

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Petitions

DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH THE COUNTRIES OF CENTRAL AMERICA

DCAM/PV 03/2009

MINUTES

MEETING

BRUSSELS

Wednesday, 11 February 2009-05-26
from 11.05 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

Room: ASP A 5G2

**Exchange of views with a High Level Delegation from Costa Rica,
comprising:**

Mr Roberto J. GALLARDO NÚÑEZ
Minister of Planning and Economic Policy

Mrs María Elena CARBALLO CASTEGNARO
Minister of Culture

Mrs Amparo PACHECO OREAMUNO
Deputy Foreign Trade Minister

Annex I: List of attendance

Brussels, 9 March 2009
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The meeting began at 11.05 a.m. with Mr Raimon OBIOLS I GERMÀ in the Chair.

The Chair welcomed those present, particularly the members of the Costa Rican High-Level Delegation.

Before giving the floor to the Ministers, the Chair observed this was an opportunity for the members of the Delegation to study in detail the development model chosen by Costa Rica, a model which was producing results. He added that this meeting was taking place at a crucial moment, one week after the conclusion of the sixth round of negotiations between the European Union and Central American on the Partnership Agreement, and ten days before the Delegation's working visit to Costa Rica and Honduras.

He observed that the European Parliament had welcomed President Oscar Arias at a formal sitting only a few months ago.

Mr Roberto Gallardo Núñez, Minister of National Planning and Economic Policy, then highlighted the importance of Europe's political support for the Central American peace process. He also said that one of the objectives of the Partnership Agreement was to encourage and increase Europe's presence in Central America.

Mrs Amparo Pacheco Oreámuno, Deputy Foreign Trade Minister, spoke about the stage reached with the integration process in Central America, and highlighted the existence of common legislation in a whole range of areas. With regard to trade, she underlined that a common customs tariff already existed for 95% of products, and that work on the customs union had made considerable progress. She also said that the Central American countries had open economies, and listed the trade agreements already in force. However, she pointed out that there was no clear leadership in the region with regard to progressing further with integration.

In the ensuing discussion, Mr Helmut Markov, Chairman of the European Parliament's International Trade Committee, expressed his admiration for the development model chosen by Costa Rica. He said that he was aware of the disquiet felt by civil society with regard to the Partnership Agreement, and stressed that since it had three pillars (free trade, political dialogue and cooperation) it was not comparable with the free trade treaty with the USA. In this context, Mr Markov also referred to the stage reached in EU-Andean Community negotiations and US sanctions against Cuba.

Mr Fernández Martín voiced his concerns on the subject of bananas.

The representative of the European Economic and Social Committee, Mr José María Zufiágo, wondered how social, labour and environmental issues were covered by the Partnership Agreement negotiations, and also asked about the involvement of civil society in the negotiations. He further proposed that a Joint Consultative Committee be established under the Agreement.

Mrs Edite Estrela stressed the importance of the Agreement's three pillars, pointing out that for the European Union, the Agreement was of political rather than economic significance. She further expressed her hope that the negotiations could be concluded in the first half of 2009.

Responding to the observations made, Mr Gallardo Núñez stressed that Costa Rican society had no problems with regard to negotiations with the European Union, which had not at all been the case with regard to the Free Trade Treaty with the USA. With regard to US sanctions against Cuba, he said that his government saw them as anachronistic. He wound up by referring to emigration, observing that in Costa Rica, there were 750 000 well-integrated Nicaraguan immigrants.

The Chair wound up the exchange of views by highlighting the need to establish a Joint Consultative Committee and Joint Parliamentary Committee in the Partnership Agreement between Central America and the European Union.

The meeting closed at 12.30 p.m.

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**DELTAGERLISTE/ANWESENHEITSLISTE/ΚΑΤΑΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/LIITE RECORD
OF ATTENDANCE/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/LISTE DE PRESENCE/ELENCO DEI
PRESENTI/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA**

