

SANA

Syrian Arab News Agency

Al-Shara, al-Abrash, al-Dardari Discuss Bilateral Relations with European Parliament Delegation

Apr 28, 2010



Damascus, (SANA) - Vice President Farouk al-Shara reviewed on Wednesday with Vice Chairman of European People's Party Group (EPP) in the European Parliament Vito Bonsignore the latest developments in the region.

The two sides also discussed the challenges resulting from the Israeli occupation and policies against Arab and Palestinian rights, in addition to the EU-Syria Association Agreement.

Al-Shara explained to the EPP delegation the real motivations of the Israeli campaign of misdirection on the US arena, which aims at not only absolving Israel from the escalation of tension in the region but also sabotaging dialogue atmospheres that the new US administration started and forcing the acceptance of the Israeli terms towards the region.

Points of view were concurrent regarding the EU-Syria Association Agreement, with the Vice president stressing that the agreements between Syria and Europe should be based on mutual respect and joint interests.

For his part, Bonsignore said in a press statement that the EPP, one of the biggest groups in the European Parliament, is working to sign the EU-Syria Association Agreement and guarantee the achievement of the joint goals in the interest of both sides, highlighting Syria's strategic importance in the region.

He also stressed the EPP's keenness to work with Syria to re-launch peace process and achieve development in the region, underlining his party's commitment to working on achieving mutual aims and reconcile viewpoints regarding various issues.

In a similar meeting, Speaker of the People's Assembly Mahmoud al-Abrash also discussed with the Bonsignore and the accompanying EPP delegation bilateral relations, means for developing them and regional developments.

Talks during the meeting underlined the role of parliamentarians in relaying viewpoints among countries, stressing the need for exchanging visits between the two sides to bolster Syria-European relations.



Al-Abrash pointed out to the need for the European Union to play a larger role in supporting the peace process in the region, pressuring Israel to lift the siege on Gaza Strip, and stopping the Israeli aggressive policies.

In turn, Bonsignore underlined the importance of Syria's regional role, affirming the need to increase international efforts to each peace, stability and security in the region.

The EPP delegation also met with member of al-Baath Arab Socialist Party Regional Leadership Haytham Sataihi.



During the meeting, Sataihi underlined the importance of bolstering dialogue with the European Union, saying that the delegation's visit is an important opportunity for opening direct dialogue channels.

He expressed al-Baath Party's desire to exchange visits and hold meetings to pursue dialogue with European Parliament parties expressing Syria's desire to benefit from the EU experience in the ongoing process of administrative reform in Syria.

[Al-Dardari discusses with the EU parliamentary delegation means of expanding cooperation](#)

Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Abdullah al-Dardari discussed with Vice Chairman of European People's Party Group (EPP) in the European Parliament Vito Bonsignore means of expanding cooperation between Syria and EU countries.

