



DCAM_PV(2017)0126_1

MINUTES

of the meeting of 26 January 2017, 10.30-12.00
Brussels

The meeting opened at 10.35 on Thursday, 26 January 2017, with Sofia Sakorafa (Chair) presiding.

1. Adoption of the draft agenda (PE 576.443v01-00)

The Chair presented the draft agenda and submitted it for approval. The draft agenda was adopted as shown in these minutes.

2. Approval of minutes of the meetings of 5 December 2016 (PE 576.444v01-00)

The minutes of the delegation meeting of 5 December 2016 were approved without any changes.

3. Chair's announcements

The approval by the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica of PARLACEN's proposal to modify provisions for the composition of the Central American delegation to the JPC is still pending. After several inquiries by the DCAM secretariat, the Assembly promised to answer soon.

4. Exchange of views on the draft calendar of activities for the second semester 2017

The Chair informed Members that she is in constant contact with the Cuban embassy on the issue of a delegation visit to Cuba in the second half of this year and that she will have an answer from the Cuban side regarding the authorisation of the visit in the coming days.

5. Presentation and exchange of views of the objectives of the Costa Rican Presidency *pro-témport* of the System of Integration of Central America (SICA) for the first semester of 2017

H.E. Mr István Alfaro, Ambassador of Costa Rica to the EU presented the objectives of the

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Costa Rican Presidency pro-tempore of the System of Integration of Central America (SICA) for the first semester of 2017. He said that the final working document has not been finalised yet, because Costa Rica's proposals for the working programme still need to be approved by all SICA Members. The Presidency will base its work on the five priorities defined for the region, which are: democratic security, risk management and climate change, social integration and the fight against poverty, economic integration and institutional strengthening. Aside from these priorities, the Agenda 2030 will serve as an important point of reference.

The ambassador pointed out that Costa Rica wants to go ahead with the reform of SICA with the aim of making the organisation more transparent and more effective in its responses to the region's political, social, economic and ecological challenges.

As regards economic integration, Costa Rica will continue with the implementation of the Central American Strategy for trade and competitiveness. Into this strategy, Costa Rica wants to include integration in the field of tourism. Mr Alfaro stressed the importance of the implementation of the EU-Central America Associating Agreement for SICA, although SICA itself is not party to this agreement, but a great majority of SICA member states are.

As for climate change, the Presidency pro tempore will organise a congress about water to react to the consequences of the drought which has hit the region.

Costa Rica is coordinating its work closely with Panama, which will hold the SICA pro tempore Presidency in the second half of 2017.

Mr Aldo Dell'Ariccia, Head of Division for Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean, EEAS, underlined the importance of Central American integration for the stability and prosperity of the region. The main challenges of today, such as climate change, cross border crime and the fight against poverty can be better tackled together. The EU will give full support to the Costa Rica Presidency of SICA based on shared values: democracy, human rights, stability and social cohesion. Mr Dell'Ariccia stressed that the EU fully supports the institutional reform of SICA, which was agreed in Roatán in June 2016 and ratified in Managua in December 2016. He said that in 2017 there will be substantial changes in SICA and that the EU will be happy to assist the reform process. Mr Dell'Ariccia underlined the importance of the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement, which has been the main instrument for the bi-regional cooperation in recent years. Within the period 2014-2020 there has been a substantial increase in cooperation, with 120 million euro earmarked for the SICA process.

Speakers: Pilar Ayuso (EPP, ES), José Faria (EPP, PT), Caterina Chinnici (S&D, IT).

6. Exchange of views on the report N° 30/2016 of the European Court of Auditors on the effectiveness of EU support to priority sectors in Honduras

Bettina Jacobsen, the Member of the European Court of Auditors responsible for the report, said that EU aid to Honduras has helped with a number of positive developments, but the overall situation in the country remains worrying. Poverty has increased, the area of forestry has decreased, and there is still widespread violence with a very high homicide rate.

Ms Jakobsen said that the Court assessed the European Commission's management of development support to Honduras and the extent to which its objectives had been achieved. The priority sectors examined were poverty reduction, forestry, and security and justice. She underlined that overall EU aid increased from €223 million for the 2007-2013 period to €235 million for the 2014-2020 period.

