

Wednesday 26 October 2005

7. Approval of Minutes of previous sitting

Alyn Smith had informed the Presidency that he had been present but that his name was not on the attendance register.

Rolandas Pavilionis had informed the Presidency that, owing to an error in the Lithuanian version of the agenda, he had been unable to take part in the first part of voting time at the sitting of 25.10.2005. He had wanted to vote in favour of the reports and recommendations that had been put to the vote before he arrived.

The Minutes of the previous sitting were approved.

8. Preparation for the next informal European Council (debate)

Council and Commission statements: Preparation for the next informal European Council

Tony Blair (President-in-Office of the Council) and José Manuel Barroso (President of the Commission) made the statements.

The following spoke: Hans-Gert Poettering, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group, Martin Schulz, on behalf of the PSE Group, Graham Watson, on behalf of the ALDE Group, Monica Frassoni, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group, Francis Wurtz, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group, Nigel Farage, on behalf of the IND/DEM Group, Brian Crowley, on behalf of the UEN Group, Roger Helmer, Non-attached Member, Tony Blair, Timothy Kirkhope and Harlem Désir.

IN THE CHAIR: Edward McMILLAN-SCOTT

Vice-President

The following spoke: Silvana Koch-Mehrin, Ian Hudghton, Jens-Peter Bonde, Roberta Angelilli, Ashley Mote, Othmar Karas, Bárbara Dührkop Dührkop, Marielle De Sarnez, Jean Lambert, Mirosław Mariusz Piotrowski, Konrad Szymański, Frank Vanhecke, Françoise Grossetête, Gary Titley, Bronisław Geremek, Jaime Mayor Oreja, Enrique Barón Crespo, Antonio Tajani, Martine Roure, Jacek Emil Saryusz-Wolski, Borut Pahor, Douglas Alexander (President-in-Office of the Council) and Margot Wallström (Vice-President of the Commission).

The debate closed.

IN THE CHAIR: Manuel António dos SANTOS

Vice-President

9. Question Time (Council)

The following spoke: John Purvis, who, on behalf of Syed Kamall, asked that Question H-0688/2005 that Mr Kamall had put to the Council the previous month on Chinese textile quotas be answered (the President asked the Council to give priority to the question).

Parliament considered a number of questions to the Council (B6-0332/2005).

Question 1 (Andrew Duff): Green Line Regulation in Cyprus.

Douglas Alexander (President-in-Office of the Council) answered the question and supplementaries by Andrew Duff, Chris Davies and Sarah Ludford.

Question 2 (Panagiotis Beglitis): Draft negotiating mandate for the conclusion of a stabilisation and association agreement between the EU and Serbia/Montenegro.

Douglas Alexander answered the question and supplementaries by Panagiotis Beglitis and Bart Staes.

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Question 3 (Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou): Young people in rural and remote areas and use of the Structural Funds and other financial instruments.

Douglas Alexander answered the question and supplementaries by Marie Panayotopoulos-Cassiotou and Josu Ortuondo Larrea.

Question 4 (Fiona Hall): Energy end-use efficiency.

Douglas Alexander answered the question and a supplementary by Fiona Hall.

Question 5 (Sarah Ludford): The use of the Community framework for law enforcement purposes.

Douglas Alexander answered the question and supplementaries by Sarah Ludford and Richard Corbett.

Question 6 (Elizabeth Lynne): Deregulation.

Douglas Alexander answered the question and supplementaries by Elizabeth Lynne, Richard Corbett and Philip Bushill-Matthews.

Question 7 (Catherine Stihler): Microbicide clinical trials.

Douglas Alexander answered the question and a supplementary by Catherine Stihler.

Question 8 (Kyriacos Triantaphyllides): Conclusion of an agreement between the European Community and the Republic of Azerbaijan on certain aspects of air services.

Douglas Alexander answered the question and a supplementary by Kyriacos Triantaphyllides.

