



**PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY  
OF THE UNION FOR THE  
MEDITERRANEAN**



**COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND WATER**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

**of the meeting held in Vienna, Austria  
on 29 November 2010**

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**1. Opening of the meeting by the President of the Austrian National Council, Mrs. Barbara PRAMMER, and the Committee Chairperson, Mr. Stefan SCHENNACH**

The President of the Austrian National Council, Mrs. Barbara PRAMMER, welcomed the participants of the meeting and expressed her appreciation for the work of the committee.

The Chairperson welcomed all committee members, in particular the Syrian delegation, which had participated in Innsbruck in June for the first time and now was present with a large delegation; as well as the Lebanese delegates who were participating in this committee for the first time; and the new Israeli delegate. He regretted that the Moroccan Minister for Energy, Mines, Water and Environment, Mrs. Amina BENKHADRA, could not give her presentation at this meeting due to previous engagements. The Chair reported that Mr. Nicos CLEANTHOUS, the Chairman of the Committee on European Affairs of Cyprus, was considering the invitation to Israel, Palestine, Jordan and the Committee Bureau to start negotiations on the Jordan valley in line with the decision of Amman in 2009. He further thanked the Algerian delegation for hosting the board meeting in mid-November, and expressed his appreciation of the Algerian efforts to address sewage water and garbage treatment.

Mr. Schennach informed the participants that the work of this particular committee within the Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean (PA-UfM) has been recognized by the Bureau. Finally the Chair informed the delegates that the name of the Euromediterranean Parliamentary Assembly (EMPA) has been replaced by "Parliamentary Assembly of the Union for the Mediterranean" ("PA-UfM") due to previous decisions of the EMPA.

**2. Adoption of the minutes of the meeting in Innsbruck on 28 June 2010**

The minutes of the last meeting of the Committee on Energy, Environment and Water in Innsbruck, Austria were adopted.

### **3. Ways of financing projects regarding energy, environment and water by the Union for the Mediterranean**

Mr. Rafiq HUSSEINI, Deputy Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean, Mr. Tomas DUPLA DEL MORAL, Director at the European Commission in charge of the Middle East and South Mediterranean and Mr. Albrecht KAUPP, Team Leader at the Euro-Mediterranean Energy Market Integration Project (MED-EMIP), gave presentations on the agenda item.

In the following discussion Mr. RAMPONI (Italy) reminded the participants that environmental pollution generated enormous financial, biological and climate costs in the long term as well. He therefore advocated the calculated integration of these costs into the investments for environmental protection.

Mrs. PARVANOV (European Parliament) cited the important role of the committee and urged members to advise their governments. She also recommended considering Russia and its role as energy supplier in the future reports of the committee.

Mr. BENTOUMI (Algeria) recognized the varying interests of the countries involved, as well as the common goal of adopting renewable energy techniques. He espoused seriously considering the concerns of the governments and the people in the respective national strategies.

Mr. KAUPP (MED-EMIP) predicted a rising need for solar power to run desalination plants, but added that the question of energy exports would always be problematic. In addition the domestic demand in the countries of the southern shore must not be neglected.

Mrs. ZUARETZ (Israel) said her country was ready to share its knowledge with its neighbours, as cross-border issues would not respect borders and could only be solved jointly, like the issue of the use of Jordan River water. She also said that the Mediterranean had to be treated as a priority and that this would also have to be accepted by Israeli politicians.

Some delegates emphasized the need to solve the conflicts in the Middle East, so that in the case of future military actions no infrastructure, including that for energy, would be destroyed.

### **4. Presentation of the first draft reports**

- **Creation of Underwater National Parks to Safeguard Biodiversity of Fish Populations**  
Co-rapporteurs Mr. Luigi **RAMPONI** (Italy) and Mr. Mongi **CHERIF** (Tunisia)
- **Protection of the Marine Environment**  
Co-rapporteurs Mrs. Antonyia **PARVANOV** (European Parliament), Mr. Hamid **NARJISSE** (Morocco) and Mr. Stefan **SCHENNACH** (Austria)
- **Waste Management in the Coastal Regions of the Mediterranean**  
Co-rapporteurs Mr. Akif **AKKUŞ** (Turkey) and Mr. Neven **MIMICA** (Croatia)

After the presentations of the first draft reports the Chair briefly informed the delegates about the meeting of the members of the Committee Bureau in Algeria on 13-15 November 2010 and presented his proposals for future reports submitted before March 2012:

- Reduction of barriers in technology and know-how transfer, in economic and political relations, in combating climate change, and in the university education system.
- A special report ,with fact-finding mission, is being planned concerning the situation of water distribution in Egypt, the effects of the rising sea level on the Nile delta, agriculture, and the energy situation of the country.
- "Energy efficiency" with its enormous potential, including job creation
- "Hydrosolar" as the technological twins: solar power generation and seawater or groundwater desalination
- Protection of the coastal areas (industry, tourism, climate change)
- Potential of biomass for regional development and agriculture

Special consideration should also be given to the resettlement of people because of climate change (for instance because of rising sea levels and the salinity of soil), to renewable energy, and to the follow up on the fact-finding mission to the Jordan valley.

During the discussion, the growing traffic in the Mediterranean, despite the current financial crisis, was mentioned. The creation of consolidated protection areas might be accomplished eventually, in 10 to 20 years, but delegates' countries should already be seeking closer cooperation in this matter.

Mr. DEL PICCHIA (France) urged the application of the cautionary principle and the creation of "sea highways" as well as of "sea police" for enforcement.

Some delegates stressed the fact that without a healthy environment there would be no healthy economy in the mid- or long-term.

The Chair urged the rapporteurs to work on their reports and pointed out the necessity of raising people's awareness from childhood on, and that garbage is both a problem and a raw material at the same time.

## **5. Miscellaneous**

The second day of the meeting was dedicated to visits to a wind energy park, to a highly energy efficient office building, as well as to a company which specializes in public area illumination using photovoltaic techniques. The day was concluded with a short visit to the subterranean sewage water system in Vienna.

The next meeting will take place in Rome in March 2011.

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