Ms Jacobsen summarised the Court of Auditors' findings saying that EU action was relevant and generally delivered the expected outputs, but difficult circumstances in the country and a number of management weaknesses hindered its impact. She criticised the Commission's approach as insufficiently focused, with financial assistance spread over many areas, which increased the risk of jeopardising its impact. She also found shortcomings in the Commission's monitoring.

The Member of the Court of Auditors warned that although there is a good donor coordination structure in Honduras, actual collaboration was relatively limited, which in some cases led to overlapping support. She welcomed the Commission's decision to work towards joint programming with EU Member States from 2018 onwards.

Ms Jacobsen acknowledged that the Commission has developed strategies to structure a constructive policy dialogue with the Government of Honduras in various areas. This is good practice although there are no written assessments of the degree to which the objectives have been achieved.

H.E. Mr Roberto Ochoa Madrid, Ambassador of Honduras to the EU, said the report strengthens the cooperation between the EU and Honduras. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs, as the responsible body for cooperation, has made a positive assessment of the EU support. Honduras agrees that the dialogue in the priority sectors should be enhanced before 2018, because this would lend to a greater dynamic for the strategy between the EU and the Honduran government for the monitoring of the projects.

The ambassador recognised the work of the European electoral observers' mission during the two last elections. Its recommendations have furthered a substantial reform of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal, of the national voters' registers, of the electoral law and the financing of political parties.

Mr Ochoa said that in the field of security, justice and human rights, the country has made much progress, for example through the strengthening of the operational institutions of justice via the Eurojusticia programme, contributing to the national efforts to fight impunity and corruption. And with the support of the European Union, Honduras is also undertaking the difficult process of the depuration and certification of the national police. The ambassador also stressed the important progress which has been made in the negotiations for the voluntary association Agreement AVA FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade). Honduras is expecting growth rates of 3.6% in 2016 and 3.7% in 2017, which will allow Honduras to have the resources required under the modalities of the budget support. In conclusion, the ambassador said that the country has achieved important progress in security, environment and poverty reduction in the last two years.

Jolita Butkeviciene, Director for Latin America and Caribbean at the European Commission's DG DEVCO (International Cooperation and Development), said that given the limited funding available (more than 200 million euro in 2007-2013), the EU can only help the government of Honduras in implementing its priority policies. The EU supported Honduras in the priority area of tackling poverty, which is a vast field. The Director refuted criticism by the ECA that EU support is not focussed and said that the EU is responding to emerging needs, which can lead to actions in many areas. Ms Butkeviciene underlined the very strong commitment of the Government of Honduras to work with DG DEVCO in various areas. Ms Butkeviciene stressed that DG DEVCO is very proud on their donor coordination. Some overlaps may still occur, but generally the coordination of the donors is working well. She pointed out that the budget support management has much improved since 2007. Ms Butkeviciene said that they are working very closely with Civil Society at a grass root level. She deplored the perception that statistical data, the "baselines", on which to create indicators

to measure progress, are weak in Honduras, a fact that led to the ECA criticism. Overall, DG DEVCO saw progress in a number of fields, especially in the fields of tax evasion and tax fraud, but also human rights.

Mr Aldo Dell'Araccia, Head of Division for Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean, EEAS, confirmed that the EEAS agrees with the recommendations made by the auditors' report and that they are working with DG DEVCO to translate them into operational practices. The report demonstrates that there are results and the EU actions delivered the expected output, even if sometimes with delays. Mr Dell'Araccia referred positively to the observation by the auditors that the EU policy dialogue was instrumental to bring about progress in protecting human rights defenders. The EEAS warned that it would be a mistake to scrap funding especially in the field of human rights as requested by some civil society organisations.

Speakers: José Faria (EPP; PT), Caterina Chinnici (S&D, IT), Sofia Sakorafa (GUE; EL).

7. Any other business

There was no other business.

8. Date and place of next meeting

The Chair announced that the next delegation meeting would be held on Thursday, 27 April 2016 in Brussels.

The meeting closed at 12.00.

