

The Monthly Report of the Iraqi Parliament Monitor for November 2013

November 2013

Number of sessions	2 + Extraordinary session
Number of items	11
Number of non-executed items	4
Number of laws (first reading)	1
Number of laws (second reading)	1
Number of passed laws	2
Number of hosting	1
Number of read statements	0
Number of voting times	1
Number of read speeches	0
Number of hearings	0
Number of reports	1

Sessions in Detail:

On 2/11/2013, the Council of Representatives (CoR) held its 32nd session of the 1st term of the 4th legislative period chaired by the First Deputy Speaker H.E. Qusay al-Suhail:

- 227 MPs attended the session;
- Al-Suhail confirmed the continuation of dialogue between the Speaker and leaders of blocs regarding the Parliamentary Election Law and the Law will be presented to the Council after agreement is reached on it;
- The CoR voted on the legislative proposal for Iraq's accession to the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. The Convention aims at providing international protection for children against the unfavorable effects of their transfer or illegal detention, as well as taking measures that ensure their return to their usual country of residence in addition to ensuring the protection of their rights for visit and contact;
- The CoR finished the first reading of the draft law for the Federal Economic Reform Law;
- The CoR voted in principle to return the draft law for the Federal Economic Reform Law to the Government after finishing its first reading. A number of MPs expressed their objection to the Law since it deviates from the rules of the Constitution that seeks to transform the Iraqi economy into a market economy and give the private sector a major role in the development of the economy;
- The CoR finished the second reading of the Unified Law of Pension;
- Al-Suhail stressed that the session will remain open till dialogues produce results regarding the Parliamentary Elections Law;

On 3/11/2013, the CoR resumed its open 32nd session chaired by the Speaker H.E. Osama al-Nujaifi:

- 175 MPs attended the session;
- Al-Nujaifi assured the CoR that a substantial rapprochement and understanding among the parliamentary blocs are attained regarding voting for the legislative proposal of the Iraqi Parliament Election Law;
- The CoR resumed debate on the Unified Law of Pension;
- H.E. al-Suhail, First Deputy Speaker, confirmed the continuation of discussions regarding the Parliamentary Election Law.

On 4/11/2013, the CoR held its 33rd session of the 1st term of the 4th legislative period chaired by the Speaker H.E. Osama al-Nujaifi:

- 222 MPs attended the session;
- Al-Nujaifi announced closing the 32nd open session and opened the 33rd session;
- The CoR voted to pass the legislative proposal for the Iraqi Parliamentary Election Law;
- The CoR finished the first reading of the legislative proposal for Kirkuk Provincial Council Election Law to organize the elections of Kirkuk provincial council in a separate law;
- The CoR continued with the debate over the draft for the Unified Law of Pension.

On 28/11/2013, the CoR held an extraordinary session chaired by the Speaker H.E. Osama al-Nujaifi:

- 170 MPs attended the session;
- The CoR hosted H.E. Aadil Mehouder, Minister for Municipality and Public Works, as well as Mr. Naeem Aboub, the Mayor of Baghdad, and the Governors of Baghdad, Babel, Wasit, Diwaniyah and Thi Qar;
- MP Viyan Dakheel, chairwoman of the Parliamentary Committee for Services and Reconstruction, read out the report of her Committee regarding the problem of heavy rains and the ensuing floods. The main points outlined by the report are:
 - 1- The futility of the ministerial services committee despite having all powers needed for managing such crises. This Committee failed to take precautionary measures and establish coordination channels among the authorities concerned with providing services;
 - 2- The lack of a strategic plan for the implementation of projects related to the sewage networks of Baghdad and the other governorates;
 - 3- The lack of networks specialized for draining rain water established separately from sewage networks. In the areas that have such rain water networks, they have been designed to be mixed with the sewage networks which lead to the overflow of drain water to flood the houses which forewarns a serious environmental and health disaster;

- 4- The Zeblin Drainage Line suffers from blockages of 60-80% although it is a vital line that was established in the 1980s. The current capacity of the line does not exceed 25%;
- 5- The default of Baghdad Mayoralty to implement Al-Khansaa Line Project for unjustified reasons like the existence of squat houses. This problem could have been evaded had the Baghdad Mayoralty has started implementing the project at the time of its awarding;
- 6- The inability to operate pumps at full capacity at the drainage networks of any area to prevent flooding the next areas, and the result was the flooding of all residential areas;
- 7- The failure to use drainage facilities to drain rain water, and if they are used they are not dredged;
- 8- The outdated sewage networks whose prospective age had passed and the lack of alternatives for these networks;
- 9- The abundant irregular and squat houses and the failure to deal with these illegal houses;
- 10- Rates of implementation for projects performed by the following bodies are lagging:
 - a- Baghdad Mayoralty: implementation rate was 45,76% for 2011, 30,24% for 2012 and 0,0% till 30/9/2013;
 - b- Ministry of Municipalities: implementation rate was 39,79% for 2011, 26,07% for 2012 and 22,01% till 30/9/2013;
- 11- The parties concerned failed to pay attention to the shortage in the number of specialized machines and vehicles (vacuum tankers/drainage tankers) at the Mayoralty of Baghdad and the Ministry of Municipalities. On discussing the issue with the parties concerned, they claim that the reason is

- the lack of allocations despite the fact that more than 70% of the appropriated budgets for these bodies are returned to the state treasury;
- At the end of the session, MP Viyan Dakheel read out the recommendations of the Committee for Services and Reconstruction:
 - 1- To call on the Government and the parties concerned to take all necessary steps and precautionary measures in this regard and to send these as a plan to the CoR prepared by the Ministry of Municipalities and the Mayoralty of Baghdad;
 - 2- To form an investigation committee at the CoR regarding the flooding of Baghdad and other governorates. This committee will demand holding delinquent senior officials accountable;
 - 3- The Committee will stick to its previous request to relieve the current Mayor of Baghdad Mr. Naeem Aboub from his post;
 - 4- To pay sufficient amounts of money in damages to the families aggrieved proportionate to the degree of damage;
 - 5- To gradually dissolve the Ministry of Municipalities and Public works.
 - 6- To enact the Law of the Capital (Mayoralty of Baghdad).