Question 9 (Sajjad Karim): Agenda of EU-Israel Association Council.

Douglas Alexander answered the question and supplementaries by Fiona Hall (deputising for the author), David Martin and Sarah Ludford.

Question 10 (Dimitrios Papadimoulis): Framework decision on the retention of data (CNS/2004/0813).

Douglas Alexander answered the question and supplementaries by Adamos Adamou (deputising for the author), Claude Moraes and Gay Mitchell.

Question 11 (John Purvis): Animal tallow and the Waste Incineration Directive 2000/76/EC.

Douglas Alexander answered the question and supplementaries by John Purvis, David Martin and Elspeth Attwooll.

Question 12 (Claude Moraes): Kurdish question in Turkey.

Douglas Alexander answered the question and a supplementary by Claude Moraes.

Question 13 (Richard Corbett): Respiratory diseases and the Lisbon Agenda.

Douglas Alexander answered the question and a supplementary by Richard Corbett.

Question 14 (Bernd Posselt): Minorities in Turkey.

Douglas Alexander answered the question and a supplementary by Bernd Posselt.

Question 15 (Michl Ebner): Protecting and promoting alpine mountain cattle breeds.

Douglas Alexander answered the question and a supplementary by Bernd Posselt (deputising for the author).

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Question 16 (Esko Seppänen): British rebate.

Douglas Alexander answered the question and a supplementary by Esko Seppänen.

Question 17 (Bill Newton Dunn): Style of answering questions in Question Time.

Douglas Alexander answered the question and a supplementary by Philip Bushill-Matthews (deputising for the author).

Questions which had not been answered for lack of time would receive written answers.

Council Question Time closed.

(The sitting was suspended at 19.00 and resumed at 21.00.)

IN THE CHAIR: Sylvia-Yvonne KAUFMANN

Vice-President

10. Membership of Parliament

The Polish authorities had given notice of the appointment of Bernard Wojciechowski to replace Wojciech Wierzejski as Member of Parliament with effect from 26.10.2005.

The President reminded the House of the provisions of Rule 3(5).

11. Afghanistan (debate)

Commission statement: Afghanistan

Benita Ferrero-Waldner (Member of the Commission) made the statement.

The following spoke: José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group, Robert Evans, on behalf of the PSE Group, Emma Bonino, on behalf of the ALDE Group, Marie Anne Isler Béguin, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group, Luisa Morgantini, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group, Vytautas Landsbergis, Karin Scheele, Nicholson of Winterbourne, Georgios Toussas, Ryszard Czarnecki, Non-attached Member, Jürgen Schröder, Józef Pinior, Philippe Morillon and Benita Ferrero-Waldner.

The debate closed.

Vote: *Minutes of 18.01.2006, Item 4.9.*

12. Situation in Azerbaijan before the elections (debate)

Commission statement: Situation in Azerbaijan before the elections

Benita Ferrero-Waldner (Member of the Commission) made the statement.

The following spoke: Charles Tannock, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group, Hannes Swoboda, on behalf of the PSE Group, Sarah Ludford, on behalf of the ALDE Group, Marie Anne Isler Béguin, on behalf of the Verts/ALE Group, Jaromír Kohlíček, on behalf of the GUE/NGL Group, Bastiaan Belder, on behalf of the IND/DEM Group, Árpád Duka-Zólyomi, Libor Rouček, Tadeusz Zwiefka, Panagiotis Beglitis and Benita Ferrero-Waldner.

Motions for resolutions to wind up the debate tabled pursuant to Rule 103(2):

- Charles Tannock, Árpád Duka-Zólyomi, Vytautas Landsbergis, Elisabeth Jeggle and Bernd Posselt, on behalf of the PPE-DE Group, on Azerbaijan (B6-0558/2005);
- Hannes Swoboda and Panagiotis Beglitis, on behalf of the PSE Group, on Azerbaijan (B6-0559/2005);