2012 at 17.32, with Mr Agustín Díaz de Mera (EP) and Senator José Guadarrama Márquez in the chair.

Co-Chair Senator José Guadarrama Márquez reminded members of the background to the extraordinary meeting of the Committee on Political Affairs, Security and Human Rights devoted to the issue of fighting drug trafficking and organised crime and explained the idea of organising a high-level seminar to gain more knowledge on these very important subjects.

Co-Chair Mr Agustín Díaz de Mera thanked the Mexican Senate, particularly Senator José Guadarrama Márquez, for organising the meeting.

1. Adoption of the agenda OJ-AP 101.038v02-00

The draft agenda was adopted.

2. Approval of the minutes of PV-AP 101.031v01-00

The minutes of the meeting of 22–23 November 2012 (Brussels, Belgium) were approved.

3. Co-Chair's announcements

The Co-Chair recalled that this was the first extraordinary meeting of the Committee on Political Affairs, Security and Human Rights in 2012 and that its main purpose was to examine the joint draft motion for a resolution on Fighting drug trafficking and organised crime in the European Union and Latin America, and in this connection to hold a High-Level Seminar on the subject.

4. Preparation of the High-Level Seminar: presentation and exchange of views on the joint draft motion for a resolution: Fighting drug trafficking and organised crime in the European Union and Latin America

EP Co-rapporteur: Mr Bogusław SONIK (PPE)

LAC Co-rapporteur: Mrs Sonia ESCUDERO (Parlatino)

The EP Co-rapporteur presented the draft joint motion for a resolution (the LAC Co-rapporteur was absent).

The following spoke: Gloria OQUELI SOLORZANDO (Parlacen), Ángel Ramón BARCHINI (Parlasur), Norbert GLANTE (EP, S&D), Carlos Humberto GÓNGORA (Parlatino), Fausto LUPERA MARTINEZ (Parlandino), Francisco Xavier SALAZAR SAENZ (Parlatino), Willy MEYER (EP, GUE/NGL), Roberto REQUIÃO (Parlasur), Agustín DIAZ DE MERA (EP, PPE), Roy DAZA (Parlatino), Doreen Javier IBARRA (Parlasur), Marianela Paco DURÁN (Parlatino), José GUADARRAMA MÁRQUEZ (Congress of Mexico).

The EP Co-rapporteur summarised the debate.

The Co-Chair informed members that the deadline for tabling amendments to the joint draft motion for a resolution would be 2 March 2012 and that the Committee on Political Affairs, Security and Human Rights would vote on the joint draft motion for a resolution and the relevant amendments at its next meeting (date and place to be confirmed).

5. Exchange of views with H.E. Ambassador Patricia Espinosa, Mexican Secretary of Foreign Affairs

Before giving her the floor, Co-Chair Senator José Guadarrama Márquez thanked the Mexican Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Mrs Patricia Espinosa Cantellano for attending and for her willingness to exchange views with the Political Committee and members of the EuroLat Executive Bureau.

During her speech, Mrs Patricia Espinosa referred to a series of priority issues for Mexican foreign policy, emphasising three main topics:

- The strategic relationship between Mexico and the EU (based on both a broad Cooperation Agreement and on the Strategic Partnership) and the open and fluid dialogue between the two parties, demonstrated by recent visits to Mexico by Catherine Ashton, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission.
- The Mexican Presidency of the G20, focused on global challenges such as global governance, food security, the environment, climate change and generally contributing to the development of a suitable framework for growth and

development.

- Latin American integration, specifically the creation of the CELAC and relations with the EU.

The following spoke: José Ignacio SALAFRANCA SÁNCHEZ-NEYRA (EP, PPE), Roy DAZA (Parlatino), Andrés PERELLO RODRIGUEZ (EP, S&D), Gloria OQUELI SOLORZANO (Parlacen), Satu HASSI (Verts/ALE), Willy MEYER (EP, GUE/NGL), Carlos José ITURGAIZ ANGULO (EP, PPE), Gustavo Borsari (Parlasur), Fausto LUPERA MARTINEZ (Parlandino), Marianela Paco DURÁN (Parlatino), Ricardo CORTÉS LASTRA (EP, S&D), Sonia SEGURA VARSOLY (Parlacen).