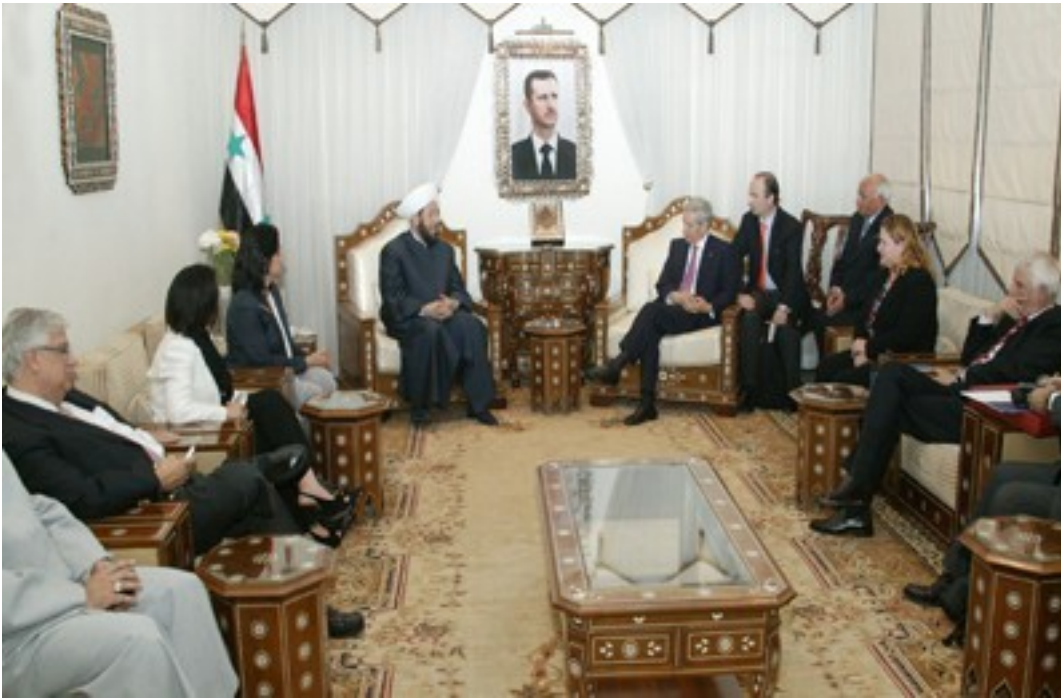
Al-Dardari stressed the importance of pushing cooperation towards establishing best relations, including economic, trade and development relations.

Deputy Prime Minister reviewed the economic, financial and social reform in Syria, calling on EU companies and businessmen to contribute to the developmental process through establishing investment projects in light of the advantages offered by the Syrian government.

For his part, Bonsignore expressed the desire of the European side to boost relations with Syria, highlighting the economic developments in Syria.

Grand Mufti of the Republic meets EPP Group

Grand Mufti of the Republic Ahmad Badr Eddin Hassoun reviewed with the European People's Parliament Group in the European Parliament the role of the parliaments and religious scientists in enhancing dialogue among nations.



Hassoun said that the Parliamentarians and scholars should call for more dialogue among cultures instead of clash of civilizations, highlighting the importance of benefiting from the EU experience on cooperation and rapprochement among peoples and working on building Man and preserving his/her humanity and dignity.

For his part, Bonsignore stressed the European Parliament's care about dialogue among cultures, calling for more cooperation among parliamentarians and scholars in this field.

European People's Party: Syria has Strategic Importance in the Region

Apr 29, 2010

Damascus, (SANA) – Deputy Chairman of European People's Party (EPP) Group in the European Parliament Vito Bonsignore said on Wednesday that Syria is a very important country in the region and has a strategic importance in several fields especially the peace process, development of the region and achievement of security and stability in it.

"We are with peace and we want to achieve more cooperation with Syria to reach the final signature of The EU-Syrian Partnership Agreement," Bonsignore said in a press conference in the EU Delegation office in Damascus.

He added that EU respect the time Syria has asked for to study the partnership agreement.

"We will work together on Syria's remarks on the agreement. We have found many common denominators between the two sides during our visit, " he said.

Regarding the situation in Lebanon and the Israeli threats against countries of the region, Bonsignore said, EU has the same opinion of the Syrian government and that they both support UNIFEL mission in southern Lebanon.

"We also agree with the Syrian stance towards this mission. We are committed and serious in this regard, and we do not want to create any problem in the atmosphere," he added.

Bonsignore said the accompanying delegation will convey to Europe a positive opinion about their visit and that they would tell the EU that all conditions are available for full cooperation and work together between the parliamentarians of the EPP and their Syrian counterparts to reach the final goal of signing the partnership agreement.

Head of the EU Parliament Political Committee Tokia Saifi, meanwhile, said EU stance was clear; the EU condemns continued Israeli settlement activities.

"This subject (settlement Building) was the main issue in our discussions in The European Parliament and The General Assembly of The Euro-Med Parliament.

During the past weeks the two parliaments voted on condemning Israeli settlement activities," she said in the press conference.

Saifi pointed out that the EPP delegation visit to Syria was strong signal of the will and desire of the European People's Party to strengthen ties with Syria.

