

**DCAM\_PV(2012)1903****MINUTES**

of the meeting of 19 March 2012, from 15h00 to 16h30  
Brussels

The meeting opened at 15h10 on Monday, March 19th 2012, under the chairwomanship of **Ms. Emine Bozkurt** (Chair):

**1. Adoption of draft agenda** PE 446.731v02-00

The agenda was adopted with only minor changes in the order of the points.

**2. Approval of minutes of the delegation meeting of  
- 26 January 2012** PE 446.730v01-00

Regarding the approval of the minutes of the meeting of 26 January 2012, two points were raised.

First, in relation with point five of the previous meeting on the presidential elections in Nicaragua, **Ms. Zuber** asked for the minutes to hold a clearer mention on Ms. Ayala's statement that there had been no electoral fraud.

Secondly, **H.E. Mr Edgar Hernán Varela**, Salvadoran Ambassador to the EU, took the opportunity to ask for the clarification on the minutes of a statement of his intervention during the last meeting.

The minutes were approved with the mentioned changes to come.

**3. Chair's announcements**

The chair informed that the rescheduling of the forthcoming Delegation's visit to

Guatemala had just been authorised by the Conference of Presidents for the 16-20 July (turquoise week).

The Chair went on by congratulating Guatemalan Ambassador Arenales Forno for his appointment as Secretary of Human Rights and Peace by President Pérez Molina, and looked forward to welcoming his successor in a future delegation meeting.

Finally, the Chair announced that due to previous commitments, H.E. Ms Mirtha Maria Hormilla Castro, Ambassador of Cuba to the EU, could not be present in the meeting. Nevertheless, she is expected to assist to the next Delegation meeting (23 April 2012), making it a good opportunity for the Delegation to address the current situation and perspectives for the bilateral cooperation between Cuba and the EU.

#### **4. Exchange of views on the report on the DCAM Working Group visit to Honduras (30 October - 4 November 2011)**

The Chair reported on the Delegation's visit to Honduras, that was led by herself and composed of Mr Raül Romeva i Rueda (ES, Greens/EFA), Mr Edvard Kožušník (CZ, ECR), Mr Philippe de Backer (BE, ALDE) and Mr Pablo Zalba Bidegain (ES, EPP and INTA Rapporteur).

The purpose of the visit was to discuss the political, economic and social situation in Honduras, two and a half years after the military coup and roughly two years after the last elections. Meetings were held with President Porfiro Lobo Sosa, former President Mr Manuel Zelaya, government representatives, national parliamentarians, civil society, farmers, trade unions and business representatives.

The meetings allowed the Delegation to get a more in-depth understanding of the difficult situation the country is going through. Special attention was also paid to the implementation and prospects of the EU-Central America Association Agreement. The delegation insisted on the deepening of the dialogue between the EU and civil society organisations in order to ensure that human rights defenders feel genuine backing from Europe.

#### **5. Election of the new delegation's Second Vice-Chair**

Following the resignation of Mrs. Ilda Figueiredo, **Ms. Inês Zuber** replaced her as a new Member of the European Parliament and was elected unanimously Second Vice-Chair of the Delegation on the proposal of the GUE/NGL Group.

The meeting continued with Ms Zuber taking her place as Vice-Chair in the absence of Mr Itugaiz.

#### **6. Exchange of views on the social dimension of the Association Agreement**

In her introduction, the Chair underlined that the Association Agreement (AA) is far more than a Free Trade Agreement, as it includes political and cooperation clauses that

are judged extremely important by both parties.

**Mr Carlos Molina**, President of the Consultative Committee of the Central American Integration System (CC-SICA) took the floor to present the role of organised civil society in the AA. He started by presenting the CC-SICA, an autonomous and independent body where all sectors of the Central American civil society are represented. Its mission is to promote the active and effective participation of civil society in the integration process and contribute to the enforcement and execution of the objectives and principles of the Tegucigalpa Protocol. Mr. Molina stressed that the AA can be a great contributor to development and integration in Central America and reminded that, during the seventh round of negotiations, both the CC-SICA and the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) had granted their support to the culmination of the AA.

Nevertheless, he pointed out that during the implementation phase of the agreement, several important questions should be raised and answered: Will a block-to-block dynamic still be promoted by the EU in the implementation phase? Will the AA reinforce the Central American integration process? Have the wide asymmetries between both regions been properly respected? Does the AA sufficiently guarantee that development and trade will be respectful of international conventions of human rights, labour rights and environmental regulations? Does the AA actually reflect the social and solidarity-based vocation of the EU? He called for Parliament to ratify the AA only if it finds clear answers to these questions.

