

*Delegation for relations with the Mercosur countries*

Report by Luis Yáñez-Barnuevo García, Delegation Chair,
on the visit of a working group
to Brazil and Argentina,
24-28 May 2010

I. INTRODUCTION

A working group of the Delegation for relations with the Mercosur countries visited Brazil (Brasília) and Argentina (Buenos Aires) from 24 to 28 May 2010.

The group was chaired by Luis YÁÑEZ-BARNUEVO GARCÍA, the delegation chair (S&D, Spain). Its other members were: Edite ESTRELA (S&D, Portugal), Nathalie GRIESBECK (ALDE, France), and Ilda FIGUEIREDO (GUE/NGL, Portugal).

The EP Vice-President responsible for relations with Latin America, Gianni PITTELLA (S&D, Italy), was present for a number of the group's activities in Buenos Aires (27-28 May), following his participation (representing the President of Parliament) in a seminar organised by the Argentinian Council for International Relations on 26 May in Argentina's capital.

II. BRAZIL (24 to 26 May 2010)**1. Meetings with representatives of the Brazilian government****1.1. Meeting with Professor Marco Aurélio Garcia, Special Adviser to the Presidency on International Affairs**

Mr Yáñez-Barnuevo offered some words of introduction, explaining the competences of the delegation chaired by him and stressing the politically opportune timing of the visit, in the light of the recent formal announcement of the relaunch of the negotiations for the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement (AA), as well as Brazil's occupying Mercosur's rotating six-month presidency, not to mention the beginning of a new political cycle in Brazil with the end of Lula da Silva's presidency.

Professor Garcia said that, with the present economic and financial climate at world level, it was vital to resist protectionist temptations and that, accordingly, the relaunch of the AA negotiations marked an important step which could even contribute to unblocking the WTO Doha round. Nonetheless, following conclusion of the AA both blocs would have to agree to major reciprocal concessions on trade, and this prospect was leading to negative reactions among some members. For instance, Mercosur wished to ensure greater access to the EU market for its agricultural products, but was faced with obstacles arising from France and some of the new EU Member States; equally, the EU's wish to see Mercosur open up to its industrial products could conflict with Argentina's objective of national reindustrialisation. He concluded on this point by stressing that securing a realistic and pragmatic agreement would be preferable to seeking an over-ambitious agreement and failing to reach it.

He went on to emphasise that today's multipolar world presupposes the existence of large regional blocs. It was therefore essential to strengthen Mercosur's institutions and create a fully-fledged customs union. This was the Brazilian government's position; the opposition would prefer a Mercosur that was a free-trade area only. He also favoured deepening UNASUL, in the light of the political erosion of the Andean Community and South America's potential for growth. It was also important to consolidate the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States.

With reference to the dialogue with the group, Professor Garcia stressed Brazil's growing profile on the world stage, as reflected in the Afro-Brazilian and Arab-Brazilian summits and the similar meetings with India and South Africa, as well as the 'BRIC' summit. He believed the agreement between Turkey and Brazil and Iran on the latter's nuclear development programme was an excellent example of multilateralism.

He added that the recent world financial crisis had pointed up the need to reform the international political and financial (Bretton Woods) institutions. In this connection, he called for the EU's support for Brazil's bid for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council. Replying to questions from members of the group regarding the viability of a common EU/Latin America position at the forthcoming Cancún conference on climate change, Professor Garcia expressed his support for such an initiative, adding that President Lula had asked for UNASUL to assume a common position on the subject.

1.2. Meeting with Ambassador António Patriota, Secretary-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ambassador Patriota began his interchange with the group by stressing the dynamism of Brazilian diplomacy in recent years, as reflected in, among other initiatives, the expansion of Brazil's diplomatic network (35 new embassies had been opened) and the country's participation in numerous high-level international meetings, such as the April 'BRIC' summit, the meetings with India and South Africa and, most recently, the Madrid summits bringing together, respectively, the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean and the EU and Mercosur. In connection with the last-named event, he reiterated Brazil's unequivocal support for the AA negotiations, and strongly endorsed Venezuela's bid to join Mercosur, for reasons both economic (Venezuela is South America's third-biggest economy) and political (Venezuela

should not be isolated). On the subject of climate change, he said that the development of bioethanol production reflected a national consensus, adding that Brazil had unilaterally set itself ambitious targets for greenhouse gas reduction: he was confident that the Cancún conference would result in an agreement.

