



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT



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*Delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean*

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**DMED\_PV(2016)0706**

**MINUTES**  
of the meeting of 6 July 2016, 17.30-19.00  
Strasbourg

The meeting opened at 17.30 on Wednesday, 6 July 2016, with David-Maria Sassoli (Chair) presiding.

1. Adoption of the draft agenda (PE575.468)

The agenda was adopted without any change.

2. Approval of minutes of meeting of 11 May 2016 (PE575.467)

The minutes were approved as they stood.

3. Chair's announcements:

Presentation of the conclusions of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Speakers' Summit of the Parliaments of the Union for the Mediterranean (Tangier, 28 May 2016) and 12<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (Tangier, 28-29 May 2016)

The relatively well-attended meeting was dedicated to the follow-up to the 12<sup>th</sup> Plenary session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (PA-UfM) which took place in Tangiers (Morocco) on 28-29 May 2016. All Members drew a critical balance regarding the performance of the Moroccan Presidency and expressed their expectations that the structure and working methods of the PA-UfM should undergo a substantive reform under the Italian Presidency.

Vice-President David-Maria Sassoli opened the discussion by expressing his hope and trust that despite the disappointment of the Tangiers event, the PA-UfM could be revived. He suggested under the Italian Presidency to focus on projects of common interests for the EU and the Southern Mediterranean countries. In this respect, the Gaza desalination plant project was notably mentioned as a case in point.

Vice-President Ramón Luis Valcárcel who had represented President Schulz in Tangiers, offered a debriefing about the event. He pointed out that the Assembly was supposed to draw a set of conclusions, to nominate new chairs and vice-chairs of the Committees and Groups and to approve the annual recommendations. Not all of these benchmarks could be achieved. As an example he mentioned the debate in the Political Committee on the first day, which quickly led to an impasse among the partners when it came to the Palestinian issue. However, he mentioned that the assembly plays an important role in mediating between the parties and that it can't be given up on because of the political situation.

Although the Assembly had not yielded concrete results and could not agree on a joint declaration during the plenary session nor even take clear decisions on the renewal of the Committees, he did not agree that the Summit was a complete failure. If nothing else, the Plenary had the merit of bringing together most UfM partners. He called on members to focus on the future "if we want to keep this parliamentary on the right track and function properly." He suggested to set up a needs-assessment in order to improve the structure and working methods of the PA-UfM and shared VP Sassoli's confidence that the incoming Italian Presidency would undertake serious reforms.

Mr. Santiago Fisas Aixelà's questioned the maintenance of the PA-UfM as a consultative body if their members could not even agree on joint resolutions and recommendations focusing on the partnership's objectives and cooperation areas. He underlined the importance of maintaining strong cooperation with the headquarters in Barcelona. He raised the question: "What's the point of the parliamentary assembly if it can't strengthen the coordination with the secretariat." He also expressed his expectation that the Italian Presidency would work out a new roadmap for the PA-UfM with clear specific programmes to be implemented and with a focus on concrete projects.

Political Committee Chair Renato Soru stressed the role of Egypt and its influence on Arab partners. He pointed out that the Regini case and the EU's criticism of the human rights situation in Egypt - notably through the adoption of Human Rights urgency resolutions - had cast a shadow on the discussions in Tangiers in almost all working groups, and in particular in the Political Committee (for which he had been replaced by French VP Louis Nègre). He underlined that Egypt was of major importance for regional stability as well as for the EU in terms of cooperation on migration and counter-terrorism. Regarding the political committee meeting that took place in Tangier, Mr. Soru underlines that this meeting had been well prepared and that the draft recommendation had been circulated to delegations before the meeting.

Ms Tiziana Beghin, Chair of the working group on the financing and the rules of procedure of the Union for the Mediterranean, informs the delegation about the Tourism Charter discussed in Tangier by the economic committee. Regarding the reform of the Assembly, the working group chaired by Ms Beghin held a first exchange of views in Tangier and decided to request a mandate to the Bureau to follow-up on this.

Mr. Gilles Pargneaux objected to the working methods of the Assembly: "We can't go on as we did in the past." He recalled that the European Parliament shares responsibility in what has happened. He underlined that the European Parliament's

role is to facilitate what goes on in the assembly, rather than just writing some kind of conclusions. He stressed that, within the PA-UfM,, the EP delegation should represent the views of the EP majority and not reflect the positions of the political groups ; to that effect, more internal coordination is needed. Following the "UfM roadmap" published by the UfM Secretariat, the recommendations should have better reflected the progress made since the 2008 Paris Summit: upgrading the Euro-Mediterranean political ties, improving co-ownership by a new system of governance and the translation of this cooperative agenda through concrete and visible regional projects. In Tangiers, none of these objectives had been achieved. Mr Pargneaux appealed to the assembly to focus more on common interests and on joint projects in order to revive cooperation among all Euro-Mediterranean partners. He reminded members that the assembly is the only place where Mediterranean countries come together. He called for the promotion of the factors that unite all 48 partners rather than those that divide them.

