



Delegation for relations with the Federative Republic of Brazil

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MINUTES

of the meeting of 29 November 2018, 14.00-15.30
Brussels

The meeting opened at 14.00 on Thursday, 29 November 2018, with Fernando Ruas (Chair) presiding.

1. Adoption of draft agenda PE536.546v02-00

The draft agenda was approved as shown in these minutes.

2. Approval of minutes of meeting of: 18 October 2018 PE536.545v01-00

The minutes were approved.

3. Chair's announcements

The Chair informed the Members of the Delegation that the Brazilian ambassador, Mr. E. Everton Vieira Vargas, did not attend the meeting today because he had already completed his mission as Brazil's ambassador to the EU and returned to Brazil on November 14. He thanked the outgoing Ambassador for the good and fruitful cooperation in recent years and wished him great success in his future tasks.

4. Analysis of the political and social situation in Brazil. The second round of the presidential elections of 28 October 2018

Ivana Gurgel, Chargée d'Affaires, Mission of the Federative Republic of Brazil to the European Union, gave a comprehensive overview of the second round of the Presidential Elections in Brazil, which was won by Jair Bolsonaro (PSL - Social Liberal Party) with 55.13% of valid votes against Fernando Haddad (PT - Workers Party) who won 44.87% of the votes. With 147,306,275 voters, the 2018 elections had the largest electorate ever registered. Turnout was 79.67% in the first round and 78.70% in the second round. Brazilian citizens in 99 countries could vote for the presidential elections, while there were 40% more voters abroad than in the

elections of 2014. Ms Gurgel stressed that the electronic voting system worked well, with less than 1% of the electronic voting systems experiencing problems. There were no signs of voter fraud detected. Ms Gurgel underlined the importance of the balanced way in which the Supreme Electoral Court was combatting fake news and disinformation.

Adrianus Koetsenruijter, Head of Division, South America, European External Action Service, said that the new government will face big challenges and will have to implement the necessary reforms. It will not be easy for the new government to find a majority for these reforms in a highly fragmented Congress, in which 30 parties are represented in total. Mr Koetsenruijter underlined that Brazil is a strategic partner for the EU. He sees possibilities for a positive and constructive cooperation with the new government in many areas such as economy and trade (hopefully in the framework of Mercosur), security and defence, science and technology, information society and renewables. He also hopes for cooperation on climate policies, although he admitted that the incoming government is sceptical about climate change. A reason for concern is the deep polarisation within the country and it will be the task of the new government to reconcile these divisions.

Fanny Vrydagh, Doctoral candidate and Assistant Professor, Cevipol (ULB) and Americas (ULB) noted that the result of the vote has to be seen in the light of the events since 2013, when the first mass demonstrations in Brazil against the government were held. A serious economic crisis, a series of corruption scandals, which discredited almost the entire political class, and a worsening security situation led to a desire for change after 14 years of governments led by the Workers Party (Partido dos Trabalhadores - PT). Nevertheless, former President Lula da Silva led the pre-election opinion polls before he was banned from running in the elections due to a controversial sentence on corruption charges. Ms Vrydagh pointed out that Mr Bolsonaro quite effectively replaced the traditional right in these elections. He led his campaign mainly through social media channels, making this the first Brazilian election where television time for candidates was not a decisive factor in their electoral success. Mr Bolsonaro did not engage either in a panel debate with other candidates or in a direct debate with his opponent in the second round, Mr Haddad.

Consequently, Ms Vrydagh presented the results of a qualitative study, which she conducted in São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro on the profile of typical Bolsonaro voters and identified two key profiles. The first voter type was worried about security issues and liked Bolsonaro's support for family and Christian values. They also blamed the PT for the country's economic crisis. The second voter type just wanted change but was not very convinced by Bolsonaro's proposals. Both groups were found to share a deep rejection of the Workers Party.