The Ambassador further expressed his conviction that the special relationship between Brazil and the EU would in no way be undermined by Brazil's development of closer ties with the other 'BRIC' countries, recalling the political, historical and cultural differences existing between the emerging nations.

2. Interparliamentary meetings with the Leader of the House (Chamber of Deputies), Cândido Vaccarezza, the Senate's Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, the Brazilian delegation to the Mercosur Parliament, and the Brazil-EU Parliamentary Friendship Group

The Leader of the House for the Chamber of Deputies, Cândido Vaccarezza, began his interchange with the chair and members of the group by explaining that he had been appointed to his post by President Lula himself, and that his role was to coordinate the positions of the pro-government bench in the Chamber, as well as representing the President in that bench's activities.

He went on to explain that there are no less than 27 parties represented in the Chamber of Deputies, and to give information on the membership of the Chamber and its members' term of office and the electoral system for Brazil's two houses of Congress (Senate and Chamber). He also referred to the outlook for the forthcoming presidential and parliamentary elections.

Mr Vaccarezza praised President Lula's social and economic policies, which had enabled 30 million people to join the middle class and had created 12 million jobs. There were still persistent problems of significant wage inequality, as well as of education and infrastructure. On the environment, he stressed that most of Brazil's energy is of 'clean' origin, being based on biofuels and hydroelectricity. The use of bioethanol was not a threat to agriculture, as there was a world glut of sugar-cane; nor should biodiesel production threaten food supplies, since there was a growing trend to replace soya in the role of raw material by other, non-edible legumes. He concluded by expressing his support for the deepening of ties between Brazil and the EU.

The discussions during the working lunch with the Senate's Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence, as well as those with the Brazilian delegation to the Mercosur Parliament and the Brazil-EU Parliamentary Friendship Group, placed the emphasis on EU-Mercosur relations and the relaunch of the AA negotiations between the two blocs.

Stress was laid on the existence of shared values (political, social, cultural) in both blocs, together with shared objectives (multilateralism; fighting the international economic and financial crisis), and how these factors should greatly facilitate the conclusion of the AA. In this connection, the Brazilian parliamentarian Dr Rosinha, a former chair of Parlasur, emphasised that for the Mercosur countries the political relationship with the EU is less fraught than that with the US, thanks to the absence of hegemonic temptations: the chances of success for the AA

should be considerably greater than was the case with the abortive Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA).

Also stressed was the AA's role as being more than just a free trade agreement: it will include, in addition, chapters on political dialogue and cooperation, and will, therefore, cover other key aspects of the EU-Mercosur dialogue such as climate change and migration. On the last-named subject, the members of the group said the issue had been debated in detail at the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly (EUROLAT), which had, at its recent plenary held on 15 May 2010, approved a recommendation on the subject. With regard to the trade chapter, the partners reviewed the most sensitive aspects of the negotiations, i.e. agriculture for Brazil and industrial products, services and investments for the EU, expressing the hope of reaching a balanced agreement offering advantages for both blocs. A consensus was evident on both sides to the effect that the success of the trade negotiations between the two blocs would be greeted as a significant contribution to the fight against protectionism, and would help unblock the WTO's Doha Round.

It was stressed, additionally, that the parliamentary bodies on both sides should undertake political monitoring of the various negotiating rounds. In this connection, the members of the group informed their Brazilian counterparts that the Treaty of Lisbon had strengthened the EP's powers in the field of external relations.

The members of the Brazilian Congress made it clear that, for Brazil, Mercosur represents a strategic geopolitical project relating to the country's full integration into a multipolar world. They added that to this end Mercosur's institutional aspect needs to be reinforced (e.g. by direct elections to Parlasur and the creation of a permanent court of justice and a compensation fund), the same applying to its economic dimension (a customs union should be set up on the basis of a common external tariff). In addition, the members of Congress from the governmental majority justified their support for Venezuela joining Mercosur, invoking that country's political and economic weight. They believed that deepening Mercosur should facilitate the process of regional integration in South America, not excluding the political aspect (UNASUL).

