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22 May 2023

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Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development

Network of Contact Parliamentarians for a healthy environment

Minutes

of the public hearing on “Morocco: Access to drinking water (SDG 6)” held in Marrakech on Friday, 17 March

The Network **held** a public hearing on the theme of “Morocco: Access to drinking water (SDG 6)”. **Mr Rik Daems** (Belgium, ALDE), **Chairperson of the Network**, opened the hearing and introduced the guest speaker - **Mr Abdherrahim El Hafidi**, General Director of the Moroccan National Authority of Water and Electricity, Vice Chair of the African Water Association.

Mr El Hafidi told members about the latest developments in the Moroccan model combining water and energy management, while his country had just experienced five years of drought. Access to water was a constitutional right in Morocco. This right meant an obligation to provide access to drinking water for all Moroccans, throughout the territory. Access was 100% in urban areas and 98% in rural areas with free-access fountains. 60% of the inhabitants had a meter for measuring their consumption. The process of desalinisation of seawater with the support of electricity produced through photovoltaic panels was expanding and became cost-effective thanks to falling energy production costs.

Mr El Hafidi congratulated the members for visiting the Marrakech Water Museum to understand the old connection of water-related activities to a religious ministry. The profound change of approach to energy was initiated by His Majesty King Mohammed VI; it became effective in 2008 when oil was at a high price, comparable to the current situation. The ambitious target set by the authorities stated that by 2040, 75% of energy must be produced from renewable sources. Coal was being abandoned, and it will be the case of natural gas in 2030.

Mr El Hafidi explained the experimental way to produce renewable energy in the form of hydrogen, which can be stored once converted to ammonia.

Mr Davies asked Mr El Hafidi about the consideration of water evaporation from storage pools in Morocco.

Mr Moutquin paid tribute to the traditional management of water in the villages and to Morocco's creativity in meeting the water management challenge. He wondered about desalination and the inclusion of human rights in society's adaptation work.

Ms Tanguy wondered about the place of private actors in the distribution of water in Morocco.

Mr Daems inquired about Morocco's interconnections with other countries, including in Europe.

Mr El Hafidi confirmed the issue of managing evaporation. The country invested heavily in research on this matter. The surface of dam reservoirs could be covered with balls or panels limiting evaporation. The use of certain dams was optimised by fish farming. Desalination was not always sustainable and there was still no universal and exportable model. Morocco had always managed water and energy with respect and sparingly. Private actors were subject to the same obligations as the State with regard to the drinking water supplies. The National Water and Electricity Office remained the largest water supplier in the country.

The Chairperson thanked Mr El Hafidi and closed the hearing.

¹ The minutes were approved and declassified by the Network of Contact Parliamentarians for a healthy environment at its meeting on 22 May 2023.

**Network of Contact Parliamentarians for a healthy environment /
Réseau de Parlementaires de référence pour un environnement sain**

**List of members / Liste des membres
55 membres / members
32 Parlements / Parliaments**

17.03.2023

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	Mr/M.	Michel Reimon	SOC
Azerbaijan / Azerbaïdjan	Ms/Mme	Sevinj Fataliyeva	EC/DA
Belgium / Belgique	Mr/M.	Rik Daems	ALDE
Bosnia and Herzegovina / Bosnie-Herzégovine	Ms/Mme	Marina Pendeš	EPP/CD
	Mr/M.	Saša Magazinović	SOC
Bulgaria / Bulgarie			
Croatia / Croatie	Ms/Mme	Zdravka Bušić	EPP/CD
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Czech Republic / République tchèque			
Denmark / Danemark			
Estonia / Estonie	Mr/M.	Urmass Reitelmann	EC/DA
Finland / Finlande	Ms/Mme	Minna Reijonen	EC/DA
France	Ms/Mme	Liliana Tanguy	ALDE
Georgia / Géorgie			
Germany / Allemagne	Ms/Mme	Franziska Kersten	SOC
Greece / Grèce	Mr/M.	George Papandreou	SOC
Hungary / Hongrie			
Iceland / Islande	Mr/M.	Bjarni Jónsson	UEL
Ireland / Irlande	Mr/M.	Thomas Pringle	UEL
	Ms/Mme	Róisín Garvey	SOC
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Lithuania / Lituanie	Mr/M.	Arminas Lydeka	ALDE
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Malta / Malte			
Republic of Moldova / République de Moldova			
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Montenegro / Monténégro	Mr/M.	Miloš Konatar	SOC
Netherlands / Pays-Bas	Ms/Mme	Margreet De Boer	SOC
	Ms/Mme	Agnes Mulder	EPP/CD
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	Ms/Mme	Danuta Jazłowiecka	EPP/CD