The meeting was adjourned at 20.30 and re-convened on Wednesday 22 February 2012 at 15.15 with Co-Chairmen Mr Agustín Díaz de Mera and Mr José Guadarrama Márquez in the chair.

6. High-Level Seminar on fighting drug trafficking and organised crime in the European Union and Latin America

Session 1: The drugs and drug trafficking situation in the European Union and in Latin America and the Caribbean: extent and tendencies

- **Presentation by Mr Laurent Laniel, from the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA):**

The speaker described the situation regarding consumption of different types of drugs in Europe and their consequences for health and for society, as well as changes in drug-trafficking routes. He concluded that while general consumption has stabilised, new (synthetic) drugs have emerged, as have new chemical precursors for the manufacture of illegal drugs.

- **Presentation by Mr Francisco Cumsille, Coordinator of the Inter-American Observatory on Drugs of the Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD):**

The speaker presented a range of data on the state of drug consumption in the Americas and globally, highlighting the great variation that exists between Latin American countries as regards consumption levels and the most popular substances consumed.

The following spoke: Rafał TRZASKOWSKI (EP, PPE), Andrés PERELLO RODRIGUEZ (EP, S&D), Satu HASSI (Verts/ALE), José Ignacio SALAFRANCA SÁNCHEZ-NEYRA (EP, PPE), Patricio ZAMBRANO (Parlandino), Elías CASTILLO (Parlatino), Marianela Paco DURÁN (Parlatino), Ricardo CORTÉS LASTRA (EP, S&D), José GUADARRAMA MÁRQUEZ (Congress of Mexico), Agustín DÍAZ DE MERA (EP, PPE).

Key matters raised during the debate and in the questions to the two speakers included the subject of decriminalising the consumption of illegal drugs and the potential ensuing consequences; reasons for the decrease in cocaine consumption in the United States in recent years; measures for reducing drug consumption, including the role of education; and the problem of alcohol abuse.

Session 2: Transnational organised crime: threats in the two regions

- Presentation by Mr Antonio Mazzitelli, United Nations Regional Representative, Regional Office for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean on Drugs and Crime (UNODC):

The speaker presented an overview of international organised crime, its economic importance, its evolution over recent years and the most common criminal activities, as well as the instability and violence that transnational organised crime causes in different parts of the world. He also referred to the different structures of organised crime groups. The speaker concluded that drug consumption is essentially a public health problem, drug production is essentially a problem of development and drug trafficking is essentially a problem of public safety.

- Presentation by Mr Pedro Pérez Enciso, National Expert, Spain, Eurojust:

The speaker analysed judicial cooperation and mutual legal assistance between Europe and Latin America in the fight against drug trafficking, pointing out problems such as the inadequacy of traditional methods of judicial cooperation; deficiencies in the exchange of information; the slowness of extradition processes; the lack of knowledge in Europe regarding the mechanisms for asset recovery used in Latin America; and Europe's limited experience concerning witness protection. He concluded that it is necessary to devise and implement new formal and informal measures to strengthen judicial cooperation, to improve the mechanisms for communication and contact.

The following spoke: María MUÑIZ DE URQUIZA (EP, S&D),
Carlos Humberto GÓNGORA (Parlatino), Satu HASSI (Verts/ALE),
Ricardo CORTÉS LASTRA (EP, S&D),
Luís Fernando DUQUE GARCÍA (Parlatino).

The discussion touched on matters such as the absence of judicial coordination between Latin America and Europe and the potential for cooperation in criminal investigations, as well as the participation of organised crime in legal activities, the need to boost control of drug consumption and to promote a culture of legality as a foundation for fighting against organised crime.

The meeting was adjourned at 18.00 and re-convened on Thursday 23 February 2012 at 9.20 with Co-Chairs Mr Agustín Díaz de Mera and Mr José Guadarrama Márquez in the chair.