The Brazilian parliamentarian Bala Rocha provided the group with information on the composition, objectives and activities of the Brazil-EU Parliamentary Friendship Group, and suggested that a similar group should be created within the EP in order to develop closer links between the two parliaments. He said that the Friendship Group would like to visit the European Parliament after the forthcoming elections in Brazil. Mr Yáñez-Barnuevo confirmed the EP's interest in reinforcing the parliamentary dialogue with the Brazilian Congress, and expressed the hope that the delegation could become the embryo of a European equivalent to the Brazil-EU Parliamentary Friendship Group.

In this connection, a number of members of Brazil's delegation to Parlasur said they would like to familiarise themselves with the EP's working methods. e.g. its organisation into political groups - this in the light of the ongoing debates in Parlasur on the institutionalisation of political 'families'.

3. Meeting with the Minister-President of the Federal Supreme Court and the National Council of Justice, Dr César Peluzo, and the Minister for the National Judicial Control Authority, Dr Gilson Dipp

In reply to the group members' questions, Dr Peluzo explained the membership and appointment procedure for the judges of Brazil's Federal Supreme Court, the country's highest legal authority which combines the attributes of a supreme court and a constitutional court. He gave details of the system for verifying the constitutionality of legislation and the fairness of elections, and stressed the Court's key role over the years in consolidating the democratic legal and institutional system in Brazil. He also emphasised the Court's transparency in terms of administration (the data on its budgets, human resources and purchases are made public) and action (its case-law and the state of play of cases are available both on-line and via the traditional media - Notícias STF, TV Justiça and Rádio Justiça).

Dr Dipp explained the powers of the National Council for Justice (NCJ), as the watchdog for Brazil's legal system in terms of administrative, financial and disciplinary control. He stressed the high degree of computerisation of Brazil's judicial system, adding that his institution and the European Commission had cooperated in the field of electoral support, and would soon sign a memorandum of understanding with a view to triangular cooperation in this area.

4. Meeting with the Rector and staff of the University of Brasilia

In this meeting, the members of the group exchanged impressions with the Rector and staff of the University of Brasilia on various subjects of current concern, including the relaunch of the AA negotiations and the impact of the Treaty of Lisbon on the powers of the EP, especially in the field of external relations. The lecturers spoke on their most important cooperation projects with universities in Europe and the research areas concerned (the environment and sustainable development, IT, biotechnology political science, etc), as well as the exchange schemes in place for staff and students. Professor Julie Schmied referred to the work of the university's Centre for European Studies; the University of Brasilia had submitted its candidature to the EU delegation for hosting the Institute of European Studies in Brazil. Mr Yáñez-Barnuevo spoke on the potential role of universities in evaluating the impact of the AA's trade chapter on the various sectors of the economy.

5. Participation in the inaugural session of the 16th Brazil-Europe Forum, organised by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and dedicated to 'Climate, energy and the environment and the Brazil/EU political agenda'

The members of the group took part in the inaugural session of this forum, which was dedicated to 'Climate, energy and the environment and the Brazil/EU political agenda', with Luis Yáñez-Barnuevo and Edite Estrela being asked to speak.

In his speech, Mr Yáñez-Barnuevo stressed that the existence of shared historical and cultural values and political principles between the two regions and the common desire to fight the international financial crisis constituted highly favourable conditions for the success of the AA negotiations. On the theme of the forum, he said that the EU and Brazil needed to cooperation at

international level with a view to replacing the paradigm of uncontrolled consumption and excessive dependence on fossil fuels with a model based on renewable energies.

Edite Estrela's speech focused on the crucial ethical need to fight climate change and its disastrous consequences, even more so with the appearance of the phenomenon of 'climate change refugees'. She also explained the contents of the energy and climate package adopted by the EU before the Copenhagen Conference, stressing how at that conference the Union had presented an ambitious proposal for a 30% cut in greenhouse gas emissions, even though it is responsible for only 14% of the global total.

