



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Strasbourg, 14 March 2012**

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**NOTE**

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from: General Secretariat of the Council  
to: Delegations

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Subject: Summary record of the meeting of the European Parliament **Committee on Foreign Affairs**  
Chairman: Mr Brok (EPP, DE)  
Strasbourg, 12 March 2012

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**I. Exchange of views with Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, President of the 66th UN General Assembly**

*Jointly with the Committee on Development and in association with the Sub-committees on Security & Defence and Human Rights*

Mr Al-Nasser stressed that the UN had been put to the test and that its universality made it the most legitimate and relevant international organisation. He went on to underscore that the EU was one of the UN's strongest allies and that the Lisbon Treaty had made it a more effective partner for the UN. In this respect, Mr Al-Nasser welcomed the European Parliament's strengthened role.

Concerning the challenges facing the UN, Mr Al-Nasser made reference to the Arab awakening and called on the EU to make use in that respect of the European Neighbourhood policy. He also considered that Syria was of critical concern in view of the widespread human rights violations taking place in that country and stressed that the General Assembly had recently adopted a resolution supporting the Arab League plan, which had already begun to be implemented with the appointment as Special Envoy of Mr Annan. Mr Al-Nasser declared that, should the Security Council remain in a deadlock, the General Assembly would be ready to take further action. Concerning Palestine, Mr Al-Nasser considered that the recent Jordan initiative to re-launch the talks was encouraging and indicated that the application for the admission of Palestine to the UN was in a stalemate at the Security Council. He stated that, should the Palestinians bring the matter to the General Assembly, the latter would assist in a gradual approach.

Mr Al-Nasser further made reference to the need to encourage peaceful settlement of disputes and indicated that a meeting on that theme would be organised in May, with the focus being put on the role of Member States in mediation. He also invited the MEPs to call on their governments to support financially the Alliance of Civilisations initiative. Mr Al-Nasser further underlined that close UN/EU cooperation on piracy and counter-terrorism was necessary, and that the EU could also bring its experience in environmental matters in the framework of the Rio+ 20 discussions.

Questioned on Syria by Mr Salafranca (PPE, ES), Ms Muñiz (S&D, ES) and Ms Neyts-Uyttebroeck (ALDE, BE), Mr Al-Nasser considered that this week would be decisive and that Mr Annan should be given a chance. He also called on the international community to maintain pressure on the Syrian regime. Mr Al-Nasser concurred with Mr Salafranca on the link between Syria and Iran, and stated that Iran was ready for dialogue and that war would not be a solution. Asked by Mr David (PPE, PT) about the Security Council stalemate concerning Palestine, Mr Al-Nasser replied that the best solution for Palestinians in the current context would be to obtain observer status at the General Assembly. Mr Al-Nasser further emphasised that the Security Council needed urgent reform and considered that the issue of Western Sahara could be solved if an agreement was found between Morocco and Algeria.

## **II. Draft report with a proposal for a European Parliament recommendation to the Council on the modalities for the possible establishment of a European Endowment for Democracy (EED)**

*AFET/7/06858*

*Rapporteur: Alexander Graf Lambsdorff (ALDE, DE)*

Having voted on the amendments and compromise amendments, AFET adopted the report with 58 votes in favour, two against and one abstention.

## **III Evolution of EU Macro-Regional Strategies: Present Practice and Future Prospects, especially in the Mediterranean**

*AFET/7/06861*

*Rapporteur for opinion: Nikolaos Salavrakos (EFD, EL)*

Having voted on the amendments and compromise amendments, AFET adopted the report.

## **IV. European Union's Internal Security Strategy**

*AFET/7/08432*

*Rapporteur for opinion: Ana Gomes (S&D, PT)*

Having voted on the amendments and compromise amendments, AFET adopted the report.

## **V. Outcome of the presidential elections in Russia**

*Rapporteur: Hannes Swoboda (S&D, AT)*

Mr Brok (EPP, DE) indicated that this item had been added to AFET's agenda following last week's decision by the Conference of Presidents' to discuss the Russian presidential elections in plenary.

He thanked the rapporteur for having quickly prepared a draft report to that end and announced that the deadline for amendments would be 14 March, noon.

Mr Swoboda (S&D, AT) explained that his objective was not to criticise Mr Putin, but to encourage reform in Russia, in particular with regard to the electoral legislation. The rapporteur's draft was broadly welcomed by AFET members. Mr Schulz (Greens, DE) considered that a clearer reference should be made to the need for fair elections, while Mr Kelam (EPP, FI) stressed that the Russian opposition should be encouraged to unite itself and Mr Posselt (EPP, DE) indicated that emphasis should be laid on press and demonstration freedom.

Concluding the exchange of views, Mr Swoboda expressed his agreement with most of the interventions and insisted on the need to have a broad consensus in the European Parliament before the taking up of his new functions by Mr Putin.

Following a vote on oral amendments, Mr Swoboda's report was adopted by AFET with one vote against and three abstentions.

## **VI. Next meeting(s)**

21 March 2012, 9.00 – 12.30 and 15.00 – 18.30