MINUTES OF THE SITTING OF WEDNESDAY, 8 APRIL 2009
(2009/C 221/03)
(The sitting opened at 9.20 a.m.)
IN THE CHAIR: Mr RASMUSSEN
Co-President

1. Substitutes

The Co-President announced the following substitutes: Fernández Martín (for López-Istúriz White), Gill (for Jóns), Hutchinson (for McAvan), Jäättteenmäki (for Hall), Kastler (for Gaubert), Klass (for Coelho), Lefrançois (for Arif), Leinen (for Grabowska), Neris (for Pleguezuelos Aguilar), Olajos (for Novak), Seebert (for Ribeiro e Castro) and Virrankoski (for Busk).

2. Approval of the minutes of Monday, 6 April 2009

The minutes were approved.

3. Report of the economic and social partners

Mr Jahier, President of the EESC ACP follow-up committee, made a presentation on ACP regional integration.

Ms King, Member of the EESC ACP follow-up committee, made a presentation on the Cariforum EPA and its implications for regional integration in the Caribbean.

Speakers: Mugambe (Uganda), Humphrey (Barbados) and William (Seychelles).

Mr Jahier and Ms King responded to the issues raised in the debate.

Mr Mugambe (Uganda) asked about the possible participation of the East African Legislative Assembly in JPA meetings as observer. The Co-President confirmed that members of regional economic groupings were free to attend the JPA in accordance with Article 4 of its Rules of Procedure.

4. The social and environmental impact of climate change

Mr Borrell Fontelles and Mr Baldeh (Gambia) presented their report.

Speakers: Tapsoba (Burkina Faso), Hamatoukour (Cameroon), Mugambe (Uganda), Jäättteenmäki, Aubert, Sorongope (Central African Republic), Klass, de Sousa (Angola), Haug, William (Seychelles), Korhola, Deerpalsing (Mauritius), Gomes, Bounkoulou (Republic of Congo) and Baum (European Commission).

Mr Baldeh (Gambia) and Mr Borrell Fontelles wound up the debate.

5. Challenges to the democratic accommodation of ethnic, cultural and religious diversities in ACP and EU countries

Ms Magau (South Africa) and Mr Kaczmarek presented their report.

Speakers: Ogwal (Uganda), Gaehler, Leinen, Naib (Eritrea), MorilIon, Waziri (Nigeria), Kastler, Hamatoukour (Cameroon), Cashman and Baum (European Commission).

Ms Magau (South Africa) and Mr Kaczmarek wound up the debate.


The Co-President introduced the subject.

Speakers: William (Seychelles), Dekuek (Sudan), Deerpalsing (Mauritius), Milupi (Zambia), Hamatoukour (Cameroon), Co-President Kinnock, Baum (European Commission), Jean-Marie (Saint Lucia), Solamalemalo (Samoa), Wieland and Van Lancker.

The Assembly accepted a Draft Framework for Democratic Scrutiny of the Regional Strategy Papers and Regional Indicative Programmes under the 10th EDF as a basis for this work.

(The sitting adjourned at 12.20 p.m. and resumed at 3.15 p.m.)

IN THE CHAIR: Ms KINNOCK
Co-President

7. Approval of the minutes of Tuesday morning, 7 April 2009

The minutes were approved.

8. The current position in the WTO negotiations

The Co-President welcomed the Commissioner on her first visit to the Joint Parliamentary Assembly.

The Commissioner made her statement.
Speakers: Straker (St. Vincent & Grenadines), Sturdy, Assarid (Mali), William (Seychelles), Deerpalsing (Mauritius), Diagne (Senegal), Deva, Mporogomyi (Tanzania), Humphrey (Barbados), Sithole (South Africa), Jean-Marie (St. Lucia), Fernandes, Gosset (Côte d'Ivoire) and Gill.

The Commissioner responded to points raised.

9. **The current position in the EPA negotiations**

The Commissioner made her statement.

Speakers: Dalrymple-Philibert (Jamaica), Gill, William (Seychelles), Mafura (Lesotho), Deerpalsing (Mauritius), Sturdy, Assarid (Mali), Mushelenga (Namibia), Tambaful (Nigeria), Baldeh (Gambia), Hutchinson, Martinez Martinez and Straker (St. Vincent & Grenadines).

The Commissioner responded to points raised.

Decision: The Co-Presidents would write to the Commissioner thanking her for the assurance that the elements in the Interim European Partnership Agreements which the ACP states concerned would like revised would be annexed to them and dealt with in the full EPA negotiations, and asking for a written assurance from the President of the Commission to this effect.

10. **Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) and their impact on ACP countries**

Mr Assarid (Mali) and Mr Schröder presented their report.

Speakers: Hutchinson, Bundu (Sierra Leone), Schröder, O. Schmidt, Schlyter, Schnellhardt, Neris, Hamatoukour (Cameroon), Berend, Waziri (Nigeria), Van Lancker and Brew (European Commission).

Mr Assarid wound up the debate.

11. **The Parliamentary Committees in the EPA institutional provisions: debate without resolution**

Speakers: Brew (European Commission), Martinez Martinez, Rodgers (Suriname), Hopffer (Cape Verde), William (Seychelles), Humphrey (Barbados), Sorie (ECOWAS), Jean-Marie (St. Lucia) and Hutchinson.

*(The sitting adjourned at 6:16 p.m.)*

Wilkie RASMUSSEN and
glenys KINNOCK
Co-Presidents

Sir John KAPUTIN and
dietmar NICKEL
Co-Secretaries-General