Given the relative failure of Copenhagen, she believed that the EU, Brazil and the rest of Latin America should reach a common position with a view to contributing to the adoption of a far-reaching agreement at the forthcoming Cancún Conference, and evoked, in this connection, the resolution on the subject adopted at the most recent plenary of the EUROLAT Parliamentary Assembly.

6. Dinner with EU ambassadors

The members of the group were able to exchange impressions with their countries' diplomatic representatives in Brazil and with officials of the EU delegation in the course of a dinner offered by Luis Yáñez-Barnuevo.

During the dinner, the discussions focused essentially on the political situation in the context of the elections scheduled for October 2010, and on the Brazilian economy, which was currently growing strongly at a time of international crisis. Also discussed were the prospects for the AA negotiations.

III. ARGENTINA (27 and 28 May 2010)

1. Meeting with the Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Religions, Jorge Taiana

In his introductory remarks, Luis Yáñez-Barnuevo stressed the importance laid by both the EU and the EP on relations between regional blocs, therefore strongly welcoming the recent relaunch of the AA negotiations. He added that in a multipolar world it is vital to strengthen interregional links, recalling that the conclusion of the AA will be facilitated by the existence of a shared historical and cultural heritage and of a community of values in terms of political, economic and social interests.

Gianni Pittella, Vice-President of the EP, said that the two regions needed to work together with a view to reforming the system of world economic governance: the international financial crisis had demonstrated that the Bretton Woods system no longer works. He believed that cooperation within the G-20, of which Argentina is a member, represents a useful instrument for tackling the international crisis and enabling the reform of world economic governance. He also stressed the

need to avoid trade protectionism, to which end he believed the AA should make a valuable contribution.

Mr Taiana began by stressing Argentina's desire to strengthen its relationship with the EU. To this end, he believed parliamentary diplomacy to be crucial. He added that, given the delicate state of the world economy, there was an urgent need to promote interregional dialogue: the international mobility of people, goods, services and capital was now such as to make individual solutions to the crisis redundant. He went on to inform the group members concerning Argentina's recent economic history, emphasising how the lessons learnt from the 2001/2002 crisis had helped the country resist the onslaught of the recent international crisis. This year, Argentina would register a trade and budget surplus, thanks to a large extent to high demand for raw materials and food products from China and India. This year's growth rate was expected to be in the region of 6%, a level which was likely to be maintained in the medium term.

In reply to questions from group members, Mr Taiana said he himself had played a part in the rejection of the FTAA, and that the conclusion of an AA with the EU was a far more feasible prospect, recalling that the EU has a better image with the Mercosur countries than does the US. The conditions for concluding the AA were now more favourable than in 2004, in view of the impasse in the WTO Doha Round. However, it would be necessary to strike a balance over the more sensitive aspects of trade, i.e. agricultural products for the EU and the motor and automobile components industry for Argentina. Challenged over the recent introduction of potentially protectionist measures, Mr Taiana denied that his government had adopted any such measures, adding that in 2008 foreign trade had accounted for over 40% of GDP and that there was thus no question of any unilateral return to protectionism.

Mr Taiana expressed optimism concerning the prospects for the Cancún conference on climate change, in the light of the crucial need to ensure that economic development is also environmentally sustainable. Finally, he referred to his country's position on the Falkland Islands, making it clear that Argentina's claim of sovereignty remains intact and condemning what he saw as recent 'unilateral and illegal acts on the part of the United Kingdom'.

In this connection, Mr Yáñez-Barnuevo said that the mention of the Falkland Islands in the Treaty of Lisbon as an overseas territory of the UK arises from a declaration by that country appended to its act of accession to the (then) European Communities. He pointed out that nothing had changed on the matter and that the treaty mention did not imply any political decision at EU level concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands. He emphasised in conclusion that the Falklands issue is a bilateral matter between Argentina and the UK.

2. Interparliamentary meetings with the President of the Senate and Vice-President of Argentina, Senator Julio Cobos, the President of the Argentinian delegation to Parlasur, Senator José Pampuro, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Chamber of Deputies, the Argentinian delegation to Parlasur, and the Group for Friendship with the European Parliament

The various interparliamentary meetings held by the group with Argentinean parliamentarians focused above all on the relaunch of the AA negotiations, with Mr Yáñez-Barnuevo stressing

the key role played by the Spanish presidency of the EU and the Argentinian presidency of Mercosur in bringing the matter to the fore.

