



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2009 - 2014

Delegation for relations with Mercosur

NOTICE TO MEMBERS

(2/2010)

**Subject: Visit of Delegation Chair Luis Yáñez-Barnuevo García to Montevideo
from 29 November to 2 December 2009**

Visit of Delegation Chair Luis Yáñez-Barnuevo García to Montevideo from 29 November to 2 December 2009

In my capacity as Chair of the European Parliament Delegation for relations with Mercosur, I visited Uruguay from 29 November to 2 December 2009. As the appended programme illustrates, my work in Montevideo was both institutional and academic in nature.

As part of my programme of institutional tasks, I established contacts with the Mercosur Parliament (Parlasur) and the EU Delegation in Uruguay.

Parlasur invited me to speak at the opening of its plenary session on 30 November. In my speech I stressed the vital importance of continuing and deepening relations between Parlasur and the European Parliament, carrying on where my immediate predecessors Mr D'Alema and Mr Sousa Pinto had left off. I then called for a prompt resumption of negotiations towards an association agreement between the EU and Mercosur.

In the debate following my short speech, the spokesmen of the five national delegations making up the parliament expressed their concern at the economic situation in some European countries, particularly with regard to unemployment (Uruguayan delegation), the need to overcome the fact that Parlasur was organised in national delegations (Paraguayan delegation), unease about European migration policy, in particular in Spain (Venezuelan delegation), interest in environmental issues and climate change (Brazilian delegation) and condemnation for the electoral process in Honduras (Argentinean delegation).

My work with Parlasur also led me to meet with its President, Juan José Domínguez, and, the following day, with its Vice-President, Ignacio Mendoza, and other Paraguayan Members of Parliament. They were interested above all in gaining a more in-depth understanding of certain aspects of European integration.

One highlight of my work with the EU Delegation to Uruguay was the ceremony to commemorate the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty that the Delegation held on 1 December. I represented the European Parliament at this event, which was hosted by Geoffrey Barrett and attended by representatives of the Council – the Spanish Ambassador, Aurora Díaz-Rato – and the Government of Uruguay – Ambassador Elbio Rosselli.

As I have mentioned, there was also an academic aspect to my visit to Montevideo. As Chair of our delegation I was asked to take part in the seminar 'Mercosur-European Union, a strategic agreement?' held by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung.

My speech at this seminar focused on, amongst other things, the fundamental role played by Members of Parliament, and political groups in particular, in relations between the EU and Latin America. I categorically stated that relations with Mercosur are a strategic option for the European Parliament, whilst urging them to lobby for an association agreement between the EU and Mercosur.

Lastly, I would like to point out that, as I was in Montevideo on election day, I was able to keep in touch with representatives of the political movement supporting the President-in-Office and the President-elect, José Mujica, whom I congratulated. These contacts enabled me to find out that a Uruguayan member of EuroLat will most probably be part of the new government under José Mujica.



**Visita del
Presidente de la Delegación a Montevideo
del 29 noviembre al 2 diciembre de 2009**

Proyecto de Programa

Domingo, 29 de Noviembre de 2009

10h10 Llegada al aeropuerto internacional de Montevideo del Sr. Luís Yañez-Barnuevo Garcia,
Presidente de la Delegación del PE para las relaciones con Mercosur

- *Vuelo IB 6013, procedente de Madrid*
- *Recibe la Delegación de la Comisión Europea en Uruguay*

Traslado al hotel NH Columbia

- *Rambla Gran Bretaña, 473*
Teléfono (+598) 2 916 00 01

Durante el día, acompaña, a título personal, el segundo turno de las elecciones presidenciales en Uruguay

Lunes, 30 de Noviembre de 2009

10h20 Llegada al aeropuerto internacional de Montevideo del Sr. José Antonio Gil de Muro,
Consejero del Grupo de la Alianza Progresista y Demócratas en el Parlamento Europeo
(S&D)

- *Vuelo IB 6013, procedente de Madrid*

13h00 Almuerzo ofrecido por el Sr. Ignacio Mendoza Unzain, Vicepresidente del Parlamento del
Mercosur

tarde Intervención en la apertura de la Sesión Plenaria del Parlamento del Mercosur (Parlasur)

noche Cena ofrecida por el Jefe de la Delegación de la Comisión Europea en Uruguay,
Sr. Geoffrey Barrett

Martes, 1 de Diciembre de 2009

- 12h00 Ceremonia de conmemoración de entrada en vigor del Tratado de Lisboa
- ◉ *Delegación de la Comisión Europea en Uruguay*
Bulevar Artigas 1300, (11300), Montevideo
Tel: (+598) 2 19440
- Tarde Participación en el Seminario "UE-Mercosur ¿Un acuerdo estratégico?"
- ◉ *Teatro Solís, Montevideo*
Organización : Fundación Friedrich Ebert

Miércoles, 2 de Diciembre de 2009

- 9h00 Intervención en el Seminario "UE-Mercosur ¿Un acuerdo estratégico?"
Tema : Mirada Progresista - Los Parlamentos Opinan
- ◉ *Teatro Solís, Montevideo*
- 17h10 Regreso a Europa del Sr. Luís Yañez-Barnuevo Garcia, Presidente de la Delegación del PE para las relaciones con Mercosur y del Sr José Antonio Gil de Muro, Consejero del Grupo de la Alianza Progresista y Demócratas en el Parlamento Europeo (S&D)
- ◉ *Vuelo IB 6014 con destino a Madrid*