

7th Global Forum of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat
European Regional Forum
Wednesday, 18 May 2011

Minutes

European Regional Forum began with the welcome note and a short introduction by President of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat (GPH), Hon. Peter Götz. After short summary of the recent activities undertaken by the European Regional Forum of GPH, Hon. Götz informed participant that new leadership for the European Board needed to be elected. He also expressed his support for Hon. Jerko Rosin from Croatia, Vice-President of GPH Europe, as a candidate for the new President of the European Board. New President should replace Hon. Constantin Traian Igas from Romania whose Presidential term finishes in 2011. Hon. Igas too supported candidature of Hon. Rosin for the new regional President in his letter.

Hon. Götz asked if there were other candidates for the new President, besides Hon. Rosin. None of the present parliamentarians expressed interest to enter the elections as a counter-candidate to Hon. Rosin. After this, voting was held by raising hands and Hon. Jerko Rosin was elected new President of the European Regional Forum.

After appointment to the new function, Hon. Rosin asked participant to make a *tour-de-table* and present themselves. He asked parliamentarians to express their interest for the position of the new Vice-presidents and Counselors, too, since composition of the new European Board should have been determined. Hon. Rosin opted for establishing stronger links between the European GPH and the European Parliament (EP). In addition, he said that North-South-West-East Europe representation would be optimal so that all the European regions are represented in the new European Board.

After this introduction by Hon. Jerko Rosin, a *tour-de-table* was held. Some parliamentarians encountered a problem because they were interested in the post of the Vice-presidents but they could not act on their own and needed a confirmation from their respective parliaments (Sweden, EP). Those parliamentarians accepted the nomination for the function within the GPH Europe and would confirm to President Rosin the level of their future involvement.

This was followed by reporting about the activities of European parliaments:

- Sweden informed that green issues have been on top of the agenda in Sweden, which lead to the changes in the law on planning and building – this law is now stricter. In addition, laws on energy efficiency have been enforced in Sweden.
- Detailed Turkish report about activities undertaken in Turkey was read to the Board (see attached).
- Romania reported about various programs supported by the state: first program is worthy cca 1 bn euros; second program worth 600 mio euros is called First house; third program is for 'green' houses- state subsidizes up to 80% of costs for green installations; fourth program is National plan for country development worthy 4 bn euros; and finally fifth is the program for old cars – individuals get a voucher for 3.000 euros in order to replace the old car for the new one.
- Azerbaijan informed that after independence new laws were enforced. For instance, Law on mortgage fund intended for housing for young people. Azerbaijan is facing problems because there are internally displaced people in Azeri occupied territories and there is a problem of refugees. Projects for rebuilding and for new schools in the regions are undertaken. City of Baku was taken as an example of the city facing various problems like immigration, suburban settlements and under-scaled sewage infrastructure.

- For European Parliament, two issues are crucial: 1. the issue of governance, and 2. Cohesion (regional) policy. Good governance, partnerships with all actors and decentralization of decision-making process are seen as key components of good governance. Cohesion policy is important because it enables using structural funds for urban dimension (i.e. housing, climate change).

After presentations, composition of the new European Board with Counselors was decided – 4 Vice-Presidents and 2 Counselors (Annex).

At the end of the meeting, discussion about the new European Forum was opened. This topic required more elaboration and it was decided that this discussion should be continued.

Annex

Members of the European Board GPH as of 18 May 2011

President	Hon. Jerko ROSIN	MP, Croatia
Vice-President	Hon. Eva BENGSTON SKOGSBERG	MP, Sweden
Vice-President	Hon. Marin BOBES	MP, Romania
Vice-President	Hon. Karima DELLI	MEP, France
Vice-President	Hon. Birnur SANINOGLU	MP, Turkey
Counselor	Hon. Marius Gerard NECULA	Senator, Romania
Counselor	Denes SERES	MP, Romania

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