Mr Yáñez-Barnuevo also made it clear in the debates that the AA was more than a trade agreement, also having political and cooperation pillars which needed to reflect the community of values between the two blocs and include issues of importance to the biregional dialogue such as the environment and immigration.

On the trade aspect of the AA negotiations, it was stressed that today's conditions were more favourable than those prevailing in 2004: the negotiations were no longer conditional on the WTO Doha round, and the agreement now had a key role to play in the rejection of protectionism and the promotion of economic recovery worldwide. Emphasis was also laid on the need to achieve a balance in terms of reciprocal trade concessions, given the impact which opening up the markets of the two blocs would have on certain key economic sectors in the member states of both. Here, Mr Yáñez-Barnuevo warned that the climate of trust on both sides in the negotiations could be imperilled by the recent reports that the Argentinian authorities had imposed de facto restrictions on food product imports.

A call was made for the parliamentary bodies to ensure the political monitoring of the AA negotiations.

Also debated were the causes and consequences of the international economic and financial crisis. There was a consensus on the need to reform the international financial system and introduce forms of regulation at world level with a view to preventing crises in the future. Here, the G-20 would have to be actively involved.

At the meetings, the Argentinian parliamentarians made a point of emphasising Argentina's claim to sovereignty over the Falkland Islands. Mr Yáñez-Barnuevo repeated the position he had already affirmed at the meeting with Mr Taiana, namely that the issue is a bilateral one between Argentina and the UK.

Addressing the group, Senator Julio Cobos, President of the Senate and Vice-President of Argentina, expressed his support for the relaunch of the AA negotiations and offered his views on the political situation in Argentina and the prospects for the 2011 elections. Mr Yáñez-Barnuevo recalled that the EP had always been the European institutions' bridgehead for relations with Latin America, and went on to speak, at Mr Cobos' request, on the economic and financial crisis as experienced by the EU, with particular referendum to the effects on the Greek economy and the fall in value of the euro.

Senator José Pampuro, President of the Argentinian delegation to Parlasur, laid the stress in his conversations with the group on the need to reinforce relations between the EP and Parlasur, adding that 2011 is expected to see direct elections to Parlasur from Argentina and Brazil.

The meeting with the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Chamber of Deputies (chaired by Alfredo Atanasof) focused primarily on the prospects for the relaunched AA negotiations, the international economic and financial crisis, and the Falklands issue.

The meetings with the Chamber's Committee on Mercosur (chaired by Gabriela Michetti) and the Argentinian delegation to Parlasur both addressed institutional aspects of the two blocs' parliaments. Several of the Argentinian parliamentarians, among them Gabriela Michetti and Fernando Iglesias, said they believed Parlasur should become more like the EP in terms of its (especially legislative) powers, and put questions to the group members concerning the EP's organisation into political groups, while Mariano West raised the subject of the representation of the Mercosur member states in Parlasur (currently, each country has 18 representatives) and the discussions under way with a view to an agreement on a more proportional system. Mr West expressed his support for Venezuela's accession and affirmed his conviction that the bloc will serve as a motor for integration in South America. Senator Rubén Giustiniani said that the consensus in the Senate was pro-Mercosur and pro-AA.

Hugo Prieto, President of the Group for Friendship with the European Parliament, explained that his group consists of 16 members of the Argentinian Congress of Deputies and has as its objective the deepening of relations between the two parliaments. Mr Yáñez-Barnuevo asked him to comment on the potential adverse impact on the AA negotiations of the reports that the Argentinian government has imposed de facto restrictions on food product imports. Mr Prieto said he would raise the matter at the next meeting of his group. He went on to offer some remarks on the legal and constitutional system in Argentina, stressing its strongly presidential bias (somewhat mitigated following the constitutional reform of 1994).

3. Working lunch with the EU ambassadors

The group was able to exchange impressions with the EU Member States' ambassadors to Argentina at a lunch offered by the Spanish ambassador on behalf of the rotating Council presidency.

