

**DCAM_PV(2012)0710****MINUTES**

Meeting of Tuesday, 10 July 2012, from 16.30 to 18.00
Brussels

The meeting opened on Tuesday 10 July 2012 at 16.45, with Astrid Lulling, standing in as the oldest member in the absence of the members of the delegation Bureau, in the chair.

1. Adoption of draft agenda PE 446.741v01-00

The Chair presented the agenda and submitted it for approval. She recalled that the agenda for the meeting would include the point which had not been addressed at the previous meeting due to lack of time, on the impact on the region of the EU's new policy for development cooperation with Latin America. The draft agenda was adopted as shown in these minutes.

2. Approval of minutes of meeting of 5 June 2012 PE 446.804v01-00

The minutes of the Delegation meeting of 5 June 2012 were approved without changes.

3. Chair's announcements

The Chair said that the Association Agreement between the EU and Central America had been signed on 29 June 2012 in Tegucigalpa, during the summit of Central American Heads of State and Government. At the signing ceremony, the EU was represented by the Trade Commissioner, Karel de Gucht, and the Director for the Americas of the European External Action Service, Christian Leffler, while the Central American States were represented by their ministers of foreign affairs and trade, in the presence of their Heads of State and Government. Concerning the entry into force of the agreement, she recalled that the trade part would be provisionally

implemented as soon as Parliament and the Central American signatories had ratified the Agreement. The entry into force of the political and cooperation parts would, however, be subject to ratification by the national parliaments of the 27 Member States. The Chair announced that to celebrate the signing of the Agreement, Parliament's delegation for relations with the countries of Central America wished to invite all those present to drinks after the meeting.

She went on to address the DCAM working group mission to Panama and Costa Rica, which was due to take place from 29-31 October 2012. The meeting file contained a very rough draft of the programme for the visit, for members' consideration. Ms Lulling asked the political advisers to appoint as soon as possible the members from each Group who would be taking part in the mission.

Lastly, the Chair referred to the declaration of support for Argentina's claims of sovereignty over the Falkland /Malvinas Islands which PARLACEN had forwarded to Parliament.

4. Exchange of views on the impact on the Central American region of the EU's new policy for development cooperation with Latin America

In her introduction, the Chair noted that development cooperation with Latin America was a matter in which Parliament had shown great interest, mainly through its Committee on Development. This interest was evidenced by: the draft report on the definition of a new policy for development cooperation with Latin America, recently presented by Ricardo Cortés Lastra; Thijs Berman's draft report on the proposal for a regulation establishing a financing instrument for development cooperation; and the study on a new EU development cooperation policy for Latin America, carried out for Parliament by Professors Morazán, Sanahuja and Ayllón. She then gave the floor to the guest speakers.

Jorge de la Caballería, Head of Unit, Directorate General for Development and Cooperation at the Commission, spoke first. He provided an analysis of the current situation of EU development cooperation with Latin America. He began by emphasising that the monitoring, follow-up and assessment mechanisms for European cooperation with the region had given extremely positive results and shown that European taxpayers' money was being used in the best possible way. The broad figures for the 2007-2013 period were: a total of EUR 860 million for cooperation with Central America, out of which EUR 95 million were allocated to regional strategy and the rest to bilateral programmes in the various countries.

As regards the regional strategy for Central America, he said that this had served to strengthen sectors of traditional emphasis, with particular emphasis on regional integration, security strategy and institutional capacity building. Secondly, he spoke about the bilateral cooperation programmes with the different countries, drawing particular attention to the education and private sector development programmes in Nicaragua, cooperation on food security and natural resource management in Honduras, food security and youth support programmes in Guatemala, initiatives to build social cohesion and prevent violence in El Salvador, efforts to stem school drop-out rates and support women entrepreneurs in Costa Rica and cooperation on security

with Panama.

Petros Mavromichalis, Head of Unit at the European External Action Service, then took the floor to talk about the future outlook for development cooperation between the EU and Latin America. He noted that the objective of the new framework for development policies, the 'agenda for change', was to increase the impact and efficiency of European development aid by concentrating bilateral cooperation in countries most in need of it and limiting activities to three sectors per country, to avoid excessive fragmentation of aid. It also sought to increase coordination in this field between the EU and its Member States, by setting in motion a joint planning exercise. If the proposal was approved, it would mean that more advanced countries such as Costa Rica and Panama would 'graduate' and no longer be eligible for bilateral cooperation aid, but would still take part in the regional cooperation structure: in the partnership instrument (PI) and the development cooperation instrument (DCI).

