



Delegation for relations with Iran

D-IR_PV(2012)0711

MINUTES

of the meeting of 11 July 2012, from 09.00 to 10.00
Brussels

The meeting opened at 09h05 on Wednesday, 11 July 2012, with Ms Tarja Cronberg (Chair) in the chair

1. Adoption of draft agenda

The agenda was adopted without modification.

2. Adoption of the minutes of 20 June 2012

The minutes were adopted.

3. Communications by the Chair

The Chairman of the Committee on National Security in the 8th Majlis, Mr. Alaoaldin Broujerdi, has been reconfirmed in his post for the 9th Majlis.

However, Mr Jalili will step down as the Chairman of the Friendship Group between the Majlis and the European Parliament as he will take another position of responsibility within the Majlis. His successor is not yet known.

4. Discussion on Drug-trafficking in the region: Introduction by Mr Pino Arlacchi, MEP and formerly Director at the UN Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention

Mr Pino Arlacchi, MEP, was warmly welcomed as an expert speaker on the subject of drug trafficking. Prior to becoming an MEP, Mr Arlacchi had been Director in the UN Office for Drug Control and Crime (UNODC)

The main drug smuggling route from Afghanistan to Europe passes through Iran, Turkey and the Balkans. Afghan produces 70% of world's opium. Half of the opium production stays in the region and is consumed by drug users in Pakistan and Iran. Due to improvements in technology in Afghanistan, 97% of the heroin which is consumed in Europe is now actually manufactured there. Afghan's main markets for heroin are Western Europe, Russia and, to a lesser extent, the US as their main suppliers are Mexico and Colombia.

In Europe demand for heroin is stabilising, and even declining, however the Russian market is still growing and is compensating for the lower demand in Europe.

Two key points to bear in mind for discussions on Iran and drug trafficking are

- the regional perspective- the need for a better understanding and a common policy towards drug trafficking from Europe, Russia, Iran and Pakistan; and
- the continuity of Iran's tough policy to combat trafficking and heroin production since the beginning of the Khomeini era.

Iran's tries to stop the flow of Afghan heroin through tough border controls. Approximately 2,000 Km of wall, barbed wire, ditches, and other obstructions physically impede Afghan heroin entering into Iran. The cost of these controls has been very high - both in monetary value and in lives. The 10,000 - 20,000 soldiers and police who protect the border frequently come under attack resulting in the loss of 20-30 lives every year.

In 2002, there was very positive cooperation between Europe and the Khatami government to place the Iranian efforts against narcotics high on the international agenda. At that time, the Americans came very close to active dialogue with Iran. However, a change of government in both Iran and the US aborted these efforts. Cooperation on drug trafficking remains a good platform for negotiation with the Iranian government and is in the long term interest of both Iran and Europe.

Due to the increase of the numbers of drug addicts in Iran, successive Iranian government policy on combating drug trafficking and addiction has remained consistent. With approximately 1 million addicts in a country of 70m inhabitants -as compared to Western Europe with 500m citizens and 1.5m addicts- drug addiction in Iran cannot be disregarded as a "European problem".

It has been proven that physical destruction of opium fields through aerial spraying, manual or mechanical destruction merely provokes the displacement of such cultivations, or incites insurgency amongst farmers who have lost their source of income. Crop substitution on its own could never offer an alternative to prices fetched by the sale of opium. Russia and Pakistan share the UN view that the long term solution should be to eliminate opium cultivation through alternative development. Alternative development has proven successful in Indonesia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam where opium production has almost completely stopped.

In 2001, there was a collapse in opium production in Taliban controlled areas as a prohibition policy was then implemented by the Taliban. Post-2001, a blind eye was turned to Afghan warlords' drug activity and 10 years of combat against the production of opium have been lost in exchange for their help against terrorism. Now, the Taliban are

funded through drug related activities. Heroin has become an important source of funding for terrorist activities, and militants, and drugs and terrorism are very much inter-linked. Eliminating drugs would, therefore, contribute to the stabilisation of the country.