The Spanish ambassador, H.E. Rafael Estrella, began by offering an analysis of the political and economic situation in Argentina, stressing that the group's visit had come at a favourable moment, one week after the announcement of the relaunch of the AA negotiations. He also mentioned the problems over the trade chapter, especially in view of the proactive line taken on agriculture by Argentina and Mercosur and the political sensitivity of the subject in some EU Member States. He further stressed the need for the AA to include subjects of importance to relations between the two regional blocs such as, notably, immigration and new technologies. He referred to the reported imposition of restrictions on food product imports by the Argentinian government and the difficulty of contesting those measures in the WTO in the absence of anything in writing. In this connection, several of the ambassadors said that they would ask the Commission to step up pressure on the Argentinian authorities to lift the restrictions, and asked the members of the group to raise the matter in their meetings with their Argentinian counterparts. The ambassadors took the view that the conclusion of an AA should be seen as creating a significant instrument for the deepening of integration in the Southern cone region and an obvious means of improving relations between Argentina and Brazil.

The visit to Argentina concluded with a well-attended press conference held jointly by the delegation chair, Mr Yáñez-Barnuevo, and the EP Vice-President Gianni Pittella, with the participation of the other members of the group.

IV. MAIN CONCLUSIONS

It is important to be aware of the excellent political timing of this visit. It took place one week after the 4th EU-Mercosur summit in Madrid, which saw the formal announcement of the relaunch of the negotiations for the conclusion of the AA between the two regional blocs.

The subject consequently dominated the agenda of our group's amicable meetings with its Brazilian and Argentinian partners, who, it should be stressed, endorsed the AA but at the same time made it clear that reciprocal trade concessions will be needed, while also emphasising that the EU will certainly have to open up its market to Mercosur's agricultural products.

In this connection, the group reiterated the EU's commitment to concluding an agreement that can be considered as both balanced and far-reaching, while also stressing that Brazil and Argentina will have to open up their markets to products, services and investments originating in the EU, and, therefore, remove their protectionist barriers, be they de jure or de facto. It was agreed by all that the AA will help facilitate the resumption of the WTO Doha round and will contribute to economic recovery at world level.

Among the factors conducive to conclusion of the AA, particular stress was laid on the shared historical and cultural framework and community of values linking the two regions, and on the agreement's nature as covering not just trade alone but also the political and cooperation dimensions. It was also stressed that the AA will have to deal with matters of major importance for biregional relations such as the environment and immigration, and that the negotiations rounds for the AA will need to be subject to the political monitoring of both the EP and Parlasur.

The majority of the partners met were in favour of both the deepening of political and economic integration within Mercosur and of Venezuela's membership, although the reservations of the Brazilian opposition need to be noted. In parallel, in Brazilian government circles, as also among the ruling party's parliamentary representatives, enthusiasm was palpable for the further development of South American integration, notably via UNASUL. This objective, however, was questioned by the Brazilian opposition and was scarcely mentioned by our Argentinian partners.

Also stressed was the objective of strengthening the links between the parliaments of the two regional blocs. The Brazilian and Argentinian members of Parlasur wished to find out more about the EP's working methods, notably its organisation into political groups. With regard to the parliamentary relationship between the EP and the Brazilian Congress, stress was laid on the objective of establishing a permanent structured dialogue, in line with the Joint Action Plan for the EU-Brazil Strategic Partnership and the EP's recommendation to the Council concerning that partnership.

The causes of the international financial crisis and its impact on both regions were discussed in full, with the South American partners stressing the resistance of the region and their countries' strong economic performance. There was a consensus on the need to reform the international

financial system and establish a new world economic governance promoting growth alongside social inclusion and a sustainable environment, stress being laid on the key role of the G-20 in this connection. The Brazilian representatives here introduced into the debate the issue of the reform of the UN, reiterating Brazil's objective of securing a permanent Security Council seat that would reflect its status as an emerging power.

Climate change was also a major theme of the talks, with both sides agreeing on the need for the EU and Latin America to assume a common position at the Cancún conference. The members of the group urged their partners to press the regional bodies (Mercosur, UNASUL) with a view to achieving this objective. As expected, the Brazilian partners defended their national commitment to biofuels and argued that their production neither promotes deforestation nor endangers food security.