Fadi Allafi /MO

Al-Shara, al-Abrash, Sataihi Discuss Bilateral Relations with European Parliament Delegation

(Dp-news - ISRIA)

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The two sides also discussed the challenges resulting from the Israeli occupation and policies against Arab and Palestinian rights, in addition to the EU-Syria Association Agreement.

Al-Shara explained to the EPP delegation the real motivations of the Israeli campaign of misdirection on the US arena, which aims at not only absolving Israel from the escalation of tension in the region but also sabotaging dialogue climates that the new US administration started and forcing the acceptance of the Israeli terms towards the region.

Points of view were concurrent regarding the EU-Syria Association Agreement, with the Vice president stressing that the agreements between Syria and Europe should be based on mutual respect and joint interests.

For his part, Bonsignore said in a press statement that the EPP, one of the biggest groups in the European Parliament, is working to sign the EU-Syria association agreement and guarantee the achievement of the joint goals in the interest of both sides, highlighting Syria's strategic importance in the region.

He also stressed the EPP's keenness to work with Syria to re-launch peace process and achieve development in the region, underlining his party's commitment to working on achieving mutual aims and reconcile viewpoints regarding various issues.

In a similar meeting, Speaker of the People's Assembly Mahmoud al-Abrash also discussed with the Bonsignore and the accompanying EPP delegation bilateral relations, means for developing them and regional developments.

Talks during the meeting underlined the role of parliamentarians in relaying viewpoints among countries, stressing the need for exchanging visits between the two sides to bolster Syria-European relations.

Al-Abrash pointed out to the need for the European Union to play a larger role in supporting the peace process in the region, pressuring Israel to lift the siege on Gaza Strip, and stopping the Israeli aggressive policies.

In turn, Bonsignore underlined the importance of Syria's regional role, affirming the need to increase international efforts to each peace, stability and security in the region.

The EPP delegation also met with member of al-Baath Arab Socialist Party Regional Leadership Haytham Sataihi.

During the meeting, Sataihi underlined the importance of bolstering dialogue with the European Union, saying that the delegation's visit is an important opportunity for opening direct dialogue channels.

He expressed al-Baath Party's desire to exchange visits and hold meetings to pursue dialogue with European Parliament parties expressing Syria's desire to benefit from the EU experience in the ongoing process of administrative reform in Syria.

Syria-EU Parliament: cooperation to sign associate agreement

Damascus, 28 April 2010

Syria's Vice-President Farouk al-Shara discussed on Wednesday with Vice Chairman of European People's Party Group (EPP) in the European Parliament Vito Bonsignore the challenges resulting from the Israeli occupation and policies against Arab and Palestinian rights, in addition to the EU-Syria Association Agreement.

Al-Shara explained to the EPP delegation the real motivations of the Israeli campaign of misdirection on the US arena, which aims at not only absolving Israel from the escalation of tension in the region but also sabotaging dialogue atmospheres that the new US administration started and forcing the acceptance of the Israeli terms towards the region, Syria's News agency said.

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Syria's Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Abdullah al-Dardari discussed with Bonsignore means of expanding cooperation between Syria and EU countries.

Al-Dardari stressed the importance of pushing cooperation towards establishing best relations, including economic, trade and development relations.

Deputy Prime Minister reviewed the economic, financial and social reform in Syria, calling on EU companies and businessmen to contribute to the developmental process through establishing investment projects in light of the advantages offered by the Syrian government.

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Hassoun said that the Parliamentarians and scholars should call for more dialogue among cultures instead of clash of civilizations, highlighting the importance of benefiting from the EU experience on cooperation and rapprochement among peoples and working on building Man and preserving his/her humanity and dignity.

For his part, Bonsignore stressed the European Parliament's care about dialogue among cultures, calling for more cooperation among parliamentarians and scholars in this field.

