



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

**Brussels, 21 February 2014**

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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 (AFET)** held in Brussels on 17 February 2014  
Chair: Mr PASCU (S&D, RO) and Ms NEYTS-UYTTERBROECK (ALDE, BE)

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**Adoption of Mr DANJEAN's report (EPP, FR) on the EU comprehensive approach and its implications for the coherence of EU external action. Exchanges of views with representatives of Moldova and of Georgia on EU relations with those two countries after the Vilnius Summit. *In camera* exchange of views with David O'SULLIVAN, Chief Operating Officer of the EEAS, on the implications of the Swiss referendum on mass immigration.**

**I. Chair's announcements**

Mr PASCU announced that Mr BROK (EPP, DE) was absent for the whole afternoon as he was meeting Ukraine's opposition leaders. He was not able to reply to Mr SIWIEC (S&D, PL) on the capacity in which Mr BROK was having this meeting and whether or not he was accompanying the German Chancellor.

## **II. Exchanges of views**

### **a) Exchange of views with Igor CORMAN, Speaker of the Parliament of Moldova, on EU-Moldova relations after the Vilnius Summit**

Mr CORMAN indicated that the journey towards EU integration was a priority for Moldova and its pro-European coalition, as supported by the people.

He listed a number of areas in which reforms were taking place - including human rights, the rule of law, security, justice - to implement the joint EU-Moldovan Action Plan. Replying to Ms ZDANOKA (Greens/EFA, LV, Vice-Chair of the Delegation to the EU-Moldova Parliamentary Cooperation Committee), he reported on the adoption in December 2013 of a reform package in the fight against corruption.

He also noted that reforms had financial and social costs and that the country was still facing challenges. Among those challenges Mr CORMAN mentioned the harassment of the Latin script schools in Transnistria. He regretted that progress had not been made towards a solution. The next '5+2' meeting will take place in Vienna later this month. Mr CORMAN thanked the EU for its support on this issue and said that Moldova was trying to maintain the situation under control.

Sir Graham WATSON (ALDE, UK), rapporteur on Moldova and Ms ZDANOKA asked questions about the situation in Gagauzia, where a referendum this month resulted in a majority of the population wanting to secede and also voting in favour of joining Russia's Customs Union instead of EU integration. Mr CORMAN replied that the Moldovan authorities preferred to engage in dialogue even though the referendum was illegal.

More generally Mr CORMAN welcomed the initialling of the Association Agreement in November 2013 and hoped that the Moldovan parliament would be in a position to ratify it before their November 2014 elections.

Mr CORMAN also called for the support of the Council and of the Parliament for the visa liberalisation dialogue with the EU. Replying to Ms ZDANOKA, he specified that biometric passports were ready to be issued.

Finally the representative of the parliament of Moldova noted that external forces were trying to block the deepening of links with the EU and that Moldova was counting on the support of its partners to proceed with development based on the EU model. Mr CORMAN felt that Moldova's choice of the EU model should not be in contradiction with cooperation with Russia which is a very important partner.

Mr CORMAN hoped another meeting with Members of the the European Parliament would be held after the November elections.

**b) Exchange of views with Maia PANJIKIDZE, Foreign Minister of Georgia, on EU-Georgia relations after the Vilnius Summit**

Ms PANJIKIDZE expressed her gratitude to the European Parliament for its support for EU integration. She noted that EU and Euro-Atlantic integration was a cornerstone of Georgia's foreign policy and was supported by the population, as shown by the results of the October 2013 presidential elections.

She listed a number of reforms which had been carried out in recent years in Georgia in many areas such as human rights, the rule of law and separation of powers. Replying to Mr SALAFRANCA (EPP, ES), Mr DANJEAN (EPP, FR) and Sir Graham WATSON (ALDE, UK), she confirmed that the reform of the judiciary had successfully led to its independence.

Ms PANJIKIDZE welcomed the initialling of the Association Agreement with the EU at the Eastern Partnership Summit in Vilnius in November 2013 as well as the visa liberalisation dialogue. She mentioned Georgia's determination to pursue reforms, though costly for the country, in order for the Association Agreement to be signed before the autumn.

The Minister voiced concerns about Russia's increasing pressure on Georgia to move away from the EU, mainly through provocations and breaches of its territorial integrity (barbed wire fences) and violations of human rights in Abkhazia and South Ossetia. She feared that pressure would increase further after the Sochi Olympic Games. Replying to Ms GOMES (S&D, PT) and to Mr SALAFRANCA (EPP, ES), she called for EU and international support and underlined Georgia's efforts to maintain stability. She was also grateful for the work of the EU Special Representative for the South Caucasus and the Crisis in Georgia. Ms PANJIKIDZE deplored however that the Geneva format had not proven successful so far and hoped for more progress after the Sochi Games.

In response to questions on the role of Georgia as a model for other countries such as Azerbaïdjan or Armenia (Mr LISEK, EPP, PL; Mr SALAFRANCA, EPP, ES), Ms PANJIKIDZE pointed out that their situation was not comparable to that of Georgia, although Georgia had more intense relations with Azerbaïdjan and Turkey than with Armenia as they share projects, in particular in the energy sector.

### **III. Vote**

#### **The EU comprehensive approach and its implications for the coherence of EU external relations**

AFET/7/13289, 2013/2146(INI)

*Rapporteur: Arnaud DANJEAN (EPP, FR)*

Responsible: AFET –

Before the vote, the rapporteur explained that he was calling for rejection of a number of amendments to avoid redundancies rather than because he disagreed in substance. To take account of the 50th amendment from Ms CRONBERG (Greens/EFA, FI), he then proposed an oral compromise amendment of paragraph 16 of his report which relates to coordination and policy planning amongst the relevant institutions.

The draft report was adopted with 23 votes in favour, 1 against and 5 abstentions.

#### **IV. Report**

##### **Opinion report: Conclusion of the Doha Amendment to the Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the joint fulfilment of commitments thereunder**

AFET/7/14513, 2013/0376(NLE)

COM(2013)0768

*Rapporteur for the opinion: Indrek TARAND (Greens/EFA, EE)*

Responsible: ENVI –

Support for the ENVI report was expressed by Mr TARAND, by Mr HOWITT (AFET shadow rapporteur for S&D, UK) and by Sir Graham WATSON (AFET shadow rapporteur for ALDE, UK).

The tentative schedule is the following: vote in AFET on 3 March; vote in ENVI on 6 March and adoption of the report in plenary in April 2014.

#### **V. Next meeting**

- 27 February 2014, 8.45 (Strasbourg)