As far as financial contributions were concerned, it was still too early to give precise indications, as the current debate on the multiannual financial perspectives was based on overall amounts which still had to be broken down by region, subregion and country in the different programming phases. The decision as to the sectors in which aid should be concentrated was still at the discussion phase, although it was to be hoped that it would continue to focus on areas of priority for the region, such as regional integration, security strategy, food security and risk management. It was, in any case, too soon to draw conclusions, as the discussions between institutions were still at an early stage.

Speakers: Astrid Lulling (PPE, LU), Ricardo Cortés Lastra (S&D, ES), Inés Ayala Sender (S&D, ES)

5. Preparations for a DCAM working group visit to Guatemala (16-20 July 2012)

Emine Bozkurt took over the chair from this point onwards. She announced that the following eight members had confirmed their participation in the mission: Emine Bozkurt (S&D, NL), Inés Ayala Sender (S&D, ES), Slavi Binev (NI, BG), José Ignacio Salafranca (PPE, ES) as permanent rapporteur for the Association Agreement for the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Pablo Zalba Bidegain (PPE, ES) as permanent rapporteur for the Association Agreement for the Committee on International Trade, Ricardo Cortés Lastra (S&D, ES) as rapporteur for the Committee on Development, Agustín Díaz de Mera García (PPE, ES) and Verónica Lope Fontagné (PPE, ES).

She went on to outline the latest version of the agenda for the visit and hoped that it would prove extremely useful in cementing the already excellent relations between Guatemala and the EU, at a particularly decisive moment, in light of the recent signature of the Association Agreement and its forthcoming entry into force. Precisely in order to ensure that the visit was as productive as possible, the next point on the agenda would be the current state of EU-Guatemala relations.

6. Exchange of views on the state of EU-Guatemala bilateral relations

The Chair pointed out that relations between the EU and Guatemala had been highly constructive for many years and were based on wide-ranging political dialogue, a solid framework of cooperation and a preferential trade regime under the GSP+. She stressed that in recent years the EU had significantly increased its development cooperation with Guatemala, had helped to fund the International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG), had supported efforts to reduce poverty and had closely followed the implementation of the peace agreements. She felt there was no doubt that the Central America Association Agreement would, when it came into force, strengthen the existing links between the EU and Guatemala. She then gave the floor to the two guest speakers.

Guatemala's ambassador to the EU, Jorge Skinner-Klée, thanked the delegation for the opportunity to address the meeting. He briefly outlined the numerous initiatives undertaken by the government of President Pérez Molina during its first six months. He referred to the three major pacts proposed by the Government: the zero hunger pact to alleviate chronic malnutrition, the security pact to combat violence linked to drugs trafficking, and the fiscal pact – which he described in greater detail in response to questions – which aimed to increase tax collection through raising tax levels, thereby funding new social and investment programmes. He also spoke about the constitutional reform being discussed with the various sectors of society and the Guatemalan Congress and the recent ratification by Guatemala of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. The Ambassador also highlighted the important efforts being made by the Public Prosecutor's Office and the CICIG to combat impunity. He recalled that President Pérez Molina had attempted to launch a global dialogue on the problem of drugs and drug trafficking, with a view to devising innovative and coordinated programmes in this field.

EU-Guatemala relations were going through an excellent phase. The EU had just upgraded the status of its delegation in Guatemala by appointing an ambassador to head it. Furthermore, he was pleased to note that the Commission's EEAS had confirmed that it would be continuing its cooperation with Guatemala despite the restructuring of the EU's cooperation policy. Finally, he observed that the signature of the Association Agreement was a historic moment for Central America and recognised the importance of the fact that Parliament's rapporteurs for the agreement would be travelling to Guatemala with the working group in mid-July.