Til stede	Formandskabet/Vorstand/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Ufficio di Presidenza/Mesa/Puhemiehistö/J.L. Presidium: (*) Raimon Obiols i Germà (P); José Manuel García-Margallo y Marfil (VP)
Anwesend	Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Μέλη/Members/Diputados/Députés/Deputati/Leden/Deputados/Jäsenet/Ledamöter: Paolo Bartolozzi; Edite Estrela; María Sornosa Martínez
Παρόντες	Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suplentes/Suppléants/ Membri supplenti/Plaatsvervangers/Membros suplentes/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter: Astrid Lulling;
Present	
Presentes	
Présents	
Presenti	
Aanwezig	
Lasna	
Närvarande	
Art. 178,2	
Art. 183,3	Helmuth Markov; Emanuel Jardim Fernandes; Fernando Fernández Martín; Jean-Claude Martínez
Endv. Deltog/Weitere Teiln./ Συμμετείχαν επίσης/Also present Participaron igualmente/ Participaient également/ Hanno partecipato altresì/ Andere deelnemers/ Outros participantes/ Muut osallistajat/ Dessutom deltog	Ministros Encargados de Comercio de América Central (ver lista)
(Dagsorden/Tagesordnung Pkt/Ημερήσια Διάταξη Σημεί/Point OJ/Punto OG/Agenda Punt/Ordem do dia Punto/punto orden del dia/Esityslist Kohta/ Föredragningslista punkt):	

- * (P) = Formand/Vorsitzender/Πρόεδρος/Chairman/Président/Presidente/Voorzitter/Presidente/Puhemies/Ordförande
(VP) = Næstform./Stellv. Vorsitz./Αντιπρόεδρος/Vice-Chairman/Vice-Président/Vicepresidente/Varapuhemies/Ondervoorz./
Vice-Pres./Vicepres/Vice ordförande.

Til stede den/Anwesend am/Παρόν στις/Present on/Présent le/Presente il/Aanwezig op/Presente em/Presenteel/Läsna/Närvarande den.

<p>Efter indbydelse fra formanden/Auf Einladung d. Vorsitzenden/Με πρόσκληση του Προέδρου/At the invitation of the Chairman/Por invitación del presidente/Sur l'invitation du président/Su invito del presidente/Op uitnodiging van de voorzitter/A convite do presidente/Puhemiehen kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan:</p> <p>Rådet/Rat/Συμβούλιο/Council/Consejo/Conseil/Consiglio/Raad/Conselho/Neuvosto/Rådet: (*)</p> <p>Kommissionen/Kommission/Επιτροπή/Commission/Comisión/Commissione/Commissie/Comissão/Komissio/Kommissionen: (*)</p> <p>Cour des comptes: C.E.S.: ZUFIAUR; PORRES</p>		
<p>Andre deltagere/Andere Teilnehmer Επίσης Παρόντες/Also present Otros participantes/Autres participants/Altri partecipanti Andere aanwezigen/Outros participantes Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare</p>		<p>GONZALEZ; GARCIA (Embajada de El Salvador); GARRIDO ARAUZ, (Embajada de Panamá) CHICAS(Embajada de Guatemala) ROSSI (PARLATINO)</p>
<p>Gruppernes sekretariat Sekretariat der Fraktionen Γραμματεία των Πολ. Ομάδων Secretariat political groups Secr. De los grupos políticos Secr. Groupes politiques Segr. Dei gruppi politici Secr. Van de fracties Secr. Dos grupos políticos Puolueryhmien sihteeristö Gruppernas sekretariat</p>	<p>PPE-DE PSE ALDE Verts/ALE GUE/NGL IND/DEM UEN NI</p>	<p>SALAFRANCA MUNIZ DE URQUIZA; MARIN REMOQUILLO; TRAUFLER KÜPPERS</p>
<p>Cab. Du Président</p>		
<p>Cab. Du Secrétaire Général</p>		
<p>Generaldirektorat Generaldirektion Γενική Διεύθυνση Directorate-General Dirección general Direction générale Direzione generale Directoraat-generaal Direcção general Contrôle financier Service juridique Pääosasto Generaldirektorat</p>	<p>I II III IV V VI VII</p>	<p>NEVES; OLEIRO; VALENTE DA SILVA; CONTRERAS</p>
<p>Udvalgssekretariatet Ausschubsekretariat Γραμματεία επιτροπής Committee secretariat Secretaria de la comisión Secrétariat de la commission Segretariato della commissione Commissiesecretariaat Secretaria de comissão Valiokunnan sihteeristö Utskottssekretariatet Assist./Βοηθός</p>		<p>MASUR</p> <p>AZPIRI LEJARDI</p>

* (P) = Formand/Pres./Πρόεδρος/Chairman/Président/Voorzitter/Puhemies/Ordförande

(VP) = Næstform./Vize-Pres./Αντιπρόεδρος/Vice-Chairman/Vice-Président/Ondervoorz./Vice-pres/Varapuhemies/Vice ordförande.

(M) = Medlem./Mitglied/Μέλος/Member/Miembro/Membre/Membro/Lid/Membro/Jäsen/Ledamot

(F)=Tjenestemand/Beamter/Υπάλληλος/Official/Funcionario/Fonctionnaire/Funzionario/Ambtenaar/Functionário/Virkamies/Tjänsteman