**Mr Romeo José Barrillas Panilla**, Mayor of San Juan Opico (department of La Libertad, El Salvador) intervened afterwards on the positive impact of close cooperation between the EU and local authorities in fighting child labour. He presented the project that the EU is currently funding through Plan EU -one of the oldest and largest children development organizations in the world- in El Salvador. Mayor Barrillas started with an in depth presentation on the great threat that child labour represents to the balanced and sustainable growth of the Salvadorian society.

Pursuant to national commitments with the Millennium Objectives, the Government of El Salvador presented the “Road map to make El Salvador a country free of child labour in its worst forms”, a national effort that was joined by Plan EU in 2008. So far, important achievements have been made thanks to training programs, awareness programs, entrepreneurial support, and the establishment of comprehensive attention centres.

Speakers: **Edvard Kožušník** (ECR, CZ), **Pablo Zalba** (PPE, ES), **Emine Bozkurt** (S&D, NL)

## **7. Exchange of views on provisional application of the trade part of the Association Agreement**

In her introduction, the Chair reminded that in its proposal of 25 October 2011, the Commission requested: the Council to conclude the Agreement on behalf of the European Union, and the European Parliament to be called upon to give its consent to the conclusion of the Association Agreement (AA).

**Ms. Céline Idil** (Co-ordinator for trade relations with Central America in the DG TRADE) commented that the Commission's October proposal has been followed by intense discussions in the Council (Amlat Committee and Trade Policy Committee), mostly regarding legal elements of the decision and not so much on the substance of the Agreement. The authorisation from the Council is expected to come by the end of May, with the signature probably taking place in June, and the consent of the European Parliament eventually in July.

On the provisional application of the trade provisions -the rest of the Agreement requires the 27 Member State's ratifications before being applied-, the Commission is hoping it to be ready by Fall 2012. This calendar is nevertheless conditioned by the pace at which the Central American side signs and ratifies the Agreement, as no provisional application would be possible before.

Ms. Idil also stressed the importance of the bi-regional dimension of the AA, and was convinced that the Agreement would have a very positive impact in the regions integration process by favouring the growth of intra-regional trade in Central America.

Regarding the monitoring mechanisms of the AA, she underlined that civil society had been very present in all the steps of the negotiation. During the implementation phase, as stipulated in several provisions of the agreement, this involvement should remain intense. Detailing the monitoring mechanisms is something that is to be done soon by both parties, and where the CC-SICA and the EESC will certainly be very involved.

Speakers: **Raül Romeva i Rueda** (Vertas/ALE, ES)

## **8. Other business**

On the previously discussed point of the last meeting minutes, **Ms. Ayala** clarified that during the 26 January 2012 meeting she clearly stated that despite the proven large amount of irregularities observed, there had been no electoral fraud as such (understanding electoral fraud as a clear will to change the outcome of the elections). Ms. Ayala's comments were taken into account and reflected in the review of the minutes.

The Chair also took the occasion to remind Members that the INTA Committee will hold a hearing on the Association Agreement with the participation of Commissioner De Gucht on Tuesday March 27th.

## **9. Date and place of next meeting**

The next meeting of the Delegation would take place on Monday 23 April 2012, from 15:00 to 16:30, in Brussels.

The meeting closed at 16h35.

ПРИСЪСТВЕН ЛИСТ/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/  
 ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/ΚΑΤΑΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/  
 LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU REĢISTRS/DALYVIŲ SĄRAŠAS/JELENLÉTI ÍV/ REĢISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŠCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/LISTĂ DE PREZENȚĂ/  
 PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA

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Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselők/ Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Emine Bozkurt, Inés Ayala Sender, Edvard Kožušník, Raül Romeva i Rueda, Joanna Katarzyna Skrzydlewska, Inês Cristina Zuber,
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Supplenti/ Aizstājēji/Pavadoojantys nariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/Namestniki/ Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
Pablo Zalba Bidegain

187 (2)
193 (3)
49 (6) (Точка от дневния ред/Punto del orden del día/Bod pořadu jednání (OJ)/Punkt på dagsordenen/Tagesordnungspunkt/Päevakorra punkt/Ημερήσια Διάταξη Σημείο/Agenda item/Point OJ/Punto all'ordine del giorno/Darba kārtības punkts/Darbotvarkes punktas/ Napirendi pont/Punt fuq l-aġenda/Agendapunt/Punkt porządku dziennego/Ponto OD/Punct de pe ordinea de zi/Bod programu schôdze/ Točka UL/Esityslistan kohta/Föredragningslista punkt)

Наблюдатели/Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaatlejad/Παρατηρητές/Observers/Observateurs/Osservatori/  
Novērotāji/Stebėtojai/Megfigyelők/Osservatori/Waarnemers/Observatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelia/Opazovalci/  
Tarkkailijat/Observatörer