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2010-04-29 - SANA

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Al-Dardari discusses with the EU parliamentary delegation means of expanding cooperation Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Abdullah al-Dardari discussed with Vice Chairman of European People's Party Group (EPP) in the European Parliament Vito Bonsignore means of expanding cooperation between Syria and EU countries. Al-Dardari stressed the importance of pushing cooperation towards establishing best relations, including economic, trade and development relations.

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ANSA MED

EU: EPP EURO DELEGATION VISITS LEBANON AND SYRIA

(ANSAMed) - BRUSSELS, APRIL 27 - A delegation of Euro MPs from the European Peoples Party is to visit Lebanon and Syria in the next few days. A group statement says that the delegation yesterday met the general commander of Unifil troops, Alberto Asarta Cuevas, and together greeted the Italian, French and Portuguese contingents.

"Our commitment will be to offer our full collaboration to help Lebanon regain its vocation as a crucial political and economic interlocutor with Europe, as well as to make efforts towards ever closer collaboration with the EU," said Vito Bonsignore, vice-chairman of the EPP responsible for Euro-Mediterranean politics.

The Euro MPs' programme includes a series of meetings, with the Lebanese Prime Minister, Saad Hariri, the Foreign Minister, Ali Hussein Al Shami, and finally the Parliament President, Nabih Berri. The trip to Syria, however, after the end of the period of stalled relations with the EU, "will constitute an opportunity to inaugurate a new series of relationships with Syria," Bonsignore added. In the country, the Euro Mps will have talks with the President, Bashar Al Assad, and his second in command, Farouk Al Charaa, the Deputy Prime Minister, Abdallah Dardari, the Foreign Minister, Walid Muallem, as well as Baath party leaders and parliament representatives. (ANSAMed).

2010-04-27 16:10

ZAWYA

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Qatar News Agency

Syria's Speaker Meets Iraqi, European Parliament Counterparts

Article Date: 19:31 2010/04/28

Damascus, April 28 (QNA) - Syria's People's Assembly Speaker Mahmoud al-Abrash met separately Wednesday with Chairman of the Iraqi Accord Front, and former Parliament speaker Ayad al-Samarrai and Deputy Chairman of European People's Party Group (EPP) in the European Parliament Vito Bonsignore. Discussions during the two meetings dealt with bilateral relations and latest regional developments. (QNA) E A M/AK

EarthTimes

EU delegation visits Lebanon and vows support for peace

Apr 27, 2010, 18:33 GMT

Beirut- A delegation from the European People's Party (EPP), a grouping in the European Parliament, held talks Tuesday in Beirut and vowed support for the Mideast peace process.

The delegation, headed by the vice-president of the EPP Group, Vito Bonsignore, and the vice-president of the European Parliament, Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou, met with Lebanese House Speaker Nabih Berri, Prime Minister Saad Hariri and Foreign Minister Ali Shami.

Following the meeting with Hariri, Bonsignore said: 'I want to stress that Europe will increase the pressure to support the peace process in the Middle East.'

'At this stage, I join my voice to that of Prime Minister Hariri, who underlined the need to move forward in the peace process,' Bonsignore said. 'We wish to see all the parties present and working together for development and peace,' he added.

Referring to the presence of the United Nations Interim Forces (UNIFIL) in southern Lebanon, Bonsignore said: 'We told Prime Minister Hariri that he can count on the backing of the EPP group, in particular regarding keeping the UNIFIL forces.'

'Europe will vote in favor of the renewal of their mandate in the south and for the support of the peace process,' the EU official said.

The UNIFIL force, which was first deployed in the southern part of the country following the first Israeli invasion to Lebanon in 1978, was enhanced in numbers following the July 2006 Israeli war against the Lebanese Shiite movement Hezbollah. Its main task is to monitor the Lebanese-Israeli border and keep the area out of tension.

The mandate of the current UNIFIL force has been renewed by the UN Security Council until August 31, 2010.

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Visiting delegation says Europe will keep UNIFIL in south By The Daily Star

Wednesday, April 28, 2010



BEIRUT: A delegation of the European People's Party (EPP) met on Tuesday with Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri, Prime Minister Saad Hariri and former President Amin Gemayel, following a visit to south Lebanon.