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San Marino / Saint-Marin			
Serbia / Serbie			
Slovak Republic / <i>République slovaque</i>			
Slovenia / <i>Slovénie</i>	Mr/M.	Dean Premik	ALDE
Spain / Espagne			
Sweden / Suède			
Switzerland / Suisse	Mr/M.	Jean-Pierre Grin	ALDE
	Mr/M.	Olivier Français	ALDE
Türkiye	Ms/Mme	Emine Nur Günay	NR
Ukraine	Ms/Mme	Yuliia Ovchynnykova	ALDE
United Kingdom / <i>Royaume-Uni</i>	Baroness	Doreen E. Massey	SOC

Observers / Observateurs

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Israel / Israël	Mr/M.	Yorai Lahav Hertzanu	
Mexico / Mexique			

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Jordan / Jordanie			
Kyrgyzstan / Kirghizstan			
Morocco / Maroc	Mr/M.	Allal Amraoui	
Palestine			

President of the Assembly / Président·e de l'Assemblée

Ex-Officio Member / Membre d'office	Mr/M.	Tiny Kox	UEL
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Presidents of Political Groups / Président·e-s des groupes politiques

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	Mr/M.	Aleksander Pociej	EPP/CD
	Mr/M.	Ian Liddell-Grainger	EC/DA
	Mr/M.	Iulian Bulai	ALDE
	Mr/M.	George Katrougalos	UEL

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Political Affairs / <i>Questions politiques</i>	Mr/M.	Simon Moutquin	SOC
Legal Affairs / <i>Questions juridiques</i>	Mr/M.	Ziya Altunyaldiz	NR
Migration / Migrations	Mr/M.	Pierre-Alain Fridez	SOC
Equality / Égalité	Ms/Mme	Edite Estrela	SOC
Culture	Ms/Mme	Inka Hopsu	SOC

**Bureau of the Committee on Social Affairs /
Bureau de la Commission des Questions Sociales
Ex-Officio Members / Membres d'office**

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Second Vice-Chairperson / <i>deuxième vice-présidente</i>	Ms/Mme	Olena Khomenko	EC/DA
Third Vice-Chairperson / <i>troisième vice-présidente</i>	Ms/Mme	Sibel Arslan	SOC

**Congress of Local and Regional Authorities /
Congres des Pouvoirs Locaux et Regionaux**

Thematic Spokesperson on Environment and Climate Change/ <i>Porte-Parole thématique sur l'environnement et le changement climatique</i>	Mr/M.	Cemal Bas
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**Parliamentary Assembly of the Francophonie /
Assemblée parlementaire de la Francophonie**

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Inter-Parliamentary Union / Union Interparlementaire

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European Parliament / Parlement Européen

	Ms/Mme	Marie-Pierre Vedrenne (France, Renew Europe)
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Other Parliamentarians present / Autres Parlementaires present.e.s

Ms/Mme Eka Sepashvili Georgia / Géorgie
 Mr/M. Kriton-Ilias Arsenis Greece / Grèce
 Mr/M. Bolesław Piecha Poland / Pologne
 Ms/Mme Diana Stoica Romania / Roumanie
 Ms/Mme Daniela Oteşanu Romania / Roumanie
 Ms/Mme María Fernández Spain / Espagne
 Ms/Mme Carmen Leyte Spain / Espagne
 Mr/M. Hişyar Özsoy Türkiye
 Mr/M. Geraint Davies United Kingdom / Royaume-Uni
 Ms/Mme Olena Khomenko Ukraine

Secretariat of Delegation or of Political Group / Secretariat de Delegation ou de Groupe politique

Ms/Mme Sonja Langenhaeck Belgique
 Ms/Mme Francesca Arbogast SOC group

Experts / Expert.e.s

Mr / M. Abdherrahim El Hafidi Directeur général de l'Office nationale de l'eau et de l'électricité, Vice-
 Président de l'Association africaine de l'eau
 Mr / M. Spyridon Papadatos Conseil consultatif pour la jeunesse du Conseil de l'Europe
 Ms / Mme Emma Pagliarusco Jeunesse et environnement Europe

Council of Europe staff / Secretariat du Conseil de l'Europe

Ms / Mme Carmen Morte Gomez Cheffe du Bureau du Conseil de l'Europe à Rabat

Secretariat of the Parliamentary Assembly / Secrétariat de l'Assemblée Parlementaire

Committee on Social Affairs, Health and Sustainable Development /
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Ms / Mme Prisca Barthel..... Assistant / *Assistante*
Mr / M. Alessandro Mancini..... Adjoint au Chef de Secrétariat, Division de soutien des projets parlementaires
Mr / M. Michael Arabul Project assistant / *Assistant du projet*