

EURO-MEDITERRANEAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EMPA BUREAU AND ENLARGED BUREAU RABAT, MORROCO 22/1/2010

- Mr. AbdulHadi Majali, Member of the Jordanian House of Senates, President of the EMPA.
- Mr. Mustafa Al Mansouri, Speaker of the Moroccan House of Representatives and Vice-President of the EMPA
- Mr. Gianni Pittella, European Parliament vice president, representing Mr BUZEK, President of the European Parliament, Vice- President of the EMPA
- Mr. Antonio D'Ali', representing Mr. Renato Schifani, President of the Italian Senate and Vice-president of the EMPA

Bureau Members discussed the following agenda items:

1- Adopting the agenda.

2- Adopting the minutes of the bureau meeting in Cairo (November 20,2009) after adding the Italian proposal with regards to forming a specialized team affiliated to the economic committee to follow up on the issue of transforming the facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership “FEMIP” to a Euro-Mediterranean development bank . The proposal came from Italy and was adopted by the financial economic committee.

3- The president’s announcements: the members listened to the following announcements by Mr. Abdulhadi Majali

- As I have already informed the colleagues, a royal decree to dissolve the House of Representatives as of November 24, 2009 was issued. Constitutionally, the House of Representatives' functions have been halted. Another royal decree to restructure the House of Senates was issued subsequently and I was appointed as a senate.
- The Jordanian parliamentary division includes both the House of Representatives and the House of Senates. Since the House of Representatives was dissolved upon a royal decree, the representative of the people now is the House of Senates where I was appointed and elected as the head of Jordanian Parliamentary Division, therefore; I shall pursue my tasks as the president of the Euro-Mediterranean Parliamentary Assembly.
- I would like to thank the European Parliament for forming a delegation to visit Gaza. This shows attentiveness that we sincerely appreciate. We, therefore, wish that the presidency of the European Parliament would provide us with a detailed report on the visit so that we can present it to the general assembly in Amman. *The European Parliament vice president clarified that this delegation does not represent the European Parliament, but rather a pool of humanitarian organizations and some members of the European Parliament in their personal capacities.*
- Colleagues, Union for the Mediterranean was announced on July 13, 2008 in Paris, where our committee considered the legislative and observatory arm of the Union for the Mediterranean of which we have high expectations, as we hope it will contribute to solving several pending issues in the region most importantly, the peace process. Here, I would like to point out that by electing the Secretary General of the Union For the Mediterranean, Ambassador Dr. Ahmad Masaadeh , we hope that there will be close collaboration giving EMPA the role assigned to it as the legislative observatory arm.
- Dear Colleagues, the Middle East Cause is going through very critical conditions. There are many endeavors seeking to come up with a just comprehensive solution to end the issue that has been a concern for the whole world and has been negatively impacting the peoples of the region in all life aspects. We hope that such efforts will succeed in providing positive results that we can concretely see on grounds, and we declare our absolute

support for them hoping that Israel will seriously deal with them in order to guarantee their future and that of the region peoples.

4- Preparations for the sixth General Assembly March 13-14, 2010

Agenda, speakers and time frame

The bureau agreed on Mr. Abdulhad Majali's suggestion to hold the 6th General Assembly as follows:

It was decided in the Bureau and the Expanded Bureau meeting in Cairo November 20, 2009 to hold the 6th General Assembly of EMPA in Jordan on 13-14 March 2010. The following topics are going to be included in the agenda:

The Peace Process in the Middle East

Climate and Environmental Change and Renewable Energy in the Mediterranean

Transforming the facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership "FEMIP" to a Euro-Mediterranean development bank

This requires that all committees will meet on the day before to undertake the functions of the general assembly so they can adopt the recommendations and submit them to the general assembly.

The Bureau and Expanded Bureau meeting will be held on Friday March 12, 2010 at 6 p m, and heads of committees will submit their recommendations to the bureau in this meeting.

The general assembly will start its work on the next day, Saturday March 13, 2010 at 10 am. It will begin with the speakers on the three main themes.

- **Middle East Peace Process**

- Inviting the Secretary General of Union for the Mediterranean
- Inviting His Excellency Amer Musa, The Secretary General of the League of Arab States
- Inviting Mr. George Mitchel
- Inviting Baroness Catherine Ashton the High Representative of Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy
- Inviting Mr. Tony Blair the representative of the quartet
- The Egyptian Minister of Foreign Affairs.

