



Delegation for relations with Iraq

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MINUTES
of the meeting of 17 March 2010, from 15.00 to 16.00
Brussels

The meeting opened at 15.00 on Wednesday, 17 March 2010, with Struan Stevenson (Chair) in the chair.

1. Adoption of draft agenda (PE 439.022)

The agenda was approved.

2. Approval of minutes of the meeting of 4 February 2010 (PE 439.023)

The minutes were approved.

3. Chair's announcements

The Chair informed that Ms. Eva-Britt Svensson, the Chair of the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality has sent a letter to the Chair of the Delegations Chairs, Mr. Yanez-Barnuevo Garcia in order to invite all delegations dealing with third countries and parliamentary assemblies to appoint one of their Members as responsible for implementing gender mainstreaming in the work of delegations. The Chair asked if there were any Members who might volunteer for this position. It was agreed that an email would be circulated to Members so as expression of interest to be manifested.

4. Exchange of views on the Iraqi national elections of 7 March 2010, in the presence of:

- **H.E. Mr Mohammed Jawad AL-DOREKY, Ambassador of Iraq, and**
- **Ms. Patricia LLOMBART CUSSAC, Head of Unit for relations with the Gulf countries, Iran, Iraq and Yemen at the European Commission**

Mr Struan Stevenson recalled his frustration of not being able to visit Iraq before the

elections of 7 March, as the request of authorisation was refused a second time by the Conference of Presidents. He praised the Iraqi people for the courage of voting in highly significant numbers against the background of threats of intimidation, violence and actual bomb and mortar attacks and stressed that the elections are a further step forward in the democratic process.

He, nevertheless, stressed that widespread allegations of fraud were brought to his knowledge and gave him deep cause for concern. He informed that, therefore, he published a press release in Arab media inviting anybody who witnessed irregularities or cheating, during the elections, to send him an email with concrete facts.

The Chair informed that he integrated the results of all the information received in a report. The document was distributed during the meeting to the Members only. He stressed that there is no way in which he could verify the truth of the respective allegations, but that he thinks they should be presented to the Iraqi Ambassador to give to the Iraqi Independent High Election Commission (IHEC) in Baghdad for them to investigate and report back to the Delegation.

Ms Ana Gomes expressed her surprise and rejection on these actions taken by the Chair, without consulting the Members. She expressed the opinion that the judgmental statements of the Chair were inappropriate and might have serious consequences on the relation between the European Parliament and the Iraqi Council of Representatives. On the other hand, she stressed also the frustration of not being able to go to Iraq even though many observers were present to the elections, but recalled, in the same time, that the European Union did not have an election observation mission and that this type of mission is deployed under very strict rules which have to be observed by all Members.

The Chair apologised to the Members who might have felt offended by his declarations and explained that he received numerous letters from senior Iraqi politicians stressing that his public remarks made difficult for frauds to continue, especially concerning the manipulation of final figures.

Mr Alejo Vidal-Quadras stressed that it is appropriate and in the range of competencies of the Chair to gather information and provide to the Members substantial material for valid conclusions. He, nevertheless, draw the attention on the importance to separate personal opinions and the official positions of the Chair of the Delegation.

He mentioned that he was aware of allegations concerning continuous attempts of foreign political factors to intervene in the Iraqi elections, while stressing that all that European Parliament could do is be informed and try to be helpful and to support the Iraqi sovereignty. In context, he specified that the Delegation could have an exchange of views on the substance of the Chair's report, at another meeting.

Ms Esther De Lange supported the position expressed by Mrs. Gomes from the procedural point of view, while stressing that the issue should be discussed, on substance, at another meeting, opinion stressed also by **Mr Tunne Kelam**. **Ms De Lange** praised the Iraqi citizens for being extremely brave in casting their votes in critical conditions. Referring to the voting outside Iraq, she mentioned a concrete situation, in Utrecht, where she had information that a large number of Iraqis couldn't vote from procedural reasons.

