



INTERNATIONAL DEMOCRAT UNION

IDU Executive 4 September 2008 at 1:00 pm – Minutes Hotel Radisson Roseville, Minnesota

The following member parties, associates, observers, regional unions and specialist groups were present at the Executive meeting: Liberal Party (Australia), NIPA (Azerbaijan), UDF (Bulgaria), Conservative Party (Canada), UDI (Chile), ODS (Czech Republic), Konservativt Folkeparti (Denmark), ARENA (El Salvador), Kansallinen Kokoomus (Finland), United National Movement (Georgia), New Rights Party (Georgia), CDU (Germany), CSU (Germany), New Patriotic Party (Ghana), Nea Demokratia (Greece), Partido Unionista (Guatemala), Fidesz (Hungary), Independence Party (Iceland), Grand National Party (Korea), VMRO-DPMNE (Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), RENAMO (Mozambique), DTA (Namibia), Partido Conservador (Nicaragua), Høyre (Norway), Partido Panamenista (Panama), CDS-PP (Portugal), KMT (Republic of China), G17 Plus (Serbia), Partido Popular (Spain), Moderaterna (Sweden), Conservatives (United Kingdom), Republican Party (USA), APDU, DUA, EPP, UPLA, IWDU and IYDU.

The following IDU officers were present: Deputy Chairman Jan Petersen, Vice Chairmen Etibar Mammadov, Wilfried Martens and Marco Solares; the Treasurer, the Political Auditor and the Executive Secretary.

1. Chairman's Introduction

In the absence of IDU-Chairman John Howard, Deputy Chairman Jan Petersen chaired the Executive meeting.

The Chairman thanked the Republican Party and the IRI for their hospitality in hosting the IDU Leaders Program in Minneapolis-St. Paul.

2. Adoption of Agenda

The Agenda was unanimously adopted.

3. Minutes of the Previous Executive

The Minutes of the Paris Executive were unanimously adopted.

4. Membership Applications

The Chairman noted that no new membership applications had been received during the two months since the Paris Party Leaders Meeting.

The Executive Secretary informed the Executive of the interest from several parties, where there seems to be a possibility of later applications – when and if these parties make the necessary formal decisions. Among these parties were CDA/Netherlands, CVP/Belgium, the successor party of Forza Italia/Italy, and Fianna Gail/Ireland. He underlined that no applications at this stage has been received, but he wanted to inform the Executive, in the case that the Executive wanted to give directions for the further procedure.

5. Finances

a. Membership Subscriptions – Status

The Executive Secretary reported that almost all member parties now had paid their dues and that at present 93 pct of this year's fees and arrears had been settled. The Executive took note of this positive development.

b. Budget for 2009

The Executive approved the 2009 budget as proposed by the Executive Secretary.

6. Work plan 2009

The Executive approved the work plan, with the following addition proposed by Klemens Moemkes (CDU-Germany):

- Continue strengthening the ties with other likeminded organisations, such as the CDI/IDC, through enhanced cooperation and coordination.

Klemens Moemkes also asked that it be considered whether the IDU should seek observer status with the United Nations.

George Tsereteli (UNM-Georgia) asked that it be considered to hold an IDU meeting in Georgia in the near future, in view of the situation in the region after the Russian aggression.

The Chairman proposed that the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs organized an ad hoc meeting and fact-finding mission to Georgia as soon as possible. This was supported by Eva Gustavsson (Moderaterna-Sweden) and unanimously approved by the Executive.

7. IDU Regional Unions

The UPLA Chairman, Jovino Novoa (UDI-Chile) gave a brief report on UPLA activities and the challenges to democracy in Latin America.

EPP President Wilfried Martens reported on the work of the European People's Party. He also welcomed the interest for IDU membership from parties in Poland, Italy, Ireland and the Netherlands, which he supported.

APDU Executive Secretary Bruce Edwards informed the Executive of recent contacts with parties in India and Nepal, and the possibility of future membership applications.

8. Specialist Groups

a. International Women's Democrat Union

Brian Loughnane (Liberals-Australia) reported on behalf of the IWDU Chairman. The IWDU expressed congratulations and thanks to the IDU and their Republican collaborators for organising such an excellent speakers program on the fringes of the Republican Convention. Since the last IDU meeting the IWDU Chairman has been building a contact list of women in the IDU parties. While nowhere near complete, it's growing. Through email the IWDU is developing a network to share information and extend invitations to party events, in particular women's programs.

b. International Young Democrat Union

In the absence of the IYDU Chairman, IYDU Vice Chairman Eric Hoplin (Republican Party-USA) gave a brief report. He informed the Executive of recent IYDU activities and democracy programs, in particular with regard to Zimbabwe, Belarus and Latin America. The IYDU will hold its next annual Council meeting in Wellington, New Zealand, 14 – 18 January 2009.