- The French Minister of Foreign Affairs.
 - The Turkish Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Climate and Environmental Change, and Renewable Energy
 - Inviting the Jordanian Minister of Energy Mr. Khaled Al Irani who was formerly the Minister of Environment, as he participated in the meetings of the Ad hoc Committee on Energy, Environment and Water.
 - The Head of the Environmental Program in the UN
 - Helene Pelosse from the International Renewable Energy Agency
 - The Head of Energy Commission at the European Parliament, Mr. Showry
 - Transforming the facility for Euro-Mediterranean Investment and Partnership “FEMIP” to a Euro-Mediterranean development bank
 - Inviting the Director General of Morocco Bank for Foreign Trade and Investment

The President of EMPA asked members to submit written proposals on prospective invitees.

On Saturday March 13, 2010, the activities start at 10 and finish at 2 pm, and there will be dinner for all EMPA members in the evening.

On Sunday March 14, 2010, the assembly starts its work at 10 a.m. by calling committee heads to submit their recommendations for the general assembly, and then we will open the floor for discussions and interventions.

After adopting the committees’ recommendations, we present to the assembly other issues like the amendments on EMPA rules of procedures.

The activities of this day finish at 2 p. m. The activities of the General Assembly are concluded with transforming the presidency from Jordan to Italy, two final keynote speeches for both parties, and a press conference.

Mr. Mohammad Abu Al Enein suggested holding a conference to discuss the peace process, and it was agreed the Italian Presidency will be in charge of this issue during the term of its presidency.

5- Following up the resolutions of the Bureau and Expanded Bureau Meeting in Cairo November 20 2009

- Transforming the Euro-Mediterranean University contact group into a working group that includes 20 members in addition to the current members, 10 of them from the Southern part and 10 from the European part headed by the European Parliament Mrs. Rudi Kratsa.

EMPA member states have been contacted by the head of the group so they will nominate their members.

Mrs. Kratsa presented the working group new structure and informed the members that only 6 members have been nominated so far.

The working group will hold its meeting in February 2010.

- The Bureau decided to assign Mr BUZEK, President of the European Parliament to organize a video conference between the bureau members and the members of the Middle East and Asia Ad Hoc Committee at the US parliament, since there will be a meeting between Mr. Buzek and the head of the American Congress. Also, Mr. Fini will have a meeting with the head of the US Congress during her formal visit to Italy. Mr. Fini, the head of the Italian Parliament is in charge of following up this contact during the term of his presidency.

The Vice president of the European Parliament objected that members were not informed with the resolutions and declarations issued in the Cairo meeting. The president made it clear that all members were informed via email, and if the European Parliament wishes to help us, they are more than welcome. It has been agreed that the European Parliament will help in this regard.

6- The Working Group on Financing of the Assembly and Revision of EMPA Rules of Procedures.

Members listened to Mr. Gianni PITELLA's report, the head of the working group which met in Brussels on December 10, 2009 and on January 14, 2010 in order to come up with an agreement on the general assembly and the financing of EMPA.

An agreement has been made and a draft structure of the secretariat which is comprised of 4 secretaries and an assistant with a smaller budget that covers the general assembly expenses, the working languages of meetings and committees are three, and of the general assembly are eight.

In regards to observers, according to article 8 of the regulations, the chair of the working group recommended accepting each of the following as observers:

- The European Council Parliamentary Assembly
- The Arab Parliamentary Union
- The Transitional Arab Parliament
- The Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean

The chair also recommended not giving the capacity of observers for the following:

- The International Parliamentary Union
- The Federation of Sustainable Development and Poverty Alleviation in the Mediterranean and the Black Sea.

The Bureau approved of the Committee's recommendations as they are in line with the EMPA's regulations.

The Bureau approved of extending the working group term for three years.

7- Distributing the New Members among Committees and the new Structure of Committee Offices.

Dear Colleagues, I would like to remind you that we accepted the proposal on increasing the Assembly members from 260 to 280, 140 seats are allocated for the south, 10 seat for Mauritania, 140 seats for the North, in addition to the European Parliament and two seats for Albania, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Croatia, Monaco, and the Black Mountain. Hence, we need to redistribute the members among committees so their numbers will be consistent with the numbers of EMPA members.

My colleagues suggested submitting this issue to **The Working Group on Financing of the Assembly and Revision of EMPA Rules of Procedures** in order for them to make the appropriate distribution and make the necessary amendments on the rules so they will be in line with the new distribution. The working group is to submit its proposal so we can discuss it the forthcoming meeting. The presidents of member parliaments shall be informed that *the mechanism* will be discussed in the next meeting in Amman.

