



EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY



Committee on Political Affairs, Security and Human Rights

Meeting
Friday, 12 March 2010
15.00 – 18.30

Grand Hyatt Hotel
AMMAN
Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

The Chair, Tokia Saïfi (European Parliament), opened the meeting at 15.10.

1. Adoption of draft agenda

The agenda was adopted.

2. Approval of minutes of meeting of 3 November 2009

The minutes were approved.

3. Chair's announcements

The Chair noted the relatively strained international situation regarding the Israeli-Palestinian issue. The US Government, represented by Vice-President Joe Biden who had been visiting the region and by Secretary of State Clinton, the Quartet, the EU's High Representative Catherine Ashton and the Secretary General of the United Nations had condemned the continuing construction of Israeli settlements in East Jerusalem. She recalled the European Parliament's recent resolutions on the follow-up to the Goldstone report recommendations and on the release of the soldier Gilad Shalit.

She deplored the fact that the EMPA had not been represented in Barcelona on 4 March 2010 at the official inauguration of the UfM's Secretariat.

She also regretted that, for the fifth time, the Israeli authorities had not authorised Hassan Kreishi, Vice-President of the EMPA, to leave the West Bank.

She asked members of the committee to concentrate on adopting the proposed recommendation so that it could be tabled for the plenary sitting on Sunday, 14 March 2010.

PV\814010EN.doc

The Chair checked, before continuing, that the quorum for making valid decisions was reached. At that time, 13 Members of the European Parliament, 13 representatives of national parliaments and 23 representatives of Mediterranean countries were present.

4. Adoption of the committee's draft recommendation

The Chair recalled the two topics addressed by the recommendation:

- ‘The Barcelona Process: Union for the Mediterranean – what added value for the development in the Mediterranean region?’;
- ‘Respect for freedom of expression and freedom of religion or belief’.

She thanked the co-rapporteurs for their work:

- Topic 1: Hans Raidel (Germany), Rosario Georgio Costa (Italy), Mohamed-Kamel Rezgui (Algeria), Ivo Vajgl and Raimon Obiols (European Parliament);
- Topic 2: H el ene Flautre (European Parliament), Zaynep Dagi (Turkey) and Jordi Pedret (Spain).

The Chair noted that 34 amendments (22+12) had been tabled, coming from: Algeria (Mr Rezgui, rapporteur), Monaco, Germany, Austria, Sweden, Finland and Members of the European Parliament (S&D and GUE Groups).

She checked that all members had the co-rapporteurs' proposals and the amendments (in French and in English).

She announced that, following discussions between the rapporteurs and the authors of the amendments, several proposed compromise amendments and oral amendments were planned.

The consideration of tabled amendments commenced, paragraph by paragraph.

1) On topic 1

Ivo Vajgl and Raimon Obiols (co-rapporteurs) explained the spirit of the recommendation in the light of the new UfM structure. A compromise wording was proposed regarding the peace process.

The amendments were then considered successively, and adopted, rejected or changed immediately. Some authors of amendments, including Algeria, Austria, Monaco and Sweden, gave further explanations.

Ivo Vajgl (European Parliament) tabled the proposed compromise amendment to paragraph 7 on the peace process and checked that all members had received the text in writing. An extensive exchange of views followed, leading to the adoption of the amendment by consensus (including the Israeli representative).

At the end of the discussion of the first topic, another member of the Israeli delegation – who had just arrived in the room – wished to reopen the debate on the decision made, claiming ignorance of the written compromise. It was finally decided to accept a formal reservation of the Israeli delegation regarding paragraph 7.

The first part (topic 1) of the recommendation was adopted by consensus, with an Israeli reservation regarding paragraph 7.

2) On topic 2

Hélène Flautre (European Parliament) and Jordi Pedret (Spain), co-rapporteurs, presented their proposal, on which a compromise had already been reached at the meeting in November 2009.

They made statements on the 12 amendments, mostly tabled by Germany (and Sweden).

In particular, the French version of the title of the topic was modified, bringing it into line with the English title 'Respect for freedom of expression and freedom of religion or belief'.

Some oral amendments were discussed and partially adopted.

A reference to the role of parliamentarians was inserted in the last paragraph.

The second part (topic 2) of the recommendation was adopted by consensus.

The Chair thanked the rapporteurs and all committee members and concluded as follows:

- She noted that both parts of the committee's draft recommendation had been adopted:
 - Topic 1 by consensus, with an Israeli reservation regarding paragraph 7;
 - Topic 2 by consensus;
- She would therefore present the recommendation in the plenary sitting the following day and propose its adoption by consensus.

5. Date and place of the next meeting

The Chair announced that the Grand National Assembly of Turkey had invited the political and cultural committees to meet together in Istanbul on 22-23 May 2010.

The meeting closed at 17.20.