The delegation was led by European lawmaker Vito Bonsignore and it held talks with Berri in the presence of Italian Ambassador to Lebanon Gabriel Checchia.

It made a visit to the south prior to the meeting and Bonsignore told Berri the speaker the EPP was pleased to find men and women devoted to their work as members of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

Bonsignore added that Europe would vote for keeping UNIFIL forces in Lebanon and would work on reaching peace in the Middle East.

"All parties, especially countries south of the Mediterranean, European countries and the European Parliament, should be concerned with settlement efforts and should have the will to be present and to work toward development and peace," he added.

For his part, Gemayel confirmed the need to reinforce bilateral relations between Lebanon and the European Union, to put an end to Israeli violations of Lebanese sovereignty and to abide by Security Council Resolution 1701.

"We need to take a clear stance concerning an illegal arsenal so that we don't qualify it as legal at the expense of the Lebanese Army and Lebanese security forces," the former president added.

Gemayel then emphasized the importance of the Special Tribunal for Lebanon (STL) in bringing to a stop "the series of assassinations which have been ongoing in Lebanon for many years."

The Phalange Party leader added that the STL would send a clear message to those who thought of attacking the Lebanese but said that he feared certain people were trying to hinder the work of the STL. – **The Daily Star**

European Parliamentary Delegation Visits Hariri: Support for Peace Process, UNIFIL Presence



Prime Minister Saad Hariri held talks Tuesday afternoon with a visiting delegation from the European People's Party (EPP) group at the European Parliament, headed by the vice-president of the EPP Group, Vito Bonsignore, and in the presence of several members of the group, among them the vice-president of the European Parliament Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou.

Italian Ambassador to Lebanon Gabriel Chicchia and the head of the delegation of the EU Commission in Lebanon, Patrick Laurent also attended the meeting.

Following the meeting with Hariri, Bonsignore said: "The delegation concluded a visit to Lebanon with positive results. We visited the UNIFIL forces operating in south Lebanon, where we met with motivated men and women who are dedicated to their work. We also met with political Lebanese officials and concluded our meetings by meeting PM Hariri.

"We were delighted to witness the progress achieved, and the coordination between the governmental and parliamentary authorities. We are confident that numerous problems are yet to be solved and are still pending for now".

He added: "We told Prime Minister Hariri that he can count on the backing of the EPP group, in particular regarding keeping the UNIFIL forces in the South. Europe will vote in favor of the renewal of their mandate in the south and for the support of the peace process."

Bonsignore stressed that Europe will increase its pressure to support the peace process in the Middle East.

"At this stage, I join my voice to that of Prime Minister Hariri, who underlined the need to move forward in the peace process. We agreed with PM Hariri that a compromise track should bring together all the concerned parties, who should demonstrate goodwill in moving ahead," he added.

The delegation is expected to also meet with Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfeir and Speaker Nabih Berri.

Deputy President of the European Parliament reaffirmed during a dinner on Monday "Europe's interest in Lebanon."

She hailed "faithful behind-the-scene efforts" by some Lebanese to ensure the success of relations with Lebanon.

Beirut, 27 Apr 10, 19:00

ASCA

26-04-10

LIBANO: BONSIGNORE (PPE), UE A FIANCO MILITARI ONU PER LA PACE

(ASCA) - Roma, 26 apr - "Siete l'orgoglio dell'Europa e dell'Italia". Con queste parole Vito Bonsignore, a capo della delegazione del gruppo Ppe in visita all'Unifil, a sud del Libano, ha salutato il contingente italiano "il piu' numeroso della missione ONU con i suoi 2100 militari".

Guidati dal Comandante Generale di brigata Luigi Francavilla, i vertici del gruppo parlamentare europeo hanno visitato le forze militari che operano nella 'west zone' libanese per, ha spiegato Bonsignore, "renderci conto di persona del lavoro svolto in queste difficili zone dalle nostre forze militari".

La delegazione del gruppo Ppe si e' soffermata a salutare in particolare i contingenti portoghese, francese e italiano.