Pier Antonio Panzeri wonders whether the problems encountered in Tangier only result from a poor preparation or are also due to the obstruction from some delegations, and notably the Egyptian one. He thinks that an in-depth analysis of what went wrong must be carried out. The Moroccan organizers instrumentalized the absence of consultation of documents (notably the Summit declaration) for their own benefit. He added that the European component should not give lessons on human rights and that, for this reason, the role of the EP delegation is to deepen relations with our Southern partners, notably to address problems related to human rights. He adds that the PA-UfM has an important role to play and that it would therefore be regrettable to put an end to the Assembly or to question the relevance one of the rare institutions where Northern and Southern colleagues can talk to each other, especially in today's times.

Mr Andrea Cozzolino shared the opinion of the need for closer cooperation but thinks that the Assembly, which is structured along committees' lines, lacks flexibility. Mr. Cozzolino emphasizes the need to hold more meetings because it proves impossible, with only two meetings a year, to adopt texts. On a topical basis and with the objective to be more in tune with the developments in the region, he suggests to set up more flexible structures which would make the work easier (sub-committees or working groups) to handle issues of common interest for the partners from the two shores of the Mediterranean (refugees, security...).

Mrs Michela Giuffrida also agreed that the Assembly has come to a stand-still and is paralyzed but she disagreed that it is not relevant anymore. She reminded participants on the mediation role of the Assembly and, to avoid obstructions, the preventive work that must be carried out when drafting documents. She underlined that the EP delegation acts as a go-between and that we should not give-up this role. She reminded that that the Italian presidency will have to move forward on specific problems, in particular combatting terrorism. She stressed that cooperation and partnership in this area play a crucial role and should be translated into tangible projects for all partner countries of the PA-UfM.

Vice-President Sassoli underlines that the annual Speakers' Summits are key events and it therefore proves necessary to work on common priorities when preparing the texts. The drafting exercise should be carefully prepared and never lose sight that the Assembly is a place for exchanges and parliamentary diplomacy where the EP

delegation acts a catalyst. As a conclusion, the Vice-President makes reference to flagship projects like Med4jobs and the Gaza desalination plant, which the PA-UpM could monitor closely.

All MEPs agreed that the PA-UfM was an important tool which contributed to enhancing the visibility of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership. There was agreement that all partners should be striving for greater understanding. Thus, it was of utmost importance to support the reform programme of the Italian Presidency.

4. Any other business

Nothing to report

5. Date and place of the next meeting

5 October 2016 (Strasbourg)

The meeting closed at 18.30.

**ПРИСЪСТВЕН ЛИСТ/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/  
ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/KATAΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/  
LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/POPIS NAZOČNIH/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU REĢISTRŠ/DALYVIŲ SAŖAŠAS/  
JELENĹTI ÍV/REGĪSTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŠCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/  
LISTĂ DE PREZENȚĂ/PREZENČNĂ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LĂSNĂOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA**

Буро/Мesa/Pfedsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Predsjedništvo/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/ Biuras/Elnökség/Prezydium/Birou/Predsednictvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
David-Maria Sassoli
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Zastupnici/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/ Kérviseleők/Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Nicolas Bay, Tiziana Beghin, Andrea Cozzolino, Santiago Fisas Ayxelà, Michela Giuffrida, Gilles Pargneaux, Emilian Pavel, Renato Soru, Ramón Luis Valcárcel Siso
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Zamjenici/ Supplenti/Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantysnariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/ Namestniki/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
Paloma López Bermejo, Pier Antonio Panzeri

200 (2)
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206 (3)
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53 (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/Τοčka dnevnog reda/Punto all'ordine del giorno/Darba kārtības punkts/Darbotvarkės punktas/Napirendi pont/Punt Agenda/Agendapunt/Punkt porządku dziennego/Ponto OD/Punct de pe ordinea de zi/Bod programu schôdze/Τοčka UL/Esityslistan kohta/Föredragningslista punkt)
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Наблюдатели/Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaatlejad/Παρατηρητές/Observers/Observateurs/Promatrači/Osservatori/Novērotāji/Stebėtojai/Megfigyelők/Osservatori/Waarnemers/Observatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelia/Opazovalci/Tarkkailijat/Observatörer	
M. Gomes (UfM Secretariat); J. Rosenzweig (Mission of Israel to EU)	