Despite 11 years of presence of international forces in Afghanistan, no systematic attempt has been made to eliminate narcotic production. After the withdrawal of these troops in 2014 production will continue to grow unless a significant effort is made by Europe and Russia. Current information on drug control efforts is based on old stereotypes and is mostly ignored by media. Progress on prevention is compounded by the lack of political courage and political scepticism.

In the AFET report "A new strategy for Afghanistan"¹ the European Parliament proposes a five-year plan phasing out opium poppy cultivation at a cost of 100m € /year through improving living conditions by building roads, schools, hospitals and a reactivation of local resources, such as cotton growing. The financial commitment contrasts favourably with the billions of dollars currently being spent on aid packages to Afghanistan.

Mr Souri from the Iranian embassy, stressed the need for Europe to play its role to help prevent the flow of narcotics, which ultimately end up in European markets, and to take a share of the prevention responsibilities. In order to implement better border controls, Iran needs equipment and tools. A list of the equipment it requires has been given to the UNODC.

Mrs Cronberg suggested making contact with the chairs of the other delegations in the region - the Delegation for relations with Afghanistan and the Delegation for relations with South East Asia - to propose a joint meeting on the issue.

5. First discussion on the 4th Interparliamentary meeting EP/Iran, 27 October-2 November 2012

The dates for the 4th EP-Iran Interparliamentary meeting in Iran were confirmed for 27 October - 2 November 2012. This visit will provide the first opportunity for dialogue between the two delegations for over three years, and should be regarded as a bridge building exercise.

The draft programme for the 2011 visit had been included, for information, in the files. The Chair indicated that she would like to allow time for in-depth discussion at each meeting and that the meetings should focus on specific issues such as human rights, nuclear negotiations, and drug trafficking.

Members were asked to indicate issues for discussion at the IPM, and key people they would like to meet, to the secretariat before 10 September.

Members were further asked their opinion, as to whether a visit outside Teheran, for example to Isfahan, should be included in the programme. The attention of Members was drawn to the fact that travelling to Isfahan by bus is very time consuming (**minimum 5 hours**).

¹ Arlacchi report - A7-0333/2010

A first discussion on a draft programme will take place at the meeting of 18 September 2012. The programme will be finalised at least one week in advance of the visit to allow adequate preparation of the visit.

Regarding the composition of the actual delegation itself, a **maximum** of 14 members could travel to Iran. The members will be selected from amongst the full and substitute members of the delegation who have actively participated at the preparatory delegation meetings.

6. Any other business

Technical talks on nuclear negotiations took place on 3 July in Istanbul and on 24 July a further meeting at deputies' level will take place, again in Istanbul. Although there have been some hopeful signs at the negotiations, the risk of military intervention has increased slightly with the US and Iran threatening retaliatory action in the Straits of Hormuz. The European Parliament continues to stress the need for a peaceful solution, further endorsed in the most recent AFET discussions on EU common foreign and security policy.

The UN conference on WMD Middle East will take place in Helsinki in December 2012. The AFET hearing on the changing geopolitical situation in the Middle East will take place at the beginning of October 2012.

7. Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, 18 September 2012, from 15h00-16h00 in Brussels.

The meeting closed at 10h05.