The Treasurer proposed that the IDU consider ways to support the IYDU. After interventions from the Political Auditor, the Executive Secretary, Marilyn Ware (Republicans-USA) and David Lidington (Conservatives-UK) the Executive decided to come back to this question at the next Executive Committee meeting.

9. Country Reports

George Tsereteli (UNM-Georgia), deputy speaker of the Georgian Parliament, informed the Executive about the situation in Georgia in view of the Russian aggression against this country. He thanked countries that had sent high representatives for their support – this is very important in this time of crisis. He was happy to note that President Bush the day before had announced a new initiative, an aid package. Also a statement by the European council two days earlier was clearly positive.

The bad news is that Russia still has occupying forces in Georgia. Russia has not fulfilled the agreement negotiated by EU President Sarkozy. There is now need for more pressure on Russia, including a discussion on sanctions.

Mr Tsereteli reminded the Executive that Georgia had been subjected to no less than 42 air raids. Immediate withdrawal of Russian forces is the basis for further negotiation.

Georgia needs serious political and economic support in this situation.

Mr Tsereteli concluded his remarks by observing that the Russian stated aim has been to achieve regime change in Georgia. Presumably this is still their goal. Therefore it is very important with continued support from democratic countries, also to prevent similar actions from Russia in the future – not only with regard to Georgia.

David Gamkrelidze (NRP-Georgia), Chairman of the New Rights Party, reminded the Executive that Russia's harassment of Georgia started immediately after Georgia's declaration of independence from the Soviet Union. He gave several examples of the serious damages caused by Russian military aggression. Ethnic cleansing was now rampant in the Russian-occupied areas. He still wished for good neighbourly relations also with Russia in the future.

Even though the NRP stood together with the government against the Russian aggression, Mr Gamkrelidze had critical remarks to the government. A top priority for the NRP is developing a viable democracy in Georgia.

Eva Gustavsson (Moderaterna-Sweden) proposed that the Chairman be authorized to issue a statement on Georgia after this meeting, taking into account the input during the discussion in the Executive. She underlined the importance of having an ad hoc meeting of the Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs to take place in Georgia, as proposed by the SCFA Chairman.

The Chairman commented that he was prepared to make a statement on Georgia, and he welcomed input from members after the meeting.

Fuad Muxtarov (NIPA-Azerbaijan) drew the attention to the wider challenges in the region, and the need for support from the free world.

Alfredo Caesar (Partido Conservador-Nicaragua) referred to the statement by IDU Party Leaders on Nicaragua, and updated the Executive on the development in his country. He asked the IDU to closely review the development in Nicaragua. A statement in the early days of September would be helpful in connection with the September 10 meeting of the OAS Council.

Katuutire Kaura (DTA – Namibia) expressed solidarity with his friends from Georgia. He at the same time took the opportunity to inform the Executive of the Namibian elections next year and that he hoped for the support from IDU member parties.

The Chairman concluded that he would make a statement regarding Georgia, on behalf of the Executive, noting the agreement around the table. This statement follows as an attachment to the minutes.

10. Any other business

a. Date and Place of the next IDU Executive

Don Plett (Conservatives-Canada), Federal President, invited the Executive to hold its next meeting in Canada – exact dates to be determined at a later stage, but aiming at the first half of February. He also informed the Executive of the upcoming Canadian election on 14 October and of the Canadian Conservative Party's National Policy Convention in Winnipeg 13 – 15 November. IDU member parties would be most welcome to send observers to this Convention.

The Chairman thanked Don Plett for his invitation.

The meeting was adjourned at 4 pm.

Attachment to the minutes – Deputy Chairman's Statement on Georgia, 4 Sept. 2008:

IDU demands immediate Russian withdrawal from Georgia

- The International Democrat Union (IDU) condemns Russia's aggression towards and invasion into Georgia, says IDU Deputy Chairman Jan Petersen, Norway's former Foreign Minister. The IDU discussed the serious situation in the Caucasus at its Executive Committee meeting in St. Paul (USA) on September 4.

The IDU calls upon Russia to fully implement the cease-fire agreement and to complete without delay the withdrawal of all troops from Georgian territory.

Jan Petersen underlines that it is unacceptable that Russia in the 21st century entertains a notion of "spheres of influence". The IDU condemns Moscow's illegitimate, unilateral attempt to change another country's borders by force.

Mr. Petersen continues: - Georgia has managed to change the path of its history through the Rose Revolution of 2003 and turn the country from a failing state into a fast developing democracy, with impressive economic, social and political reforms.

All countries have the right to determine their own political course. IDU supports the integration of Georgia into the Euro-Atlantic family, and condemns any attempt to prevent Georgia to freely choose its own future, says Jan Petersen, IDU Deputy Chairman.