5. Presentation of the report on the ad hoc mission to Venezuela's border with Brazil of 25 to 29 June 2018

The rapporteur Francisco Assis MEP (S&D, Portugal) presented his report on the mission to the Brazilian Federal State of Roraima, which borders Venezuela. He visited the capital of the state, Boa Vista and the border town of Pacaraima. He said that though Roraima itself is a poor region facing challenges of its own, it has been coping very well with the influx of migrants/refugees. At the time of his visit, more than 40.000 people had crossed the borders to Brazil fleeing the political and economic crisis in Venezuela. Many more Venezuelans fled to Colombia and Peru. Mr Assis pointed out that people flee Venezuela for two main reasons, either for political persecution or for the need to survive. During his visit to Roraima, Mr Assis could not see any signs of racism or xenophobia and noted that the refugees were well received. He underlined the positive role that the Brazilian army is playing in the management of the crisis together with the UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency. Some problems are being

encountered with the so-called “internalisation”, i.e. the distribution of refugees to other parts of Brazil. With a view to the upcoming elections, the governors of other federal states were not very keen to take in refugees.

Adrianus Koetsenruijter, Head of Division, South America, European External Action Service, expressed his utmost appreciation for Mr Assis and all colleagues who participated in the ad hoc delegation to Brazil and Colombia. He said that the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) is active in the region to mitigate the effects of the massive refugee crisis in Venezuela and neighbouring countries. In addition, the EU has also deployed its stability instrument and EEAS representatives are continuously visiting the region. Mr Koetsenruijter concluded by expressing his wish that the European Parliament return to the region to show EU solidarity with the victims of the crisis.

6. Exchange of views on EU-Latin America cooperation on international parental child abduction

Elisabeth Morin-Chartier MEP, European Parliament Coordinator on Children’s Rights and Chair-in-Office of the College of Quaestors, noted that the number of cases of parental child abduction is on the rise due to increased international mobility. She pointed out that she has launched a diplomatic and multilateral approach to resolving this problem, which concerns an increasing number of families. The aim of her campaign is to achieve better implementation of the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.

Nils Schröder, M.A., Legal Advisor, Federal Office of Justice (Germany) said he has overseen the proceedings with Brazil for more than two years with the Federal Office of Justice, which performs the task of the Central Authority in Germany as stipulated in the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. On this basis, he confirmed that the cooperation between the Central Authorities of Germany and Brazil are generally good and improving.

In 2018, there were six bilateral cases brought forward, four of which were a request for the return of the child and two of which a request for access to the child. In total, there are 400 to 450 requests per year in Germany, which is the third highest number of requests worldwide. Among the countries with which Germany has recorded most of the procedures under the Hague Abduction Convention are Poland and Turkey with about 20 to 40 procedures a year.

The Hague Abduction Convention provides for the immediate return of a child who is unlawfully detained, i.e. in violation of the custody of another person who disagrees, transferred to or detained in another State. It is a fundamental aspect of the Hague Child Abduction Convention that the repatriation of the child takes place as promptly as possible. Therefore, it is particularly important that an expedited form of communication in the cooperation with the other Central Authorities is chosen. This is to ensure that the courts that decide on the return of the child have all the information necessary for the decision in a timely fashion.

In accordance with Article 11 (2) of the Convention, the maximum delay for a court decision is six weeks. Mr Schröder stated that this delay is often not respected by the Brazilian authorities nor in a few cases by the German authorities. It has also been the case that certain lawsuits in Brazil have dragged on for several years. The Federal Office of Justice also received communications from other EU Member States about lengthy legal proceedings with Brazil. Mr Schröder said that the long duration of proceedings generally has negative consequences. If the child has been detained for years in the state in which he or she was illegally detained or

arrested, their return is increasingly unlikely. In particular, the enforcement of a return decision becomes very difficult.

Due to an evacuation exercise by the EP, Ms Ivana Gurgel, Chargée d’Affaires, Mission of the Federative Republic of Brazil to the European Union, could not comment on this matter. In a written statement sent to this Delegation, the ambassador stressed that since its accession to the 1980 Hague Convention in 2000, Brazil has progressively improved its legislation and adopted a number of institutional mechanisms in order to fulfil its commitments and ensure the return, as soon as possible, of children illegally removed from a state, which is Party to this Convention, to another. The ambassador confirmed that the main criticism of Brazil regarding the implementation of the 1980 Hague Convention on International Child Abduction lies in the delay of the Brazilian Judiciary to promptly provide resolutions to the cases submitted to it. The ambassador states that both the Brazilian Executive and Judiciary recognize the challenges and have sought to overcome them. In this sense, some actions have already been implemented.