Petros Mavromichalis, Head of Unit at the European External Action Service, then took the floor. He began by expressing admiration at the speed with which President Pérez Molina had presented his three proposals for major national pacts and, in particular, at his rapid introduction of a tax reform, which the EU had been pressing for for some time as a necessary move. He considered it a decisive move for Guatemala's development and that it would serve as an example for similar reforms in other countries in the region. In relation to peace, security, justice and impunity, he stressed that the EU fully backed Guatemala and praised the valuable work being carried out by the public prosecutor, Claudia Paz y Paz, and the CICIG. Although considerable progress had been made, he was concerned at the levels of crime and impunity, which continued to be extremely high and the lack of progress in reforming the police, as well as the high level of social conflict. He emphasised that the EU was closely following the debate on constitutional reform and the specific progress that this could bring.

Mr Mavromichalis hoped that a high level of cooperation could be maintained between the EU and Guatemala within the next multiannual financial framework. The EU's delegation to Guatemala was working closely with the government and civil society in a number of sectors which were seen as priority, and would continue to do so in the future. It was also hoped that the country would be one of the pilot countries for the implementation of the joint cooperation programme with the EU, its Member States and partners in Guatemala. An analysis would also be made of the best means of synchronising the European cooperation programming cycle with that of the Guatemalan Government, in order to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the programmes.

Lastly, Mr Mavromichalis referred to Guatemala's external projection. He considered it positive that Guatemala was at present a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council and the Human Rights Council and that it was seeking ways to increase its role at regional and global level. He also welcomed the country's decision to ratify the Rome Statute and its efforts to seek a permanent solution to its territorial dispute with Belize.

Speakers: Ricardo Cortés Lastra (S&D, ES), Inés Ayala Sender (S&D, ES), Emine Bozkurt (S&D, NL)

7. Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting would take place on Tuesday 9 October 2012 in Brussels, in preparation for the visit by the Delegation working group to Costa Rica and Panama at the end of that month.

The meeting closed at 18.00 and was followed by drinks offered by Parliament's Delegation for relations with the countries of Central America, to celebrate the recent signature of the Association Agreement between the two regions.

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 OBECNOŚCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/LISTĂ DE PREZENȚĂ/ PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA

Бюро/Мesa/Předsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/Biuras/Elnökség/Prezydium/Birou/Predsednictvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
Emine Bozkurt (P)
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselők/Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Inés Ayala Sender, Slavi Binev, Astrid Lulling
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Supplenti/Aizstājēji/Pavadoojantys nariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/Namestniki/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
Pilar Ayuso, Paolo Bartolozzi

187 (2)
193 (3)
Veronica Lope Fontagné, Ricardo Cortés Lastra
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

Orlando Rossi (Parlatino), Patricia Campbel (Embajada Nicaragua), Federico Rosa Suazo (Embajada Honduras), Ramón Custodio (Embajada Honduras), Jorge Hadad (Embajada Cuba), Alfonso Young (Embajada Panamá), Ricardo Lagos (Parlacen), Roberto Céspedes (Costa Rica)

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 pozwanie
predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan

Jorge Skinner-Klée (Embajada Guatemala), Jorge de la Caballería (DEVCO) , Petros Mavromichalis (EEAS)

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

Jaropo Martino (REPER Italia)

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

Paolino Corda, Concepción Blas Mellado, Jorge de la Caballería

Европейска служба за външна дейност/Evropská služba 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
dienests/Europos išorės veiksmų tarnyba/Európai Külügyi Szolgálat/Servizz Ewropew għall-Azzjoni Esterna/Europese dienst voor
extern optreden/Europejska Służba Działañ Zewnętrznych/Serviço Europeu para a Acção Externa/Serviciul european pentru acțiune
externă/Európska služba pre vonkajšiu činnosť/Evropska služba za zunanje delovanje/Euroopan ulkosuhdehallinto/Europeiska
avdelningen för yttre åtgärd (*)

Petros Mavromichalis, 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

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/Altji participantġi/Iní účastníci/Drugi udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare

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PPE	Piero Rizza
S&D	José Antonio Gil de Muro, Laura Ballarín
ALDE	Itziar Muñoa
ECR	
Verts/ALE	
GUE/NGL	
EFD	
NI	Sergio Servellon, Nancy Van Hout

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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, Javier Fernandez	
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Arantza Uriarte Iraola, Rosa-Maria Licop Cabo	

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