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*Delegation for relations with Mercosur*

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**DMER\_PV(2017)1307**

**MINUTES**

of the meeting of 13 July 2017, 11.00-12.30

Brussels

The meeting opened at 11.05 on Thursday, 13 July 2017, with Francisco Assis (Chair) presiding.

**1. Adoption of draft agenda (PE 596.536v03\_00)**

The draft agenda was adopted.

**2. Approval of minutes of meeting of the 30 March 2017 (PE 585.202)**

The draft minutes were adopted.

**3. Chair's announcements**

The Chair informed Members that they would find in the meeting dossier the calendar of activities of the Delegation for the second half of 2017. The calendar was adopted.

**4. State of play in EU-Mercosur negotiations on the future association agreement**

Exchange of views with Argentine Ambassador, Mr Mario Verón Guerra, representative of the Mercosur *pro tempore* Presidency, Matthias Jørgensen, Head of Unit, Latin America, DG Trade, Commission and with Jean-Pierre Bou, Deputy Head of Division, South America, EEAS.

Mr. **Verón** highlights the importance of the bi-regional trade relations. For Argentina, which

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has held Mercosur's *pro tempore* Presidency so far, the successful negotiation of the Association Agreement with the EU has been the first priority of its presidency. According to the Ambassador Verón Guerra the negotiations have progressed very satisfactorily in all chapters during the current semester, giving rise to common texts, especially in trade and sustainable development. Notwithstanding, there are issues where there are differences between both regional blocks, such as rules of origin, geographical indications, especially sensitive to the EU, etc. Although it is an ambitious goal, the deadline has been set as for December 2017. Both parties are aware of the difficulty of the task, with rounds of negotiations every month until the deadline. However, it is a unique opportunity as geopolitical and economic circumstances push in the same direction. The Ambassador insists that the agreement is not only of a commercial nature and is not only focused on agriculture, it has three fundamental pillars, apart from the aforementioned commercial one, it also covers the political and cooperation areas. Mercosur does not demand the liberalization of European agriculture sector, and understands that there are products that could be adversely affected by the agreement, so the EU will only offer tariff quotas, and even if this is the case Mercosur will only request volumes equivalent to 2% of the European market.

Mr **Jorgensen** fully agrees with the Ambassador about the importance of this negotiation for the EU. It points out that for the European Commission and DG TRADE, the main objectives for association agreements this year are Japan, Mexico and Mercosur. He emphasized the progress in all the chapters of the future agreement in the negotiation rounds already maintained, although there are elements in which there is still no agreement, as already mentioned by the Ambassador. Mr. Jorgensen goes on saying that in spite of the remaining work to achieve the objectives, he personally believes that progress is being made in the right direction and highlights some advances in animal welfare and the use of antibiotics. In others cases, progress has not been made as it was expected, like in the case of market access. He concludes that there is a strong political will to reach an agreement, and expresses his satisfaction with the work carried out by Mercosur's presidency *pro tempore*, and hopes that the next Brazilian presidency will continue to work in the same direction and with the same intensity.

Mr Jean-Pierre **Bou**, representative of the EEAS, also agrees in the existence of a strong political will to reach an agreement at the end of the year. The next round of negotiations will take place in September in Brussels, and hopes that they will be as productive as the previous rounds. He insists that the EU and Mercosur have many points in common. However, this agreement implies a very important commitment as it sends a powerful message to the world expressing the need to cooperate jointly in order to face the challenges of the century. Regarding the progress made in the agreement, Mr. Bou reiterates the advance made in the political field of the agreement and stresses the importance of the new development cooperation policy. Finally, the SEAE representative highlights the collaboration between the two regional blocs and encourages them to tackle new challenges together, with the benefit of mutual experience.

**The following spoke:** Francisco **Assis** (S&D, Portugal), Xabier **Benito** (GUE/NGL, Spain), Antonio **Marinho e Pinto** (ALDE, Portugal), and Fernando **Ruas** (EPP, Portugal).

## 5. Preparations for visit to Brazil (29 October-2 November 2017)

The Chair informed members that:

The proposed DMER visit to Brazil had been approved by the Conference of Presidents on 11 May 2017. Bearing in mind the ‘Implementing provisions governing the work of delegations and missions outside the European Union’ (Conference of Presidents decision of 29 October 2015), and in particular Article 10(1), the duration of the DMER visit to Brazil would have to be five days, including two days travelling (there and back). The programme included visits to two Brazilian cities (Brasília and Rio de Janeiro) over a period of three days, during which contacts would have to be maintained with members of the Congress, members of the Government, representatives of civil society, and Member State ambassadors accredited in Brasilia, as well as visiting a project funded by the EU in order to exercise democratic scrutiny of the implementation of the EU’s external funding instruments (Conference of Presidents decision of 29 October 2015).

