



Delegation for relations with Mercosur

DMER_PV(2022)0203_01

MINUTES

of the meeting of 3 February 2022, 14.00-16.00

Brussels

The meeting opened on Thursday 3 February 2022 at 14.08, with Jordi Cañas (Chair) presiding.

1. Adoption of the draft agenda OJ - PE596.565v01-00

The draft agenda was adopted.

2. Approval of minutes of meetings

) DMER meeting of 2 December 2021 (PE596.564v01_00)

The minutes were approved.

3. Chair's announcements

The Chair expressed his dissatisfaction with the decision of the Conference of Presidents of 12 January 2022 to authorise the mission requested by this delegation to Paraguay and Uruguay by remote participation only. The Chair obtained a mandate from the delegation to try to reverse the decision of the Conference of Presidents and to seek authorisation to carry out the requested mission in person in the course of 2022.

4. Exchange of views on the political, economic and social situation in Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay

The Head of Mission of the Republic of Paraguay to the European Union stressed that political stability and macroeconomic discipline helped in coping with the COVID-19 crisis. He emphasised the country's sustained growth and that poverty had decreased, although this problem, and that of inequality, continued to require the attention of the public authorities.

The Head of Mission of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay to the European Union also highlighted Uruguay's political stability and its low levels of corruption. In his view, the public authorities have done an excellent job in the fight against COVID-19, achieving high levels of vaccination. He also mentioned that his country had good economic and trade data.

The Head of the Argentinean Mission to the European Union referred to his country's agreement with the IMF to reschedule Argentina's debt maturities with it, as well as the surplus in the balance of payments and economic growth in 2021. Taking advantage of the visit to Brussels of the Secretary of State for the Malvinas, Antarctica and South Atlantic Islands, the Ambassador reiterated Argentina's claim to the Malvinas Islands.

The Head of the Mission of the Federative Republic of Brazil to the European Union recalled that 2022 will be an election year in Brazil, with presidential, legislative and regional elections due to be held, and stated that Brazil was a democracy with strong institutions, an independent press and an active civil society. He deplored the loss of life and the economic and social damage that COVID-19 had caused in his country, and said that vaccination levels in Brazil were now comparable to those in Europe.

MEPs asked about the impasse in which the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement finds itself and possible options moving forward. The heads of mission concurred that the Agreement would be the best instrument for strengthening bilateral cooperation, and noted that the Commissioner responsible for trade had so far not submitted any proposals for a declaration or additional commitments that would complete the Association Agreement. They also noted the possibility that the European Green Deal could be viewed as an amendment to the agreement reached between the EU and Mercosur in June 2019, which could give rise to new demands on the part of Mercosur.

The President concluded by wishing the Uruguayan and Brazilian heads of mission all the very best as their mission in Brussels drew to a close.

Speakers: Stelios Kouloglou, Gabriele Bischoff, Miguel Urbán Crespo, Mónica Silvana González, Kathleen Van Brempt, Jordi Cañas

5. Exchange of views on the state of EU-Mercosur relations

The Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the Republic of Paraguay stressed

that the bilateral relationship, based on shared values, was excellent. He recalled that Paraguay was the third largest recipient of EU development funds in Latin America. He identified the fight against inequality, corruption, organised crime and environmental precariousness as future challenges, as well as the strengthening of institutions.

The Head of the EU Delegation to the Federative Republic of Brazil also highlighted the excellent bilateral relationship in many sectors, mentioning trade, science and technology. Among the challenges faced, he mentioned environmental protection and the fight against deforestation, recalling the recent visit to Brazil of Commission Vice-President and High Representative Josep Borrell.

The Head of the Delegation of the European Union to the Argentine Republic praised the strong bilateral cooperation, based on numerous links and common principles. He welcomed Argentina's agreement with the IMF on debt repayment and recalled Argentina's trade surplus with the EU, which stands in stark contrast with Argentina's deficit with China. He stressed the desirability of updating the institutional framework of the bilateral relationship, without prejudice to the approval of the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement.

The head of unit for South American Countries of the European External Action Service emphasised the great convergence between the Mercosur countries and the EU, as well as a series of challenges common to these countries, which required joint action. In this respect, he considered that the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement would be the appropriate instrument to address these challenges.