Lautaro Sandino (Emb Nicaragua), Orlando Rossi (Parlatino), Alejandro Solano (Emb Costa Rica), Tomas Duenas (Emb Costa Rica), Roberto Cespedes (Emb Costa Rica), Ramon Custodio (Emb Honduras), Jocelyne Enamorado (Emb Honduras), Ricardo Viteri (Emb Guatemala), Ricardo Iagos (Parlacen), Fausto Vergara (Emb El Salvador), Edgar Varela (Emb El Salvador), Mauricio Suarez (Emb El Salvador)

По покана на председателя/Por invitación del presidente/Na pozvání předsedy/Efter indbydelse fra formanden/Auf Einladung des  
Vorsitzenden/Esimehe kutsel/Με πρόσκληση του Προέδρου/At the invitation of the Chair(wo)man/Sur l'invitation du président/  
Su invito del presidente/Pēc priekšsēdētāja uzaicinājuma/Pirmininkui pakvietus/Az elnök meghívására/Fuq stedina tal-President/  
Op uitnodiging van de voorzitter/Na zaproszenie Przewodniczącego/A convite do Presidente/La invitația președintelui/Na pozvanie  
predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan

Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nōukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/Conseil/Consiglio/Padome/Taryba/Tanács/Kunsill/Raad/Conselho/  
Consiliu/Svet/Neuvosto/Rådet (\*)

Mercedes Monedero (ES), Martuno (IT)

Комисия/Comisión/Komise/Kommissionen/Kommission/Euroopa Komisjon/Επιτροπή/Commission/Commissione/Komisija/Bizottság/  
Kummissjoni/Commissie/Komisja/Comissão/Comisie/Komisia/Komissio/Kommissionen (\*)

Celine Idil (DG TRADE) Patricia Pieron (DG TRADE)

Европейска служба за външна дейност/Европска служба pro vnější činnost/EU-Udenrigstjenesten/Europäischer Auswärtiger  
Dienst/Euroopa välisteenistus/Ευρωπαϊκή Υπηρεσία Εξωτερικής Δράσης/European External Action service/Servicio Europeo de  
Acción Exterior/Service européen pour l'action extérieure/Servizio europeo per l'azione esterna/Eiropas Ārējās darbības  
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avdelningen för yttre åtgärd (\*)

Guillermo Riutard, Gerard Schulting,

Други институции/Otras instituciones/Ostatní orgány a instituce/Andre institutioner/Andere Organe/Muud institutsioonid/  
Άλλα θεσμικά όργανα/Other institutions/Autres institutions/Altre istituzioni/Citas iestādes/Kitos institucijos/Más intézmények/  
Istituzjonijiet ohra/Andere instellingen/Inne instytucje/Outras Instituições/Alte instituții/Iné inštitúcie/Druge institucije/Muut  
toimielimet/Andra institutioner/organ

Fabio Casertano (CESE),

Други учасници/Otros participantes/Ostatní účastníci/Endvidere deltog/Andere Teilnehmer/Muud osalejad/Επίσης Παρόντες/Other participants/Autres participants/Altri partecipanti/Citi klātesošie/Kiti dalyviai/Más résztvevők/Partecipanti oħra/Andere aanwezigen/Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Alți participanți/Iní účastníci/Drugi udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare

CC-SICA: Carlos Molina, Carlos Issac Perez , Patricia Duran, Sidney Francis martin, Carlos Luis Rojas Porras, Maria Eugenia Valencia, Jose Francisco Villalta

Plan EU Office: Sophie Deraednt, Celine Rosales

Romeo José Barrillas Panilla (Mayor of San Juan Opico)

Секретариат на политическите групи/Secretaría de los Grupos políticos/Sekretariát politických skupin/Gruppernes sekretariat/Sekretariat der Fraktionen/Fraktsioonide sekretariaat/Γραμματεία των Πολιτικών Ομάδων/Secretariats of political groups/Secrétariat des groupes politiques/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko grupu sekretariāts/Fracijų sekretoriai/Képviseletcsoportok titkársága/Segretarjat grupi poliitiçi/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secr. dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupin/Sekretariat poliitičnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristö/Gruppernas sekretariat

PPE	Juan Salafranca, Miriam Orsagova
S&D	Barbara Melis Itziar Munoa
ALDE	Andrea Cepova, Kamila Wrzesinka
ECR	Miguel Mauricio
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Генерална дирекция/Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/ Directorate-General/Direction générale/Direzione generale/Generaldirektoräts/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/Direttorat Ġenerali/Direktoraten-generaal/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direcții Generale/Generálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni direktorat/ Pääosasto/Generaldirektorat	
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Julian Conthe, Radka Hejtmankova, Javier Fernandez,	
Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asystent/Pomočnik/ Avustaja/Assistenten	
Arantza Uriarte Iraola, Malin Lundberg	

- \* (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Fonmand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Président/Priekšsēdētājs/Pirmininkas/  
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