**ПРИСЪСТВЕН ЛИСТ/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/
ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/KATAΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/
LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/POPIS NAZOČNIH/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU REĢISTRŠ/DALYVIŲ SAŖAŠAS/
JELENĹTI ÍV/REGISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŠCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/
LISTÁ DE PREZENŤA/PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÁSNÁOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA**

Буро/Мesa/Pfedsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Predsjedništvo/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/ Biuras/Elnökség/Prezydium/Birou/Predsednictvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
Sofia Sakorafa, Gabriel Mato, Caterina Chinnici
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Zastupnici/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/ Kérviseleők/Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Mireille D'Ornano, José Inácio Faria,
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Zamjenici/ Supplenti/Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantysnariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/ Namestniki/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
Pilar Ayuso, Nathalie Griesbeck, Verónica Lope Fontagné

200 (2)
206 (3)
53 (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/Τοčka dnevnog reda/Punto all'ordine del giorno/Darba kārtības punkts/Darbotvarkės punktas/Napirendi pont/Punt Agenda/Agendapunt/Punkt porządku dziennego/Ponto OD/Punct de pe ordinea de zi/Bod programu schôdze/Τοčka UL/Esityslistan kohta/Föredragningslista punkt)

Наблюдатели/Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaatlejad/Παρατηρητές/Observers/Observateurs/Promatrači/Osservatori/Novērotāji/Stebėtojai/Megfigyelők/Osservatori/Waarnemers/Observatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelia/Opazovalci/Tarkkailijat/Observatörer
Rubén Escalante (Chargé d'Affaires a.i. Embassy of El Salvador), Tatiana Lucero (Counsellor Embassy of Guatemala), H.E. José Briz (Ambassador of Guatemala to the EU), José Eduardo Atala (Counsellor Embassy of Honduras), Loyda García (Embassy of Honduras), H.E. Dario Chirú (Ambassador of Panama to the EU), H.E. Lautaro Sandino Montes (Ambassador of Nicaragua to the EU), Ayescha Borland (Counsellor Embassy of Belize), Acsamary Guzmán (Minister Counsellor Embassy of Dominican Republic), Alejandro Patiño Cruz (Head of Trade Embassy of Costa Rica), Andrés Vargas (Counsellor Embassy of Costa Rica), Alfonso Young (Embassy of Panama), Claudia Beltrán (Embassy of El Salvador), Gabriela Ramírez (Embassy of El Salvador), Ricardo Lagos (representative of Parlacen in the EU), Orlando Rossi (representative of Parlatino in the EU).

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/Na poziv predsjednika/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
H.E. Mr Roberto Ochoa, Ambassador of Honduras to the EU, H.E. Mr István Alfaro, Ambassador of Costa Rica to the EU

Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nõukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/Conseil/Vijeće/Consiglio/Padome/Taryba/Tanács/Kunsill/Raad/Conselho/Consiliu/Svet/Neuvosto/Rådet (*)	
Комисия/Comisión/Komise/Kommissionen/Kommission/Euroopa Komisjon/Επιτροπή/Commission/Komisija/Commissione/Bizottság/Kummissjoni/Commissie/Komisja/Comissão/Comisie/Komisia/Komissio/Kommissionen (*)	
DG DEVCO: Jolita Butkeviciene (Director), Ewa Perfikowska, Paula Martínez, Aniceto Rodríguez	
Европейска служба за външна дейност/Servicio Europeo de Acción Exterior/Evropská služba pro vnější činnost/EU-Udenrigstjenesten/Europäischer Auswärtiger Dienst/Euroopa välisteenistus/Ευρωπαϊκή Υπηρεσία Εξωτερικής Δράσης/European External Action service/Service européen pour l'action extérieure/Europiska služba za vanjsko djelovanje/Servizio europeo per l'azione esterna/Eiropas Ārējās darbības dienests/Europos išorės veiksmų tarnyba/Európai Külügyi Szolgálat/Servizz Ewropew ghall-Azzjoni Esterna/Europese dienst voor extern optreden/Europejska Služba 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 (*)	
Aldo Dell'Ariccia, Sylvain Schultze, Gonzalo Sans Sánchez	
Други институции/Otras instituciones/Ostatní orgány a instituce/Andre institutioner/Andere Organe/Muud institutsioonid/Άλλα θεσμικά όργανα/Other institutions/Autres institutions/Druge institucije/Altre istituzioni/Citas iestādes/Kitos institucijos/Más intézmények/Istituzzjonijiet oħra/Andere instellingen/Inne instytucje/Outras Instituições/Alte instituții/Iné inštitúcie/Muut toimielimet/Andra institutioner/organ	
European Court of Auditors	Bettina Jakobsen, Werner Vlasselaer, Katja Mattfolk