MEPs put questions to the speakers on issues related to Mercosur or its Member States, such as the preparation of independent environmental impact studies, the format of the future EU-Mercosur Association Agreement, the implementation of the Copernicus programme, EU and EIB support for the procurement of COVID-19 vaccines and sanitation programmes, the strengthening of civil society and ensuring people get better access to accurate information.

Speakers: Stelios Kouloglou, Miguel Urbán Crespo, Mónica Silvana González, Jordi Cañas, Josep Puxeu (European Economic and Social Committee)

6. Other business

None.

7. Date and place of next meeting

The Chair announced that the date and place of the next delegation meeting would be communicated in due course.

The meeting closed at 16.13.

/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZEN NÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/

**ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI /RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/
LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/POPIS NAZO NIH/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKL JUMU RE ISTRS/DALYVI S RAŚAS/
JELENLÉTI ÍV/RE ISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNO CILISTA DE PRESENÇAS/
LIST DE PREZEN /PREZEN NÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZO IH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/NÄRVAROLISTA**

/Mesa/P edsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/ Biuras/Elnökség/Prezydium/Birou/Predsednictvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)	/Bureau/Predsjedništvo/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/
Jordi Cañas (P), Mónica Silvana González (VP), Stelios Kouloglou (VP)	
/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiikmed/ Nariai/Képviselők/Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputati/Jäsenet	/Members/Députés/Zastupnici/Deputati/Deputati/ /Képviselők/Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputati/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Gabriele Bischoff, Daniel Buda, José Manuel Fernandes, Miguel Urbán Crespo, Kathleen Van Brempt	
/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/ Supplenti/Aizstāji/Pavaduojantysnariai/Pótagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastupcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/ Namestniki/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter	/Substitutes/Suppléants/Zamjenici/
Malin Björk, Leopoldo López Gil	

209 (7)	Ivan Vilibor Sin i
216 (3)	
56 (8) (/Punto del orden del día/Bod po adu jednání (OJ)/Punkt på dagsordenen/Tagesordnungspunkt/ Päevakorra punkt/ μ μ /Agenda item/Point OJ/To ka dnevnog reda/Punto all'ordine del giorno/Darba k rt bas punkts/Darbotvark s punktas/Napirendi pont/Punt A enda/Agendarpunkt/Punkt porz dku dziennego/Ponto OD/Punct de pe ordinea de zi/Bod programu schôdzce/To ka UL/Eesityslistan kohta/Punkt på föredragningslistan)

<p>/Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaaltejad/ Osservatori/Nov rot ji/Steb tojai/Megfigyel k/Osservaturi/Waarnemers/Obserwatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelia/ Opazovalci/Tarkkailijat/Observatörer</p>	<p>/Observers/Observateurs/Promatra i/ /At the invitation of the Chair/Sur l'invitation du président/ Na poziv predsjednika/Su invito del presidente/P c priekš d t ja uzaicin juma/Pirmininkui pakvietus/Az elnök meghívására/ Fuq stedina ta -'Chairman'/Op uitnodiging van de voorzitter/Na zaproszenie Przewodnicz cego/A convite do Presidente/La invita ia pre edintelui/ Na pozvanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan</p>
---	---

<p>/Por invitación del presidente/Na pozvání p edsedy/Efter indbydelse fra formanden/Auf Einladung des Vorsitzenden/Esimehe kutsel/ /At the invitation of the Chair/Sur l'invitation du président/ Na poziv predsjednika/Su invito del presidente/P c priekš d t ja uzaicin juma/Pirmininkui pakvietus/Az elnök meghívására/ Fuq stedina ta -'Chairman'/Op uitnodiging van de voorzitter/Na zaproszenie Przewodnicz cego/A convite do Presidente/La invita ia pre edintelui/ Na pozvanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan</p>
--

<p>S.E. Carlos Rafael Pérez del Castillo, Embajador de la República Oriental de Uruguay en Bélgica y Luxemburgo, Jefe de Misión ante la Unión Europea; S.E. Pablo Ariel Grinspun, Jefe de la Misión de la República Argentina ante la Unión Europea; S.E. Marcos Galvão, Jefe de la Misión de la República Federativa de Brasil ante la Unión Europea; S.E. Rigoberto Gauto Vielman, Embajador de la República del Paraguay en Bélgica y Luxemburgo, Jefe de Misión ante la Unión Europea; S. E. Javier García Viedma, Embajador de la Unión Europea ante la República del Paraguay (por videoconferencia); S. E. Paolo Berizzi, Embajador de la Unión Europea ante la República Oriental de Uruguay (por videoconferencia); S. E. Ignacio Ybáñez Rubio, Embajador de la Unión Europea ante la República Federativa de Brasil (por videoconferencia); S. E. Amador Sánchez Rico, Embajador de la Unión Europea ante la República Argentina (por videoconferencia)</p>

