



Delegation for relations with the Mercosur countries

DMER_PV(2011)0201

MINUTES

of the meeting of 1 February 2011, from 10.00 to 11.30
Brussels

The meeting opened at 10.05 on Tuesday, 1 February 2011, with Nuno Melo (1st Vice-Chair) in the chair.

1. Adoption of draft agenda (PE 446.700v01)

The draft agenda was adopted.

2. Approval of minutes of the meeting of 25 October 2010 (PE 446.698v01)

The minutes were approved.

3. Updated 2011 programme of activities for the delegation

The updated programme of activities was approved

4. Chair's announcements

The Chair informed Members of the great interest in attending the meeting expressed by Christian Leffler, who had been appointed Director-General for the Americas of the European External Action Service on 14 December 2010 by the High Representative for Foreign Affairs. He then handed him the floor.

After introducing himself to Members, Mr Leffler reaffirmed his commitment to ensuring that the negotiations for an association agreement with the Mercosur countries became one of his priorities. He emphasised that such an agreement was of

high importance to the EU, both economically and politically. The Director-General stressed that the association agreement would help to strengthen cooperation between the EU and Mercosur in international fora, particularly with respect to the reform of international governance and the international financial institutions, the fight against climate change, support for human rights and the struggle against poverty. He also pointed out that the decision to relaunch the association agreement negotiations had helped to give new momentum to the Mercosur integration process. In conclusion, he stated that Parliament's support was vital to the progress of the negotiations and recalled that the EU hoped to complete the association agreement during 2011, as the High Representative and the Trade Commissioner had recently stated.

The Chair recalled that a joint declaration on the negotiations for a EU-Mercosur strategic association agreement had been adopted at the time of the meeting held by the Delegation with Members of the Mercosur Parliament (Parlasur) and the national parliaments of the Mercosur countries in the Latin American Parliament, on the occasion of the meetings of the EuroLat standing committees held on 5 November 2010 in Cuenca (Ecuador).

In this declaration, the Members reiterated their support for the renewal of negotiations for an association agreement, echoing Parliament's resolution of 21 October 2010 on trade relations with Latin America, and informed the governments of the member countries of the Mercosur-EU Summit of their intention to play a full part in all stages of the negotiations, with a view to ensuring a balanced and far-reaching agreement.

5. State of negotiations towards the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement following the 29 November – 7 December 2010 round of talks in Brasilia. Exchange of views with the Paraguayan Ambassador to the EU, H.E. Mario Sandoval, on behalf of Paraguay's pro tempore Mercosur Presidency, and the Deputy Director-General of DG Trade at the Commission, João Aguiar Machado

The Paraguayan Ambassador to the EU, H.E. Mario Sandoval, emphasised that the Mercosur countries wished to conclude negotiations with the EU on the association agreement under the pro tempore Paraguayan presidency of Mercosur, during the first half of 2011, or under the subsequent Uruguayan presidency. He added that Mercosur hoped to conclude a far-reaching agreement with the EU, with a major trade component and significant chapters concerning political dialogue and cooperation. He also indicated that the association agreement should strike a fair balance between the interests of both parties, in order to guarantee tangible benefits for their respective economies and populations. Ambassador Sandoval informed the meeting that during the latest round of negotiations in Brasilia, the parties had progressed with the legislative part of the negotiations and had made a commitment to work towards exchanging trade offers in the short term, probably by the end of March 2011. Finally, the Ambassador stressed that the current level of integration of Mercosur was such as to enable conclusion of an association agreement with the EU.

The Deputy Director-General of DG Trade at the Commission, João Aguiar Machado, said that the association agreement would lead to an exponential increase in trade exchanges between the two regions and emphasised that opening up the Mercosur

market would have a major positive impact on EU exports. The Deputy Director-General went on to remind Members of the most sensitive points of the negotiations, namely protection of intellectual property rights (particularly designations of origin), public contracts and sustainable development, for Europe, and access to the European agricultural market, for Mercosur. Mr Aguiar Machado also stressed that it was of fundamental importance to Mercosur to establish a preferential trade relationship with the EU, in order to counterbalance growing Chinese economic influence in the region. He concluded by saying that he hoped that the following week's visit to Paraguay and Uruguay by the Trade Commissioner Mr De Gucht would give additional impetus to the next round of negotiations.