In conclusion, this visit to Mercosur's two powers served to confirm the good shape currently enjoyed by both their economies, grounded in healthy exports of raw materials and food products to China and India, as well as in rising internal demand. Politically, Brazil's desire to be considered the regional leader was obvious, as was its ambition to secure the status of essential player on the world stage, invoking to that end its political stability, strong economic growth and demographic weight. Argentina, by contrast, appears to be primarily focused on internal matters, reflecting the polarised nature of its home political debates.

With regard to the AA and despite the favourable declarations of principle, the negotiations may be expected to be rather complex, in the light of the proactive commercial attitudes of both Brazil and Argentina concerning agriculture, as well as the protectionist orientation that may be discerned in both economies.

**Grupo de Trabajo a Brazil y Argentina
24 - 28 de Mayo de 2010****Programa****Domingo, 23 de Mayo de 2010****Brazilia**

Llegada individual de los Miembros de la Delegación del Parlamento Europeo al aeropuerto internacional Juscelino Kubitschek en Brazilia y traslado al Hotel

Hotel Melia Brazil 21
SHS, Quadra 6 – Conj A – Lote 1

Lunes, 24 de Mayo de 2010**Brazilia**

- 10.30 Salida del Hotel
- 11.00-12.30 Encuentro con el **Prof. Marco Aurelio Garcia**, Asesor del Presidente Lula da Silva para asuntos internacionales
Presidencia de la República, CCBB
- 14.30 Encuentro con el **Rector y Profesores de la Universidad de Brazilia**
Salão de Actos da Reitoria da UNB
- 16.30 Encuentro con el **Diputado Cândido Vaccarezza** (PT/SP), Jefe de la bancada del Gobierno en la Camara de Diputados
Liderança do Governo, Câmara dos Deputados, Anexo II gab 107
- 18.00 Encuentro con **S.E. Embajador Antonio Patriota**, Secretario General del Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores
MRE - Itamaraty, 2º andar Tel (61) 3411 6102, 3

- 20.30 Cena con Embajadores de la UE ofrecida por el Sr. Luis Yáñez-Barnuevo García, Presidente de la Delegación del Parlamento Europeo para las relaciones con los Países de Mercosur
Restaurante Fogo de Chão, SHS Quadra 5 Bloco E Asa Sul, en Brazilia

- 11.00-12.30 Encuentro con el **Ministro Presidente del Supremo Tribunal Federal de Brazil y del Consejo Nacional de Justicia, Sr. César Peluso**, y con el **Ministro Corregedor Nacional de Justicia, Sr. Gilson DIPP**
Supremo Tribunal Federal, Praça dos Tres Poderes, Plenário do Conselho Nacional de Justiça (Anexo I, 2o andar)
- 13.00-14.30 Almuerzo de trabajo ofrecido por el Presidente de la Comisión de Relaciones Exteriores y de Defensa Nacional del Senado Federal, Senador Eduardo Azeredo
Restaurante Escola SESC - Anexo IV, Câmara dos Deputados
- 14.30-16.30 Reunión conjunta con la **Representación Brasileña en el Parlamento del Mercosur** abierta a las **Comisiones de Asuntos Exteriores y Defensa Nacional del Senado y de la Cámara de Diputados**
Senado Federal - Plenário 7, Comissão das Relações Exteriores e Defesa Nacional
- 17.00 Visita de cortesía al Plenario de Senado. Palabras de bienvenida del Presidente.
Senado Federal, Edifício Principal

- 9.00-10.30 Desayuno de trabajo con el **Grupo Parlamentar de Amistad Brazil - EU**, Presidido por le Diputado Bala Rocha
Restaurante dos Senadores, Anexo II Senado Federal
- 11.00 Participación en la Sesión Inaugural del XVII Forum Brazil-Europa "Clima, Energia e Meio Ambiente na agenda política entre Brazil e União Europeia", organizado por la Fundación Konrad Adenauer
Auditório Nereu Ramos, Câmara dos Deputados
- 13.00 Almuerzo de trabajo Forum Brazil-Europa
Restaurante Câmara dos Deputados, Anexo IV, 10º andar

