

8. Middle East - Mandate and composition of EP Working Group on the Middle East

The Conference of Presidents,

- noted the following documents:
 - a letter from Mr PÖTTERING dated 22 October 2007 to the Presidents of Political Groups on the EP's strategy on the Middle East (P 395.588/CPG);
 - a letter from Mr PÖTTERING dated 19 September 2007 on the proposal for a mandate for a Foreign Affairs Committee Working Group on the Middle East peace process (395.447/CPG).
 - letters dated 4 July and 6 September 2007 from Mr SARYUSZ-WOLSKI concerning the establishment of an ad hoc body to consider Parliament's policy in the Middle East since the 2006 elections in Palestine (PE 392.608/CPG);
 - a draft proposal on mandate for the Working group on the Middle East - Members - ((PE 395.646/CPG).
- charged the Parliament's Working Group on the Middle East with the task of monitoring developments closely in the region in general, and in respect of the Israeli-Palestinian dispute in particular, in order:
 - to deepen analysis and understanding of Middle Eastern issues within the Parliament;
 - to participate in the elaboration of a European contribution to the Middle East peace and development processes;
 - to enhance the parliamentary dimension of these processes, and

- to offer input into the European Parliament's activities in relation to the Middle East, including the conference foreseen for the spring of 2008;
- decided to constitute the membership of the Working Group as follows: EPP-ED 7 MEPs, PES 6 MEPs, ALDE 3 MEPs, UEN 2 MEPs, Greens/ALE 2 MEPs, GUE/NGL 2 MEPs, IND-DEM 1 MEP, with the President outside the quota to chair the Group, assisted by two Vice-Chairs;
- took note of the designation by the PES Group of Mrs DE KEYSER and by the ALDE group of Mrs NEYTS as the Vice-Chairs;
- invited the Working Group to begin work as soon as practically possible and to report back regularly to both the Conference of Presidents and the Foreign Affairs Committee.