An exchange of views then took place between the visiting speakers and Members.

Speakers: Pilar Ayuso, Silvia-Adriana Țicău, Jean-Pierre Audy, Ilda Figueiredo, José Ignacio Salafranca, Britta Thomsen and the Chair.

6. Exchange of views with Adrian van den Hoven, Director of International Relations for BUSINESSEUROPE, and Rui Faria da Cunha, Executive Director of Brazilian Business Affairs – Europe, on the trade negotiations towards the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement

Adrian van den Hoven, Director of International Relations for BUSINESSEUROPE, drew attention to the great economic potential of the association agreement's trade chapter, as it would open the way to tens of thousands of jobs being created in both regions over the next few years and would give rise to additional trade and investment worth around two billion euros. He added that the association agreement would stimulate economic growth in the EU countries, ensure rapid growth in the Mercosur countries and create economic synergies between the two regional blocs. He also pointed out that the agreement would reduce the costs of raw materials for European businesses, guarantee the EU's access to these materials for the European market and provide the Mercosur countries with a major export market for these products.

Mr van den Hoven concluded by drawing Members' attention to the fact that in recent years the EU had lost a share of the Mercosur market to China. At the same time, the artificial devaluation of China's currency had had a negative impact on the Mercosur countries, causing a rapid increase in the value of their currencies and a consequent decline in exports.

Mr Rui Faria da Cunha, Executive Director of Brazilian Business Affairs – Europe (BBA), reiterated the Brazilian National Confederation of Industry's support for the association agreement negotiations. He considered that conclusion of an ambitious and far-reaching agreement would open the door to much-needed greater reciprocal access to markets, bearing in mind that both blocs were currently faced with many uncertainties, such as those arising from China's increasing influence in international trade and investment. The executive director of BBA highlighted four factors to be taken into consideration by the negotiations: the existence of different exchange rates; leading to a strengthening of the Brazilian real and depreciation of the euro; uncertainty about the future of the euro; diverging economic growth trends and different domestic policies to support production. In closing, Mr Faria da Cunha warned that the outcome of the negotiations should in no way be subordinated to the

desire to conclude an agreement as soon as possible.

Speakers: José Ignacio Salafranca and the Chair.

7. Other business

There was no other business.

8. Date and place of next meeting

The Chair announced that the next meeting of the Delegation would take place on 14 April 2011, from 10.00 to 11.30, in Brussels.

The meeting closed at 11.35.

**ПРИСЪСТВЕН ЛИСТ/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/
ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/KATAΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/
LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU REĢISTRŠ/DALYVIŲ SAŪAŠAS/JELENLÉTI ÍV/
REĢISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŠCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/LISTÁ DE PREZENŤÁ/
PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA**

Бюро/Mesa/Předsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/Biuras/Elnökség/ Prezydium/Birou/Predsednictvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
MELO (VP), AUDY (VP)
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselők/ Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
AYLWARD, AYUSO, ESTRELA, GREZE, TEIXEIRA, THOMSEN,
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Supplenti/ Aizstājēji/Pavaduojuantys nariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/Namestniki/ Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
DIAZ DE MERA, FIGUEIREDO, HANDZLIK, TICĂU

187 (2)
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193 (3)
SALAFRANCA
46 (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/Darbotvarkēs punktas/ Napirendi pont/Punt Agenda/Agendapunt/Punkt porządku dziennego/Ponto OD/Punct de pe ordinea de zi/Bod programu schôdze/ Točka UL/Esityslistan kohta/Föredragningslista punkt)
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Наблюдатели/Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaatlejad/Παρατηρητές/Observers/Observateurs/Osservatori/ Novērotāji/Stebētājai/Megfigyelők/Osservatori/Waarnemers/Observatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelia/Opazovalci/ Tarkkailijat/Observatörer
VAN LAERHOVEN (BusinessEurope), DESPLEMIN (Unica); KUTAS (Unica), Alex FIGUEIREDO PINTO (BBA); M. RIBEIRO (BBA); SMORCZEWSKA (BBA); KULKA (BBA); PERRONI (EUBRASIL)