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

Секретариат на политическите групи/Secretaría de los Grupos políticos/Sekretariát politických skupin/Gruppernes sekretariat/Sekretariat der Fraktionen/Fraktsioonide sekretariaat/Γραμματεία των Πολιτικών Ομάδων/Sekretariats of political groups/Secrétariat des groupes politiques/Tajništva klubova zastupnika/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko grupu sekretariāts/Frakciju sekretoriai/Képviseletcsoportok titkársága/Sekretarjat gruppi politici/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secr. dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupin/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristöt/Gruppernas sekretaria

PPE	Juan Salafranca, Analia Glogowski, Piero Rizza
S&D	Ioannis Dalmas, Pilar Ruiz Huélamo
ECR	
ALDE	
Verts/ALE	Gaby Küppers
GUE/NGL	José Criado
EFDD	
ENF	
NI	

Кабинет на председателя/Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelář předsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinett des Präsidenten/Presidendi kantselei/Γραφείο Προέδρου/President's Office/Cabinet du Président/Ured predsednika/Gabinetto del Presidente/Priekšsēdētāja kabinets/Pirmininko kabinetas/Elnöki hivatal/Kabinett tal-President/Kabinet van de Voorzitter/Gabinet Przewodniczącego/Gabinete do Presidente/Cabinet Președinte/Kancelária predsedu/Urad predsednika/Puhemiehen kabinetti/Talmannens kansli

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/Ured glavnog tajnika/Gabinetto del Segretario generale/Generalsekretära kabinets/Generalinio sekretoriaus kabinetas/Főtitkári hivatal/Kabinett tas-Segretarju Generali/Kabinet van de secretaris-generaal/Gabinet Sekretarza Generalnego/Gabinete do Secretário-Geral/Cabinet Secretar General/Kancelária generálneho tajomníka/Urad generalnega sekretarja/Pääsihteerin kabinetti/Generalsekretærens kansli

Генерална дирекция/Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoaraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/Directorate-General/Direction générale/Glavna uprava/Direzione generale/Generāldirektorāts/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/Direktorat Generali/Direktoraten-generaal/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direcții Generale/Generálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni direktorat/Päaosasto/Generaldirektorat	
DG PRES DG IPOL DG EXPO DG EPRS DG COMM DG PERS DG INLO DG TRAD DG INTE DG FINS DG ITEC DG SAFE	Jesper Tvevad, Gabriel Alvarez Recarte Christopher Wastián
Правна служба/Servicio Jurídico/Právni služba/Juridisk Tjeneste/Juristischer Dienst/Öigusteenistus/Νομική Υπηρεσία/Legal Service/Service juridique/Pravna služba/Servizio giuridico/Juridiskais dienests/Teisės tarnyba/Jogi szolgálat/Servizz legali/Juridische Dienst/Wydział prawny/Serviço Jurídico/Serviciu Juridic/Právny servis/Oikeudellinen yksikkö/Rättstjänsten	
Секретариат на комисията/Secretaría de la comisión/Sekretariát výboru/Udvalgssekretariatet/Ausschusssekretariat/Komisjoni sekretariāt/Γραμματεία επιτροπής/Committee secretariat/Secrétariat de la commission/Tajništvo odbora/Segreteria della commissione/Komitejas sekretariāts/Komiteto sekretoriatas/A bizottság titkársága/Sekretarjat tal-kumitat/Commissiesecretariaat/Sekretariat komisji/Sekretariado da comissão/Sekretariat comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottssekretariatet	
J. Javier Fernández Fernández, Helmut Weixler	
Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asyistent/Pomočnik/Avustaja/Assistenten	
Frédérique Albert	

- * (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Président/Predsjednik/Priekšsēdētājs/Pirmininkas/Elnök/Chairman/Voorzitter/Przewodniczący/Preşedinte/Predseada/Predsednik/Puheenjohtaja/Ordförande
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- (F) = Длъжностно лице/Funcionario/Úředník/Tjenestemand/Beamter/Ametnik/Υπάλληλος/Official/Fonctionnaire/Dužnosnik/Funzionario/Ierēdnis/Pareigūnas/Tisztviselő/Ufficial/Ambtenaar/Urzędnik/Funcionário/Funcionar/Úradník/Uradnik/Virkamies/Tjänsteman