<p>/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nõukogu/ μ Conselho/Consiliu/Svet/Neuvosto/Rådet (*)</p>	<p>/Council/Conseil/Vije e/Consiglio/Padome/Taryba/Tanács/Kunsill/Raad/</p>
---	---

<p>/Comisión/Komise/Kommissionen/Kommision/Komisjon/ Kummissjoni/Comissie/Komisja/Comissão/Comisie/Komisia/Komissio/Komissionen (*)</p>	<p>/Commission/Komisija/Commissione/Bizottság/ /Servizio Europeo de Acción Exterior/Evropská služba pro vn jší innost/ EU-Udenrigstjenesten/Europäischer Auswärtiger Dienst/Euroopa väliseenistus/ /European External Action service/Service européen pour l'action extérieure/Europska služba za vanjsko djelovanje/Servizio europeo per l'azione esterna/Eiropas r j s arb bas dienests/Europos išor s veiksm tarnyba/Európai Külügyi Szolgálat/Servizz Ewropew g all-Azzjoni Esterna/Europese dienst voor extern optreden/Europejska Slu ba Działal Zewn trznych/Serвио Europeu para a Acção Externa/ Serviciul european pentru ac iune extern /Európska služba pre vonkajšiu innos /Evropska služba za zunanje delovanje/Euroopan ulkosuhdehallinto/Europeiska avdelningen för yttr åtgärd (*)</p>
---	--

<p>Veronique Lorenzo</p>

<p>/Otras instituciones y organismos/Ostatní orgány a instituce/Andre institutioner og organer/Andere Organe und Einrichtungen/Muud institutsioonid ja organid/ μ μ /Other institutions and bodies/Autres institutions et organes/Druge institucije i tijela/Altre istituzioni e altri organi/Citas iest des un strukt ras/Kitos institucijos ir staigos/ Más intézmények és szervek/Istítúciók/jiet u korpi o ra/Andere instellingen en organen/Inne instytucje i organy/Outras instituições e outros órgãos/Alte instituições si organe/Iné inštitúcie a orgány/Muut toimielimet ja elimet/Andra institutioner och organ</p>
--

<p>CESE</p>	<p>Josep Puxeu, Presidente del Comité de Seguimiento de América Latina</p>
-------------	--

/Otros participantes/Ostatní účastníci/Endvidere deltog/Andere Teilnehmer/Muud osalejad/ Other participants/Autres participants/Drugi sudionici/Altri partecipanti/Citi kl. tesošie/Kiti dalyviai/Más résztvev k/Parte ipanti ohra/Andere anwezigen/Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/AI i participan i/Iní účastníci/Drugi udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare

Guillermo Carmona, Secretario de Estado de Malvinas, Antártida y Atlántico Sur de la Cancillería argentina; Roxana Bertone, Diputada de Argentina; Ferderico Bartolozzi, Embajada de Paraguay ante la UE; Elisa Breternitz, Missao do Brasil ante la UE; Carlos Villanova, Missao do Brasil ante la UE
--

/Secretaría de los Grupos políticos/Sekretariát politických skupin/Gruppernes sekretariat/ Sekretariat der Fraktionen/Fraktsioonide sekretariaat/ /Secretariats of political groups/Secrétaire des groupes politiques/Tajništva klubova zastupnika/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko grupp sekretariats/ Frakcij sekretoriai/ Képvisel csoportok titkársága/Segretariat gruppi politi i/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secretariado dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupín/Sekretariat politi nih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristöt/ De politiska gruppernas sekretariat
--

PPE	Juan Salafranca; Hugo Paul Van der Werff
S&D	Luca Fossati
Renew	Itziar Munoa Salaverria, Ursula Pondelek
ID	.
Verts/ALE	.
ECR	Javier Garcia Martin
The Left	.
NI	.

/Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelář prezidenta/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinett des Präsidenten/Presidendi kantselei/ /President's Office/Cabinet du Président/Urad predsjednika/Gabinetto del Presidente/Priekšējais ja kabinets/Pirmininko kabinetas/Elnöki hivatal/Kabinet tal-President/Kabinet van de Voorzitter/Gabinet Przewodniczącego/Gabinete do Presidente/Cabinet Prezidenta/Kancelária predsedu/Urad predsednika/Puhemiehen kabinetti/Talmannens kansli
--

/Gabinete del Secretario General/Kancelář generálního tajemníka/Generalsekretærens Kabinet/ Kabinet des Generalsekretärs/Peasekretäri bürroo/ /Secretary-General's Office/Cabinet du Secrétaire général/Urad glavnog tajnika/Gabinetto del Segretario generale/ ener sekretarija kabinets/Generalinio sekretoriūs kabinetas/ F titkári hivatal/Kabinet tas-Segretarju generali/Kabinet van de secretaris-generaal/Gabinet Sekretarza Generalnego/Gabinete do Secretário-Geral/Cabinet Secretar General/Kancelária generálneho tajomníka/Urad generalného sekretarja/Pääsihteerin kabinetti/ Generalsekretærerens kansli
--

<p>/Dirección General/Generální editelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoraat/ / Directorate-General/Direction générale/Glavna uprava/Direzione generale/ ener ldirektor ts/Generalinis direktoratas/F igazgatóság/ Direttorat generali/Directorate-general/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direc ii Generale/Generálne riadite stvo/Generalni direktorat/Pääsasto/Generaldirektorat</p>
--

DG PRES	
DG IPOL	
DG EXPO	Jesper Tvevad, Myrofora Kostidou
DG EPRS	Ulrich Jochheim
DG COMM	
DG PERS	
DG INLO	
DG TRAD	
DG LINC	
DG FINS	
DG ITEC	
DG SAFE	

<p>/Servicio Jurídico/Právní služba/Juridisk Tjeneste/Juristischer Dienst/Öigusteenistus/ μ /Legal Service/ Service juridique/Pravna služba/Servizio giuridico/Juridiskais dienests/Teis s tarnyba/Jogi szolgálat/Servizz legali/Juridische Dienst/ Wydział prawny/Serviço Jurídico/Serviciu Juridic/Právny servis/Oikeudellinen yksikkö/Rättstjänsten</p>
--

<p>/Secretaría de la comisión/Sekretariát výboru/Udvalgssekretariatet/Ausschusssekretariat/Komisjoni sekretariaat/ μμ /Committee secretariat/Secrétaireat de la commission/Tajništvo odbora/Segreteria della commissione/ Komitejas sekretari ts/Komiteo sekretoriatas/A bizottság titkársága/Segretarjat tal-kumitat/Commissiesecretariaat/ Sekretariat komisji/Secretariado da comissão/Secretariat comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottsssekretariatet</p>

Juan Carlos Perez Navas

<p>/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/ /Assistant/Assistente/Pal gs/Pad j jas/Asszisztens/Asystent/Pomo nik/ Avustaja/Assisternt</p>
--

Francisco Cabral

* (P) = /Presidente/P edsedá/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/ /Chairman/Président/Predsjednik/Priekš d t js/
 Pirmuininkas/Elnök/Chairman/Voorzitter/Przewodnicz cy/Pre edinte/Predsedá/Predsednik/Puheenjohtaja/Ordförande
 (VP) = - /Vicepresidente/Místop edsedá/Næstformand/Stellvertretender Vorsitzender/Aseesimees/ /
 Vice-Chair/Potpredsjednik/Vice-Président/Potpredsjednik/Priekš d t ja vietnieks/Pirmininko pavaduotojas/Alelnök/ Vi i
 'Chairman'/Ondervoorzitter/Wiceprzewodnicz cy/Vice-Presidente/Vicepre edinte/ /Podpredseda/ /Podpredsjednik/
 Varapuheenjohtaja/Vice ordförande
 (M) = /Miembro/ len/Medlem/Mitglied/Parlamentiliige/ /Member/Membre/ lan/Membro/Deput ts/Narys/Képvisel /
 Membru/Lid/Członek/Membro/Membru/ len/Poslanec/Jäsen/Ledamot
 (F) = /Funcionario/Ú ednák/Tjenestemand/Beamter/Ametnik/ /Official/Fonctionnaire/Dužnosnik/
 Funzionário/Ier dnis/Pareig nas/Tisztvisel /Uffijal/Ambtenaar/Urz dnik/Funcionário/Func ionar/Úradník/Uradnik/Virkamies/
 Tjänsteman