По покана на председателя/Por invitación del presidente/Na pozvání předsedy/Efter indbydelse fra formanden/Auf Einladung des Vorsitzenden/Εσιμεηε kutsel/Με πρόσκληση του Προέδρου/At the invitation of the Chair(wo)man/Sur l'invitation du président/Na poziv predsjednika/Su invito del presidente/Pēc priekšsēdētāja uzaicinājuma/Pirmininkui pakvietus/Az elnök meghívására/Fuq stedina tač-'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	
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Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nõukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/Conseil/Vijeće/Consiglio/Padome/Taryba/Tanács/Kunsill/Raad/Conselho/Consiliu/Svet/Neuvosto/Rådet (*)	
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Комисия/Comisión/Komise/Kommissionen/Kommission/Euroopa Komisjon/Επιτροπή/Commission/Komisija/Commissione/Bizottság/Kummissjoni/Commissie/Komisja/Comissão/Comisie/Komisia/Komissio/Kommissionen (*)	
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Европейска служба за външна дейност/Servicio Europeo de Acción Exterior/Европска служба про вънjší činnost/EU-Udenrigstjenesten/Europäischer Auswärtiger Dienst/Euroopa välisteenistus/Ευρωπαϊκή Υπηρεσία Εξωτερικής Δράσης/European External Action service/Service européen pour l'action extérieure/Europiska služba za vanjsko djelovanje/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 acțiune externă/Európska služba pre vonkajšiu činnost'/Evropska služba za zunanje delovanje/Euroopan ulkosuhdehallinto/Europeiska avdelningen för yttre åtgärd (*)	
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Други институции/Otras instituciones/Ostatní orgány a instituce/Andre institutioner/Andere Organe/Muud institutsioonid/Άλλα θεσμικά όργανα/Other institutions/Autres institutions/Druge institucije/Altre istituzioni/Citas iestādes/Kitos institucijos/Más intézmények/Istituzjonijiet oħra/Andere instellingen/Inne instytucje/Outras Instituições/Alte instituții/Iné inštitúcie/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/Drugi sudionici/Altri partecipanti/Citi klātesošie/Kiti dalyviai/Más résztvevők/Partecipanti ohra/Andere aanwezigen/Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Alți participanți/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/Tajništva klubova zastupnika/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko grupu sekretariāts/Frakciju sekretoriai/Képviseletcsoportok titkársága/Sekretarjat gruppi politici/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secr. dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupin/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristö/Gruppernas sekretariat

PPE	S. Mijić, M. Apostol
S&D	C. Bittarelli
ECR	C. Healy, V. Matano
ALDE	I. Muñoa
Verts/ALE	-
GUE/NGL	E. Hernández Toledo
EFDD	R. Pasini, A. Anselmi
ENF	-
NI	-

Кабинет на председателя/Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelář předsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinett des Präsidenten/Presidendi kantselei/Γραφείο Προέδρου/President's Office/Cabinet du Président/Ured predsednika/Gabinetto del Presidente/Priekšsēdētāja kabinets/Pirmininko kabinetas/Elnöki hivatal/Kabinett tal-President/Kabinet van de Voorzitter/Gabinet Przewodniczącego/Gabinete do Presidente/Cabinet Președinte/Kancelária predsedu/Urad predsednika/Puhemiehen kabinetti/Talmanens kansli

D. Chikhi

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/Ured glavnog tajnika/Gabinetto del Segretario generale/Generalsekretära 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/Glavna uprava/Direzione generale/Generāldirektorāts/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/ Direktorat Generali/Direktoraten-generaal/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direcții Generale/Generálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni direktorat/Päaosasto/Generaldirektorat	
DG PRES	-
DG IPOL	-
DG EXPO	M. Aguiriano Nalda, C. Štokelj, F. Massoulié, A. Huidobro Foncillas
DG EPRS	-
DG COMM	-
DG PERS	-
DG INLO	-
DG TRAD	-
DG INTE	-
DG FINS	-
DG ITEC	-
DG SAFE	-
Правна служба/Servicio Jurídico/Právni služba/Juridisk Tjeneste/Juristischer Dienst/Öigusteenistus/Νομική Υπηρεσία/Legal Service/ Service juridique/Pravna služba/Servizio giuridico/Juridiskais dienests/Teisės tarnyba/Jogi szolgálat/Servizz legali/Juridische Dienst/ Wydział prawny/Servizo Jurídico/Serviciu Juridic/Právny servis/Oikeudellinen yksikkö/Rättstjänsten	
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Секретариат на комисията/Secretaría de la comisión/Sekretariát výboru/Udvalgssekretariatet/Ausschusssekretariat/Komisjoni sekretariaat/Γραμματεία επιτροπής/Committee secretariat/Secrétariat de la commission/Tajništvo odbora/Segreteria della commissione/ Komitejas sekretariāts/Komiteto sekretoriatas/A bizottság titkársága/Sekretarjat tal-kumitat/Commissiesecretariaat/Sekretariat komisji/ Secretariado da comissão/Secretariat comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottssekretariatet	
A. Müller-Serten	
Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asystent/Pomočnik/ Avustaja/Assistenten	
F. Haiml	

- \* (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Président/Predsjednik/Priekšsēdētājs/  
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Vīci 'Chairman'/Ondervoorzitter/Wiceprzewodniczący/Vice-Présidente/Vicepreşedinte/Podpredseda/Podpredsednik/  
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Tjänsteman