The Bureau agreed that committee offices will remain the way they are for the coming two years and that the task of distributing members among committees

should be assigned to the **Working Group on Financing of the Assembly and Revision of EMPA Rules of Procedures.**

8- Miscellaneous

- The Bureau accepted the invitation extended by the Head of the Turkish Delegation to host the meeting of the political and cultural committees on September 30, 2010.
- The members read the letter of Dr. Ahmad Fathi Sroor , the President of the Egyptian Parliament, on the ban on building minarets of mosques and his request to list this issue on the agenda of the cultural committee for discussion; as this issue is considered a violation of religious freedoms and an offence to Muslims. The Bureau accepted his request.
- The head of the Italian delegation raised the issue of the humanitarian disaster in Haiti, our stand from it, the need for humanitarian assistance and the importance of forming a committee to coordinate relief and protection activities. It has been agreed that this issue will be discussed when the expanded bureau discuss miscellaneous topics.

-

9- EMPA Bureau Statement on the Middle East Peace Process was adopted.

10- EMPA Bureau Statement on the Union for the Mediterranean was adopted

11- EMPA Bureau Statement on Haiti was adopted

The Enlarged Bureau:

The Enlarged bureau met in Rabat on Friday 22/1/2010, with the presence of:

- Mr. AbdulHadi Majali, Member of the Jordanian House of Senates, President of the EMPA.
- Mr. Mustafa Al Mansouri, Speaker of the Moroccan House of Representatives and Vice-President of the EMPA
- Mr. Gianni Pittella, European Parliament vice president, representing Mr BUZEK, President of the European Parliament, Vice- President of the

EMPA, Chair of the working group on Financing of the Assembly and Revision of the EMPA's Rules of Procedure.

- Mr. Antonio D'Ali', representing Mr. Renato Schifani, President of the Italian Senate and Vice-president of the EMPA
- Ms. Tokia Saïfi, Chair of the Committee on Political Affairs, Security and Human Rights
- Mr. Mohammad Aboul-Enein, Chair of the Committee on Economic and Financial Affairs, Social Affairs and Education
- Mr. Eduardo Cabrita, Chair of the Committee on Improving Quality of Life, Exchanges between Civil Societies and Culture
- Ms. Afifa Salah, Chair of the Committee on Women's Rights (**Absent**)
- Mr. Stefan Schennach, Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Energy, Environment and water
- Mrs. Rodi Kratsa, Chair of the Euromed University EMUNI Working Group

Members discussed the following agenda items:

1- Adopting the agenda

2- Adopting the minutes of the expanded bureau meeting on November 20, 2009 in Cairo.

3- The activities of EMPA committees, ad hoc committees and working groups.

The members listened to the reports of EMPA committees, ad hoc committees and working groups, their arrangements for future meetings and the recommendations they will submit to the next general assembly.

- Committee on Political Affairs, Security and Human Rights
- Committee on Economic and Financial Affairs, Social Affairs and Education

- Committee on Improving Quality of Life, Exchanges between Civil Societies and Culture.

The Cultural Committee will hold its next meeting in Lisbon February 22, 2010.

- Committee on Women's Rights

It has been decided that EMPA president will contact the president of the Tunisian Parliament to inquire about the reason behind the absence of the head of the committee for the second time. It has also been decided not to hold meetings for the committee.

- Ad Hoc Committee on Energy, Environment & Water

Member states listened to the report of the Ad Hoc Committee's report and were briefed on the fact finding delegation's visit to Jordan Valley scheduled on January 29-February 1, 2010.

Head of the committee requested the invitation of the following two persons to attend the forthcoming meeting in Amman to discuss the issue of climate and environmental changes and renewable energy:

- Chief of UN environment program
- Ms. Helen Pelosse from IRENA- the International Renewable Energy Agency (Abu-Dhabi).

- Working Group on Financing of the Assembly and Revision of the EMPA's Rules of Procedure
- Euromed University EMUNI Working Group.

4. Exchanging views on the current position of the Union for the Mediterranean (to be confirmed later on)

The new Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean had apologized for not being able to come. The Statement on the Union for the Mediterranean was adopted.

5- Exchanging view points on Anna Linda Foundation activities and discussing holding 2010 forum with Mr. Andre Azoula , the head (to be confirmed later).

An invitation has been extended to Mr. Andre Azoula to attend the meeting, talk about Anna Linda Foundation activities, and coordinate for 2010 forum.

Unfortunately he sent an apology.

6- Miscellaneous

- EMPA Bureau Statement on the Middle East Peace Process was adopted.
- EMPA Bureau Statement on the Union for the Mediterranean was adopted
- EMPA Bureau Statement on Haiti was adopted

7- The date and place of the coming meeting

It has been decided to hold the Bureau and Expanded Bureau meeting in Jordan, March 12, 2010, Friday afternoon.