Ms Gurgel said that with regard to cases closed in the last year, 21 requests to Europe were finalized, with the return to Brazil of 5 children who had been taken to Germany (2), Portugal, Italy and France (French Guiana). At the same time, 36 requests were made to Brazil, with the return of 15 children to Germany (2), Denmark (3), Spain (1), England (2), Iceland (1), Switzerland (2), Italy (1) and Portugal (3).

7. Any other business

None.

8. Date and place of next meeting

The date and place of the next meeting will be communicated later.

The meeting closed at 15.30.

**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 SĄRAŠAS/
JELLENLÉTI ÍV/REĢISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŠCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/
LISTĂ DE PREZENȚĂ/PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA**

Биоро/Меса/Председnictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Predsjedništvo/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/ Biuras/Elnökség/Prezydium/Birou/Predsedníctvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
Fernando Ruas (P), António Marinho e Pinto (1st VP), Carlos Zorrinho (2nd VP)
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Zastupnici/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/ Képviselők/Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Zamjenici/ Supplenti/Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantysnariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/ Namestniki/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
Francisco Assis

200 (2)
Elisabeth Morin-Chartier
206 (3)
53 (8) (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/Darbotvarkės 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)

Наблюдатели/Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaatlejad/Παρατηρητές/Observers/Observateurs/Promatrači/Osservatori/Novērotāji/Stebėtojai/Megfigyelők/Osservatori/Waarnemers/Obserwatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelia/Opazovalci/Tarkkailijat/Observatörer

По покана на председателя/Por invitación del presidente/Na pozvání předsedy/Efter indbydelse fra formanden/Auf Einladung des Vorsitzenden/Εσίμεηε 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
Ivana Gurgel, Chargée d'Affaires, Mission of the Federative Republic of Brazil to the European Union Adrianus Koetsenruijter, Head of Division, South America, European External Action Service Fanny Vrydagh, doctoral candidate and teaching assistant, Cevipol (ULB) and AmericaS (ULB) Nils Schröder, M.A., Legal Advisor, Federal Office of Justice (Germany)

Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nðukogu/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 (*)
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 għall-Azzjoni Esterna/Europese dienst voor extern optreden/Europejska Służba Działañ Zewnętrznych/Serviço Europeu para a Acção Externa/Serviciul european pentru acțiune externă/Európska služba pre vonkajšiu činnost/Evropska služba za zunanje delovanje/Euroopan ulkosuhdehallinto/Europeiska avdelningen för yttre åtgärd (*)
Alina Stanculescu
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

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 oħra/Andere aanwezigen/Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Alți participanți/Ini účastníci/Drugi udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare
Orlando Rossi (Repr. Parlatino)

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/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 sihteeristö/Gruppernas sekretariat	
PPE	Juan Salafranca, Pierro Rizza
S&D	Pilar Ruiz Huélamo
ECR	
ALDE	
Verts/ALE	
GUE/NGL	
EFDD	
ENF	
NI	

Кабинет на председателя/Гabinete del Presidente/Kancelář předsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinett des Präsidenten/Presidendi kantslei/Γραφείο Προέδρου/President's Office/Cabinet du Président/Ured predsjednika/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/Talmanens kansli	
Кабинет на генералния секретар/Гabinete 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 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	

Генерална дирекция/Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirrektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/Directorate-General/Direction générale/Glavna uprava/Direzione generale/Ģenerāldirektorāts/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/Direttorat Ġenerali/Direktoraten-generaal/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direcții Generale/Generálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni direktorat/Pääosasto/Generaldirektorat	
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Секретариат на комисията/Secretaría de la comisión/Sekretariat výboru/Udvalgssekretariatet/Ausschusssekretariat/Komisjoni sekretariaat/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	
Helmut Weixler	
Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asystent/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/Predseda/Predsednik/Puheenjohtaja/Ordförande
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