- 15.00 Traslado hacia el aeropuerto
- 16.17 Salida del vuelo JJ 3583 hacia Buenos Aires (vía S. Paulo)
- 23.10 Llegada a Buenos Aires del vuelo JJ 8004 y traslado hacia el Hotel Alvear Palace
Av. Alvear 1891
C1129AAA, Buenos Aires

- 11.00-12.00 Encuentro con el **Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto, Sr. Jorge Taiana**
Cancillería, Despacho del Canciller. Esmeralda 1212, piso 13.
- 12.00-13.00 Encuentro con el **Vicepresidente de la Nación y Presidente del Honorable Senado, Senador Julio César Cleto Cobos** (acompañado del **Senador José Pampuro, Presidente de la Sección Argentina del Parlasur**)
Senado de la Nación, Salón Gris - ingreso por Hipólito Yrigoyen 1835
- 13.15-15.00 Almuerzo de trabajo con los Embajadores de la UE, ofrecido por el **S.E. Embajador de España, Sr. Rafael Estrella**
Residencia del Embajador
- 15.30-16.30 Encuentro con el **Sr. Presidente de la Comisión de Relaciones Exteriores de la Hon. Cámara de Diputados de la Nación, Diputado Alfredo Atanasof** ampliada a los Miembros de la Comisión
Honorable Cámara de Diputados Salón Parodi (entrada por Rivadavia 1864, piso 1º)
- 16.30-17.30 Reunión con la **Comisión del Mercosur de la Cámara de Diputados, presidida por la Diputada Gabriela Michetti**
Honorable Cámara de Diputados – Salón Delia

17.30-18.15 Reunión con la **Sección Argentina del Parlasur: Senador Giustiniani, Diputado West y Diputada di Tulio**
Senado de la nación, (ingreso por hipólito yrigoyen 1835)

- 9.30-10.30 Reunión con el **Grupo de Amistad con el Parlamento Europeo, presidido por el Dip. Hugo Prieto**
Delegación de la UE
- 11.00 Rueda de prensa
Delegación de la UE
- 13.30-15.00 Almuerzo ofrecido por el Sr. Luis Yáñez-Barnuevo García, Presidente de la Delegación del Parlamento Europeo para las relaciones con los Países de Mercosur
Palacio Duhau - Park Hyatt, Salón Posadas Avenida Alvear, 1661, Buenos Aires
- 17.00 Debriefing de la Secretaría con la Delegación de la UE en Buenos Aires
- tarde/noche Regreso individual de los Miembros de la Delegación del PE hacia Europa



**Visita de un Grupo de Trabajo a Brazil y Argentina
del 24 al 28 de Mayo de 2010**

Lista de Participantes

Miembros



Luis **YAÑEZ-BARNUEVO**
S&D
España
Presidente de la Delegación



Edite **ESTRELA**
S&D
Portugal



Ilda **FIGUEIREDO**
GUE/NGL
Portugal



Nathalie **GRIESBECK**
ALDE
Francia



Gianni **PITTELLA**
Vicepresidente del PE
responsable por América
Latina
S&D
Italia
(solo en Argentina)

Abreviaturas utilizadas para los grupos políticos del PE

- **PPE** : Grupo del Partido Popular Europeo (Demócrata-Cristianos)

- **S&D** : Grupo de la Alianza Progresista y Demócratas en el Parlamento Europeo
- **ALDE** : Grupo de la Alianza de los Demócratas y Liberales por Europa
- **GUE/NGL** : Grupo Confederal de la Izquierda Unitaria Europea/Izquierda Verde Nórdica

Secretaría de la Delegación : DG Políticas Exteriores

Sr	Pedro	VALENTE da SILVA	Unidad Administrador - Desk Mercosur	América Latina
Sr	Francisco	CABRAL	Unidad Asistente Administrativo	América Latina

Interpretes

Sra	Pilar	ANTELO	Cabina Española
Sra	Maria Alba	RUSIÑOL VILA	Cabina Española
Sr	Euclides	LAZZAROTTO	Cabina Portuguesa
Sr	Fernando	FERREIRA	Cabina Portuguesa
Sr	Ken	COLGAN	Cabina Inglesa
Sr	Andrew	BOLTON	Cabina Inglesa