Members would be arriving in Brasilia in the evening/night of Sunday, 29 October 2017. In the federal capital the participants will meet the Head of the EU Delegation, Mr Joao Cravinho and Member States ambassadors accredited in Brazil. For the afternoon of 30 November, meetings had been requested with members of the government, and possibly with the President of the Republic, Michel Temer and the Foreign Minister, Aloysio Nunes Ferreira, along with Congress’ Members. It should be noted that the DMER delegation would be accompanied on these visits by members of the EP’s Delegation for the Relations with the Federative Republic of Brazil (D-BR), who would be visiting Brazil on the same dates.

## **6. Date and place of next meeting**

The next meeting will take place on 19 October 2017, from 11.00 to 12.30, in Brussels.

The meeting closed at 12.10.

**ПРИСЪСТВЕН ЛИСТ/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/  
 ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/ΚΑΤΑΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/  
 LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/POPIS NAZOČNIH/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU REGISTRS/DALVIU SĀRAŠS/  
 JELENLÉTI ÍV/REĢISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŚCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/  
 LISTÁ DE PREZENTĀ/PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA**

Бюро/Меса/Председниство/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Predsjedništvo/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/ Biuras/Elnökség/Prezydium/Birou/Predsednictvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidet (*)
Francisco Assis (P); Xabier Benito Ziluaga (VP)
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Zastupnici/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/ Képviselők/Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputati/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Fernando Ruas
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Zamjenici/ Supplenti/Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantysnariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleančí/Náhradníci/ Namestniki/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
António Marinho e Pinto

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/Točka dnevnog reda/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/Vaattlejad/Παρατηρητές/Observers/Observateurs/Promatrači/  
Osservatori/Novērotāji/Stebētojai/Megfigyelők/Osservaturi/Waarnemers/Obserwatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelia/  
Opazovalci/Tarkkailijat/Observatörer

S.E. Embajador Carlos Pérez del Castillo (Uruguay); Valeria Csukasi (Embajada de Uruguay); Tatiana Gomes Bustamante (Embajada  
de Brasil); Adrián Daniel Serra (Embajada de Argentina); Orlando Rossi (Parlatino)

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 taé-'Chairman'/Op uitnodiging van de voorzitter/Na zaproszenie Przewodniczącego/A convite do Presidente/La invitación  
președintelui/Na pozvanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan

S.E. Everton Vargas, Embaixador do Brasil; Adrianus Koetsenruijter (EEAS); Jean-Pierre Bou (DG Trade - EC)

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

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

Abraham Zachary

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/Europska 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/Européjska Służba Działań Zewnętrznych/Serviço Europeu para a Ação Externa/  
Serviciul european pentru acțiune externă/Európska služba pre vonkajšiu činnosť/Evropska služba za zunanje delovanje/Euroopan  
ulkosuhdehallinto/Europaiska avdelningen för yttrre åtgärd (\*)

Joly Vernue

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 instituições/Iné inštitúcie/Muut  
toimielimet/Andra institutioner/organ

Други участници/Otros participantes/Ostatní účastníci/Endvidere deltog/Andere Teilnehmer/Muud osalejad/Επίσης Παρόντες/Other participants/Autres participants/Drugi sudionici/Altri partecipanti/Citi klátesošie/Kiti dalyviai/Más résztvevők/Parteícipanti ohra/Andere aanwezigen/Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Altí participanți/Iní účastníci/Drugi udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare

Priscila Quaini, Apex Brasil; Emely Rees, Apex Brasil

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/Secrétaire des groupes politiques/Tajništvo klubova zastupnika/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko grupu sekretariáts/Frakcijų sekretoriai/Képviselőcsoporthoz titkársága/Segretariat gruppi politici/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secr. dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupín/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristöt/Gruppernas sekretariat

PPE	Pier Rizza; Amelie Giesmann
S&D	Pilar Ruiz ;
ECR	Lindsay Gilbert; Machaj-Branca
ALDE	
Verts/ALE	Gaby Küppers
GUE/NGL	Luis Miguel Moreno; Carlos Villota
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 predsjednika/Gabinetto del Presidente/Priekšsēdētāja kabinets/Pirmininko kabinetas/Elnöki hivatal/Kabinet tal-President/Kabinet van de Voorzitter/Gabinet Przewodniczącego/Gabinete do Presidente/Cabinet Președinte/Kancelária predsedu/Urad predsednika/Puhemiehen kabinetti/Talmannens kansli

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Генерална дирекция/Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/ Directorate-General/Direction générale/Glavna uprava/Direzione generale/Generaldirektorāts/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/ Direttorato Generali/Directoraten-generaal/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direcții Generale/Generálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni direktorat/Pääosasto/Generaldirektorat	
DG PRES	
DG IPOL	
DG EXPO	Jesper Tvaved; Susana Mendonça
DG EPRS	Jan Baveston
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Pedro Neves	
Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asystent/Pomočník/ Avustaja/Assistenter	
Francisco Cabral	

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