Session 3: Regional cooperation in the fight against drug trafficking and organised crime: European and Latin American experiences

- **Presentation by Mr Detlef Schroeder, Deputy Director, European Police College (CEPOL):**

The speaker presented different activities carried out in Europe aimed at strengthening cooperation between police forces and other authorities responsible for law enforcement, and in particular training and exchange programmes involving members of police forces. In relation to the fight against drug trafficking, he mentioned cooperation with other European organisations as well as with regions outside of Europe, for example the Balkans and west Africa.

- **Presentation by Mr Eduardo Guerrero Gutiérrez, expert on security matters and adviser on public policies, Lantia Consultores:**

The speaker presented the current situation in Mexico with respect to drug trafficking and the activities of the major cartels, the origins of the problem and its consequences, as well as anti-drug cooperation with the United States (the Mérida Initiative), with the EU and with other Latin American countries. He also defined various challenges for more effective international cooperation. These included the need to promote a common legislative agenda on the matter and to overcome asymmetries in relation to the problem (a public health problem on the one hand and a threat to security on the other).

The following spoke: José Ignacio SALAFRANCA SÁNCHEZ-NEYRA (EP, PPE), Marianela Paco DURÁN (Parlatino), Andrés PERELLO RODRIGUEZ (EP, S&D), Doreen Javier IBARRA (Parlasur), Renate WEBER (EP, ALDE), Ulrike RODUST (EP, S&D), Carlos Humberto GÓNGORA (Parlatino), Roberto REQUIÃO (Parlasur), José GUADARRAMA MÁRQUEZ (Congress of Mexico), Satu HASSI (Verts/ALE), Ángel Ramón BARCHINI (Parlandino), María IRIGOYEN PEREZ (EP, S&D), Fausto LUPERA MARTINEZ (Parlandino).

Subjects raised by the different speakers included the following: the issue of the possible role of the armed forces in the fight against drugs and drug trafficking; the often difficult role of local police; the importance of cooperation between different law enforcement agencies and between judicial bodies; and the option of the legalisation of drugs and its possible consequences, including the question of whether criminal organisations would move on to other criminal activities.

Session 4: EU-Latin American cooperation in fighting drug trafficking and organised crime

- **Presentation by Mr Robert Franzini, Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD):**

The speaker presented the CICAD guidelines on the fight against drugs, emphasising multilateralism and abandonment of the rigid distinction between producer, transit and consumption countries, which has become less and less relevant. It was also essential to perceive addicts as sick people, and not necessarily the subjects of criminal law, and to prioritise treatment. The latter could be provided under the judicial supervision. In connection with activities to combat money laundering, the speaker pointed out the problem that no common judicial area exists in the Americas although one does exist in Europe.

- **Presentation by Mr Alejandro Ramos Flores, Deputy Attorney General for Legal and International Affairs of the Attorney General's Office of Mexico (PGR):**

The speaker referred to the Mexico–EU Strategic Partnership and the opportunity this provides to strengthen cooperation in the fight against drug trafficking and organised crime based on the commitment of both parties to cooperate in the area of security and justice. He also mentioned the 1997 EU–Mexico Agreement on the control of chemical precursors and the initiative to reactivate the working group established within this framework, emphasising the special importance that cooperation with the EU in this area has for Mexico. Regarding the regional scope, the speaker mentioned initiatives such as the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the mechanism to control arms trafficking, stating that these instruments are still under-used.

- **Presentation by Mrs Marie-Anne Coninx, Ambassador of the EU to the United Mexican States:**

The Ambassador presented an overview of cooperation between the EU and Latin America regarding the fight against illegal drug production and drug trafficking, comprising bi-regional initiatives, cooperation with different regions, notably the Andean Countries, Central America and the Caribbean, and also bilateral cooperation. She emphasised the broad and comprehensive approach on which EU cooperation is based, giving priority to alternative development, social cohesion and prevention, as well as strengthened cooperation in the area of security and justice in recent years. Concerning the new initiatives in this field, the inter-regional dimension (for example, the EU–Mexico–Central America three-way cooperation) and the transatlantic dimension are to be reinforced, and greater cooperation with the United States will also be sought.