HE Ambassador Mohammed Jawad Al-Doreky stressed the importance of these elections, as second cycle after the dictatorship, especially that the government to be formed will be the

first one to rule the country after the withdrawal of the foreign military forces. He thanked Members who commended the large participation of Iraqis to vote. He stressed the efforts made for a good organisation of the elections, mentioning that IHEC members were chosen by the parliament and that United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) supported them continuously. He stressed that the elections were under the scrutiny of a large number of monitors and observers, national and international. He acknowledged that frauds might exist, but stressed that if there are accusations of fraud they should be brought to the attention of the IHEC (further step, to Court). He underlined that accepting allegations from people non-identifiable or writing articles on that matter will not help solving the problem but could bring a lot of damage to the Iraqi - EU relation. In context, he stressed that in Iraq the People's Mujahedin of Iran (PMOI) is considered a terrorist organization. For clarifying the position of the Members of the Delegation, he asked for a statement to be issued in which to be specified that the Delegation is not taking sides and is waiting for the results of the elections and for the report of EU monitors.

Mr Stevenson replied stressing that his aspirations are to support all Iraqis in seeking free, democratic, open society, including the end of insurgency. He underlined that he has not been hijacked by any political party or entity in Iraq, that he is not supporting a particular party; he is not biased in any way and looks forward to work with any new government in Iraq. He stressed also the importance for an emerging democracy to handle the allegations of fraud in elections, and that that could be handled by the IHEC.

Ms. Patricia Llobart Cussac welcomed the commitment of the Iraqis to the democracy and recalled the positive statements regarding the elections of EU HR / VP Catherine Ashton and of the President of the European Parliament Jerzy Buzek. She referred to the concrete work of the Election Assessment Team (EAT), specifying that it is not election observation mission, as the security conditions didn't allow a full deployment of such a mission. The interim reports of EAT were being distributed to Members. EU is supporting IHEC, through UNAMI. She stressed that it is too early for a full analysis, as the process of counting the votes, especially from outside the country, continues. Complaints can be transmitted to IHEC until the end of March. She referred to a statement of UN Envoy Ed Melkert who stressed that the most important thing is the results to be accepted by the Iraqi people and that the new Iraqi government is supported by the population, beyond political or community affiliation.

Concluding the meeting, **the Chair** asked and received the agreement of the Members for:

- submitting his report with regard to the alleged frauds at the Iraqi elections to the Iraqi Ambassador in Brussels in order to be further submitted to the IHEC for the investigation of the allegations;
- sending the same report to the European Union HR / VP Catherine Ashton as well as to Mr. Gabriele Albertini, the Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the European Parliament.

The other request of the Chair regarding the publicising of the report was not approved by the Delegation.

5. Any other business

H.E. Ambassador Mohammed Jawad Al-Doreky announced that his mission to Brussels is coming to an end. On this occasion, the Chair expressed his gratitude for the fruitful and constant cooperation of the Ambassador with the European Parliament Delegation for relations with Iraq, opinion shared by all the Members of the Delegation.

6. Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting will take place in Brussels on 26 April 2010.

The meeting closed at 16.10.

**ПРИСЪСТВЕН ЛИСТ/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/
ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/KATAΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/
LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU REĢISTRS/DALYVIŲ SAŪAŠAS/JELENLÉTI ÍV/
REĢISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŠCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/LISTÁ DE PREZENÇÁ/
PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA**

Бюро/Mesa/Předsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/Biuras/Elnökség/ Prezydium/Birou/Predsednictvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
Struan Stevenson (P), Esther de Lange (VP 1)
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselek/ Membri/Leden/Poslowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Jill Evans, Ana Gomes, Giancarlo Scottà, Alexandra Thein, Alejo Vidal-Quadras
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Supplenti/ Aizstājēji/Pavadojantys nariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/Namestniki/ Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
Tunne Kelam

187 (2)
Mario Mauro
193 (3)
46 (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/Darbotvarkēs punktas/ Napirendi pont/Punt Agenda/Agendapunt/Punkt porządku dziennego/Ponto OD/Punct de pe ordinea de zi/Bod programu schôdze/ Točka UL/Esityslistan kohta/Föredragningslista punkt)

Наблюдатели/Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaatlejad/Παρατηρητές/Observers/Observateurs/Osservatori/ Novērotāji/Stebētājai/Megfigyelők/Osservatori/Waarnemers/Observatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelia/Opazovalci/ Tarkkailijat/Observatörer