По покана на председателя/Por invitación del presidente/Na pozvání předsedy/Efter indbydelse fra formanden/Auf Einladung des Vorsitzenden/Εσιμεhe 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 tač'-Chairman/ 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
Mario SANDOVAL, Paraguayan Ambassador to the EU; Christian LEFFLER, Managing Director for the Americas of the European External Action Service, João AGUIAR MACHADO, Deputy Director-General of DG Trade of the European Commission; Adrian van den HOVEN, BUSINESSEUROPE; Rui FARIA DA CUNHA, Brazilian Business Affairs-Europe

Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nōukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/Conseil/Consiglio/Padome/Taryba/Tanács/Kunsill/Raad/Conselho/Consiliu/Svet/Neuvosto/Rådet (*)	
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Комисия/Comisión/Komise/Kommissionen/Kommission/Euroopa Komisjon/Επιτροπή/Commission/Commissione/Komisija/Bizottság/Kummissjoni/Commissie/Komisja/Comissão/Comisie/Komisia/Komissio/Kommissionen (*)	
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 oħra/Andere instellingen/Inne instytucje/Outras Instituições/Alte instituīii/Iné inštitúcie/Druge institucije/Muut toimielimet/Andra institutioner/organ	
EEAS EESC PARLATINO	PALMERO TORCHIANI ROSSI

Други участници/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/Dруги udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare	
ROMERO, Embassy of Paraguay; MOLINAS, Embassy of Paraguay; GONZALEZ, CANCELA - Embassy of Uruguay; FREITAS; COSTA - Embassy of Brazil; FERNANDEZ, BERAUD, SILVA - Embassy of Argentina; DE WAELE (BASE SE); HODAC (Ford Motor); SILVA (UFSC Brasil); LINFORTIN (EFPIA)	
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/Frakciju sekretoriai/Képviseletcsoportok titkársága/Sekretarjat gruppi poliitici/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secr. dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupin/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristö/Gruppernas sekretariat	
PPE S&D ALDE ECR Verts/ALE GUE/NGL EFD NI	SALAFRANCA; RIZZA MELIS; GEUTHNER MUÑO A SALAVERRIA

Кабинет на председателя/Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelář předsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinett des Präsidenten/Presidendi kantselēi/Γραφείο Προέδρου/President's Office/Cabinet du Président/Gabinetto del Presidente/Priekšsēdētāja kabinets/Pirmininko kabinetas/Elnöki hivatal/Kabinett tal-President/Kabinet van de Voorzitter/Gabinet Przewodniczącego/Gabinete do Presidente/Cabinet Preşedinte/Kancelária predsedu/Urad predsednika/Puhemiehen kabinetti/Talmannens kansli	
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Кабинет на генералния секретар/Gabinete del Secretario General/Kancelář generálního tajemníka/Generalsekretærens Kabinet/Kabinett des Generalsekretärs/Peasekretäri büroo/Γραφείο Γενικού Γραμματέα/Secretary-General's Office/Cabinet du Secrétaire général/Gabinetto del Segretario generale/Generalsekretära kabinets/Generalinio sekretoriaus kabinetas/Főtitkári hivatal/Kabinett tas-Segretarju Ġenerali/Kabinet van de secretaris-generaal/Gabinet Sekretarza Generalnego/Gabinete do Secretário-Geral/Cabinet Secretar General/Kancelária generálneho tajomníka/Urad generalnega sekretarja/Pääsihteerin kabinetti/Generalsekreterarens kansli	
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Генерална дирекция/Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/Directorate-General/Direction générale/Direzione generale/Generāldirektorāts/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/Direktorat Ġenerali/Direktoraten-generaal/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direcții Generale/Generálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni direktorat/Pääosasto/Generaldirektorat	
DG PRES	.
DG IPOL	.
DG EXPO	HALLDORF-ROMERO, RODRIGUEZ SARRO
DG COMM	.
DG PERS	.
DG INLO	.
DG TRAD	.
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Правна служба/Servicio Jurídico/Právní služba/Juridisk Tjeneste/Juristischer Dienst/Öigusteenistus/Νομική Υπηρεσία/Legal Service/Service juridique/Servizio giuridico/Juridiskais dienests/Teisės tarnyba/Jogi szolgálat/Servizz legali/Juridische Dienst/Wydział prawny/Serviço Jurídico/Serviciu Juridic/Právny servis/Pravna služba/Oikeudellinen yksikkö/Rättstjänsten	
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VALENTE DA SILVA, FERNANDEZ FERNANDEZ	
Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asystent/Pomočnik/Avustaja/Assistenten	
LICOP CABO	

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