**ΠΡИСΥΣΤΒΕΗ ΛΙΣΤ/Lista de asistencia/Prezenční listina/Deltagerliste/
Anwesenheitsliste/Kohalolijate nimekirj/KΑΤΑΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/Record of attendance/
Liste de présence/Elenco di presenza/ΑΡΜΕΚΛΕΪΜΟ ΡΕΓΙΣΤΡΩΝ/ΔΑΛΥΒΙΥ ΣΑΡΑΨΑΣ/Jelesléti ív/
Registru ta' Attenzenza/Prezentielijst/Lista obecności/Lista de presença/Listă de
Prezență/ Prezenčná listina/Seznam navzočih/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA**

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| Бюро/Меса/Председnictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/Biuras/Elnökség/ Prezydium/Birou/Predsednictvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*) |
| Tarja Cronberg (P) |
| Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselek/ Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter |
| Cornelia Ernst, Josef Weidenholzer, Oreste Rossi, Boguslaw Sonik |
| Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Supplenti/ Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantys nariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleantî/Náhradníci/Namestniki/ Varajäsenet/Suppleanter |
| George Cutas, Pavel Poc |

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| 187 (2) |
| Pino Arlacchi |
| 193 (3) |
| 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/Darbotvarkės 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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| Einollah Souri, Anwar Mirsattari, Jasmine Barahman, Josef Novotny, Jouni Vauhkonen, Alexey Barinov, Patrick Lammer, Sarah Vader |

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| 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 pozvanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan |
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| Комисия/Comisión/Komise/Kommissionen/Kommission/Euroopa Komisjon/Επιτροπή/Commission/Commissione/Komisija/Bizottság/Kummissjoni/Commissie/Komisja/Comissão/Comisie/Komisja/Komissio/Kommissionen (*) | |
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| Европейска служба за външна дейност/Evropská služba 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 (*) | |
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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/Altre istituzioni/Citas iestādes/Kitos institucijos/Más intézmények/Istituzjonijiet oħra/Andere instellingen/Inne instytucje/Outras Instituições/Alte instituiii/Iné inštitúcie/Druge institucije/Muut toimeilmet/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/Alți participanți/Ini účastnici/Druđi 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/Frakciju sekretoriai/Képviselőcsoportok titkársága/Sekretarjat gruppi poliitici/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secr. dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupin/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristö/Gruppernas sekretariat | |
| PPE | Jan-Willem Vlasman, David Stellini |
| S&D | |
| ALDE | |
| ECR | |
| Verts/ALE | Ali Yurttagil |
| GUE/NGL | Karin Schüttpelz |
| EFD | |
| NI | |

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| Кабинет на председателя/Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelář předsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinett des Präsidenten/Presidendi kantslelei/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/Talmannens kansli |
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| 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/Çenerälsekreterä kabinets/Generalinio sekretoriaus kabinetas/Főtitkári hivatal/Kabinett tas-Segretarju Ġenerali/Kabinet van de secretaris-generaal/Gabinet Sekretarja 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/Çeneräldirektoräts/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/Direktorat Ġenerali/Direktoraten-generaal/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direcții Generale/Generálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni direktorat/Pääosasto/Generaldirektorat | |
| DG PRES | Sandro D'Angelo, Andrea Grisorio |
| DG IPOL | |
| DG EXPO | |
| DG COMM | |
| DG PERS | |
| DG INLO | |
| DG TRAD | |
| DG INTE | |
| DG FINS | |
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| Правна служба/Servicio Jurídico/Právni 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/Sekretariat 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/Sekretariado da comissão/Sekretariat comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottssekretariatet | |
| Morag Donaldson | |
| Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asystent/Pomočnik/Avustaja/Assistenten | |
| Ainhoa Markuleta | |

- * (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Président/Priekšsēdētājs/Pirmininkas/Elnök/President/Voorzitter/Przewodniczący/Preşedinte/Předseda/Předsednik/Puheenjohtaja/Ordförande
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- (M) = Член/Miembro/Člen/Medlem./Mitglied/Parlamendiliige/Μέλος/Member/Membre/Membro/Deputāts/Narys/Képviselő/Membru/Lid/Członek/Membro/Membru/Člen/Poslanec/Jäsen/Ledamot

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Ierēdnis/Pareigūnas/Tisztviselő/Ufficial/Ambtenaar/UrządNIK/Funcionário/Funcionar/Úradník/Uradnik/Virkamies/Tjänsteman