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/Pëc priekšsēdētāja uzaicinājuma/Pirmininkui pakvietus/Az elnök meghívására/Fuq stedina taç'-Chairman/
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Op uitnodiging van de voorzitter/Na zaproszenie Przewodniczącego/A convite do Presidente/La invitația președintelui/Na pozwanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan
H.E. Mr Mohammed Jawad Al-Doreky, Ambassador of Iraq Mrs Patricia Llobart-Cussac, European Commission

Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nöukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/Conseil/Consiglio/Padome/Taryba/Tanács/Kunsill/Raad/Conselho/Consiliu/Svet/Neuvosto/Rådet (*)
Комисия/Comisión/Komise/Kommissionen/Kommission/Euroopa Komisjon/Επιτροπή/Commission/Commissione/Komisija/Bizottság/Kummissjoni/Commissie/Komisja/Comissão/Comisie/Komisia/Komissio/Kommissionen (*)
Christel Maertens Vladimir Janbirk Dominic Porter
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/Istituzzjonijiet oħra/Andere instellingen/Inne instytucje/Outras Instituições/Alte instituții/Iné inštitúcie/Druge institucije/Muut toimielimet/Andra institutioner/organ

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 účastníci/Dруги udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare	
Mr Al Rubay, Embassy of Iraq Belal Ateya, Embassy of Iraq Rahman Al Waili, Embassy of Iraq Muriel Van Averbek, US Mission Gilles Sabent, Change Movement Kawa Hassan, Change Movement	
Секретариат на политическите групи/Secretaría de los Grupos políticos/Sekretariát politických skupin/Gruppenes 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 sekretoriat/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/Gruppenas sekretariat	
PPE S&D ALDE ECR Verts/ALE GUE/NGL EFD NI	Giannella Reichert

<p>Кабинет на председателя/Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelář předsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinett des Präsidenten/Presidendi kantselēi/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</p>	
<p>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/Ġeneralsekretära kabinets/Generalinio sekretoriaus kabinetas/Főtitkári hivatal/Kabinett tas-Segretarju Ġenerali/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</p>	
<p>Генерална дирекция/Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/Directorate-General/Direction générale/Direzione generale/Generāldirektoriāts/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/Direktorat Ġenerali/Direktoraten-generaal/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direcții Generale/Generálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni direktorat/Pääosasto/Generaldirektorat</p>	
<p>DG PRES DG IPOL DG EXPO DG COMM DG PERS DG INLO DG TRAD DG INTE DG FINS DG ITEC</p>	<p>Michael Reinprecht, Stefan Krauss, Djamil Chikhi, Lars Nielsen</p>
<p>Правна служба/Servicio Jurídico/Právní 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</p>	
<p>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/Secretariado da comissão/Sekretariat comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottssekretariatet</p>	
<p>Camelia Oaida</p>	
<p>Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Paġġis/Padějėjas/Asszisztens/Asystent/Pomočník/Avustaja/Assistenten</p>	
<p>Nicole Devos</p>	

- * (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Président/Priekšsēdētājs/Pirmininkas/Elnök/Chairman/Voorzitter/Przewodniczący/Preşedinte/Předseda/Predsednik/Puheenjohtaja/Ordförande
(VP) = Заместник-председател/Vicepresidente/Místopředseda/Næstformand/Stellvertretender Vorsitzender/Aseesimees/Αντιπρόεδρος/Vice-Chair(wo)man/Vice-Président/Priekšsēdētāja vietnieks/Pirmininko pavaduotojas/Alelnök/Víci 'Chairman'/Ondervoorzitter/Wiceprzewodniczący/Vice-Présidente/Vicepreşedinte/Podpredseda/Podpredsednik/Varapuheenjohtaja/Vice ordförande
(M) = Член/Miembro/Člen/Medlem./Mitglied/Parlamendiliige/Μέλος/Member/Membre/Membro/Deputāts/Narys/Képviselő/Membru/Lid/Członek/Membro/Membru/Člen/Poslanec/Jäsen/Ledamot
(F) = Длъжностно лице/Funcionario/Úředník/Tjenestemand/Beamter/Ametnik/Υπάλληλος/Official/Fonctionnaire/Funzionario/Ierēdnis/Pareigūnas/Tisztviselő/Ufficial/Ambtenaar/Urządник/Funcionário/Functionar/Úradník/Uradnik/Virkamies/Tjänsteman