"Esprimo la mia personale ammirazione, e quella di tutto il gruppo popolare - ha detto il presidente della delegazione dinanzi agli ufficiali italiani - per la qualita' e l'efficienza del vostro lavoro. Con la nostra presenza qui, vogliamo portare il nostro sostegno a tutti gli uomini e le donne impegnate in questa difficile missione di pace. Il nostro obiettivo - ha aggiunto Bonsignore accolto dal Comandante Generale dell'Unifil, Alberto Asada - e' di offrire alle forze politiche libanesi tutto l'appoggio politico dell'Unione Europea perche' questo territorio sia il giusto crocevia nel processo di pace".

"Il dispiegamento delle forze di pace, messe a disposizione da 25 Paesi Europei - ha concluso Bonsignore - e' il segnale concreto di come l'Unione Europea sia quotidianamente impegnata nel processo di pace".

red-lsa/sam/bra

Unifil, “orgoglio dell'Europa”

Una delegazione del partito popolare europeo ha visitato le forze militari delle Nazioni Unite in Libano.

Il vicepresidente del partito popolare europeo (Ppe), Vito Bonsignore, ha visitato insieme a una vasta delegazione del gruppo parlamentare di Strasburgo la forza internazionale delle Nazioni Unite in Libano, l'Unifil. Dei trentuno paesi che prendono parte alla missione, tredici sono stati membri dell'Unione europea e l'Italia, con i suoi oltre duemila militari, è presente con il contingente più numeroso.

“Esprimo la mia personale ammirazione e quella di tutto il gruppo popolare – ha detto Bonsignore dinanzi agli ufficiali italiani – per la qualità e l'efficienza del vostro lavoro. Siete l'orgoglio dell'Europa e dell'Italia”. Con questo viaggio, il primo della presidenza del Ppe in Libano, “vogliamo portare il nostro sostegno a tutti gli uomini e le donne impegnati in questa difficile missione di pace”. “Il nostro obiettivo – ha aggiunto l'europarlamentare – è quello di offrire alle forze politiche libanesi l'appoggio dell'Unione Europea”.

La delegazione è stata accolta dal Comandante dell'Unifil, lo spagnolo Alberto Asarta Cuevas, ed è stata guidata dal Comandante di brigata Luigi Francavilla. I membri del gruppo popolare hanno visitato le forze militari che operano nella “west zone” libanese, per “rendersi conto di persona del lavoro svolto in queste difficili zone”. “Il dispiegamento di questa missione – ha concluso Bonsignore – è il segnale concreto di come l'Ue sia quotidianamente impegnata nel processo di pace”.

Testo e foto pubblicati su: Liquidida, Virgilio, Wordpress, forze-libanesi.org, Il Velino, Assadakah, WallStreetItalia, Yahoo notizie, ASCA, ANSA, ANSA MED

Bonsignore, l'UE è a fianco dei militari ONU nel processo di pace

Publicato da [redazione](#) su aprile 26, 2010

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“Esprimo la mia personale ammirazione, e quella di tutto il mio gruppo popolare – ha detto il presidente della delegazione dinanzi agli ufficiali italiani – per la qualità e l'efficienza del vostro lavoro”.

Secondo Bonsignore, infatti, si tratta della “prima visita della Presidenza del PPE in questi territori: con la nostra presenza qui, vogliamo portare il nostro sostegno a tutti gli uomini e le donne impegnate in questa difficile missione di pace. Il nostro obiettivo – ha aggiunto ancora Bonsignore accolto dal Comandante Generale dell'UNIFIL, Alberto Asada -, è di offrire alle forze politiche libanesi tutto l'appoggio politico dell'Unione Europea perché questo territorio sia il giusto crocevia nel processo di pace”.

“Il dispiegamento delle forze di pace, messe a disposizione da 25 Paesi Europei, è il segnale concreto di come l'Unione Europea sia quotidianamente impegnata nel processo di pace”, ha concluso l'On. Vito Bonsignore.