The following spoke: Luis Fernando DUQUE GARCÍA (Parlatino),
Gloria OQUELI SOLORZANO (Parlacen), María IRIGOYEN PEREZ (EP, S&D),
Carlos Humberto GÓNGORA (Parlatino),
Francisco Xavier SALAZAR SAENZ (Parlatino), Renate WEBER (EP, ALDE),

Ángel Ramón BARCHINI (Parlasur), Walter GAVIDIA (Parlatino).

Various subjects were raised in the debate, including the differences in development as an obstacle to inter-regional and international cooperation in this area, the problems of controlling arms trafficking and the results of implementing the principle of shared responsibility.

7. Evaluation and Conclusions of the High-Level Seminar on fighting drug trafficking and organised crime in the European Union and in Latin America and the Caribbean

Co-Chair Senator José Guadarrama Márquez concluded that the seminar had provided an important political impetus to the debate on the fight against drugs and drug trafficking and requested participants to follow up the draft joint motion for a resolution on Fighting drug trafficking and organised crime in the European Union and Latin America by presenting appropriate amendments, if applicable.

The Co-Chair also had words of praise for the rigour and seriousness of the debate and for the involvement of the participants.

8. Date and place of the next meeting

In accordance with the Assembly's Programme of Activities for 2012, the next meeting of the Committee on Political Affairs, Security and Human Rights is to be held on 9 and 10 November 2012 in Cádiz (Spain).

The meeting closed at 13.00.

**LISTA DE ASISTENCIA / RECORD OF ATTENDANCE /
LISTE DE PRÉSENCE / LISTA DE PRESENCAS**

Present

PARLATINO

Eliás Castillo, Roy Daza, Luís Fernando Duque, Marinela Paco Durán, Juan Manuel Galán, Walter Gavidia, Carlos Humberto Góngora, María de los Ángeles Moreno, Jorge Ocejo, Francisco Xavier Salazar Sáenz, Timoteo Zambrano

PARLANDINO

Fausto Lupera Martínez, Rafael Rey Rey, Patricio Zambrano

PARLACEN

Gloria Oqueli Solorzano (EuroLat Co-Chair), Sonia Segura Varsoly

PARLASUR

Ángel Ramón Barchini, Gustavo Borsari, Roberto Requião, Doreen Javier Ibarra

EU/MEXICO JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

Rosario Green Macías, José Guadarrama Márquez

EU/CHILE JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT:

Full Members:

PPE

José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra (EuroLat Co-Chair), Agustín Díaz de Mera García Consuegra, Carlos José Iturgaiz Angulo

S&D

Norbert Glante, Ricardo Cortés Lastra, María Irigoyen Pérez, Ulrike Rodust

ALDE

Renate Weber

GUE/NGL

Willy Meyer

Other Members:

PPE

Pilar Ayuso, Rosa Estaràs Ferragut, Esther Herranz García, Teresa Jiménez-Becerril Barrio, Verónica Lope Fontagné, Bogusław Sonik, Rafał Trzaskowski

S&D

Andrés Perelló Rodríguez, María Muñiz de Urquiza

Verts/ALE

Satu Hassi

ECR

Edvard Kožušník, Roberts Zīle

ALSO PRESENT

Ambassadors

Marie-Anne Coninx, EU Ambassador to the United Mexican States

EP Political Groups

Juan Salafranca (PPE), Jean François Vallin (S&D), Itziar Munoa Salaverria (ALDE)

LAC Co-secretariat

Humberto Peláez Gutiérrez (Parlatino), Héctor Ruano (Parlacen), Victoria Valencia (Parlatino), Rubén Vélez Núñez (Parlandino), Gustavo Arrighi (Parlasur)

EP Co-secretariat

J. Javier Fernández Fernández

DG EXPO

Jesper Tvevad

Assistance/Assistant

Francisco Cabral, Gillian Newbury