



Delegation for relations with Mercosur

DMER_PV(2022)0512_1

MINUTES

of the meeting of 12 May 2022, 13.45-15.45

Brussels

The meeting opened on Thursday 12 May 2022 at 13.52, with Jordi Cañas (Chair) presiding.

1. Adoption of the draft agenda

OJ - PE596.567v01-00

The draft agenda was adopted.

2. Approval of minutes of meetings

- DMER meeting of 3 February 2022

PV - PE596.566v01-00

The minutes were approved.

3. Chair's announcements

The Chair announced that the meeting papers included the final report of the European Union electoral observation mission for the regional and local elections held in Venezuela on 21 November 2021.

4. Exchange of views on the political situation following the 2021 regional and local elections in Venezuela

The Deputy Executive Director of the EEAS reiterated the EU's commitment to the people of Venezuela and to finding a negotiated and peaceful solution, with free and transparent elections, and therefore supported the negotiation process led by Mexico. He noted that since the 2021 elections, no significant improvements had been forthcoming at

the political level, although some progress had been made at the economic level, and observed a greater commitment of some states in the region to the regime, which would appear to have shored it up.

Juan Guaidó (interim President of Venezuela) deplored the regime's machinations to remain in power and the fact that it had not created the conditions for an improvement in the political climate, and hoped that the negotiations in Mexico would culminate in a comprehensive agreement, with a clear timeline towards free elections, allowing the restoration of political rights. He called for the sanctions against the regime, which should be opposed just like Russia, Belarus or Nicaragua, to be maintained.

Leopoldo López Mendoza (Voluntad Popular) stressed that the economic and social conditions has worsened in Venezuela, with rise in the production and trafficking of drugs and 'blood gold' (from illegal mining), together with falling oil production and rising corruption, which he attributed to the regime.

Henrique Capriles (Primero Justicia) took the view that a purely political approach could no longer be taken to the conflict and highlighted the high levels of inequality and poverty in Venezuela. He proposed an approach seeking to achieve progress in the political, economic and social spheres and the alignment of positions with international stakeholders.

María Corina Machado (Vente Venezuela) agreed with the previous speakers that poverty and inequality were on the rise and that essential services were lacking. She believed that the Maduro regime would not relinquish power and deplored the regime's dominant position in respect of conditions for negotiating a political agreement.

Nicmer Evans (Movimiento Democracia e Inclusión) expressed his regret at the lack of a united opposition with common objectives, which was proving to be a source of disillusionment among the opposition electorate. He called for a joint opposition strategy and programme for the next elections.

Antonio Ecarri (Alianza del Lápiz) spoke about the new demands of a younger generation of Venezuelans, which was less dependent on the state and more entrepreneurial, focused on improvements in basic services such as education and child nutrition.

Gerardo Blyde (Plataforma Unitaria) believed that when the negotiation process between the regime and the opposition resumed it would pave the way for fair and democratic elections and stressed the need for electoral and institutional guarantees (many of which had been set out in the recommendations of the EU Observation Mission) ensuring fair elections.

Roberto Abdul ('Súmate' civil society association) outlined a series of measures taken by the regime, such as the re-holding of elections in the state of Barinas, obstruction of the presidential recall referendum procedure, limitations on voting by Venezuelans living abroad, and the reduction of the number of members of the Supreme Court, which he saw as an obstacle to openness.

On the whole, the speakers were united by gratitude to the EU for its presence as an

electoral observer in Venezuela in November 2021 and the belief that the conclusions of the electoral observation mission report were of great value and should be implemented. Many of them also agreed that Nicolás Maduro's regime was part of a wider community of interests with other autocracies such as the Russian Government.

The Members stressed the need for dialogue in Venezuela, and their hope for a peaceful and negotiated solution to the political crisis. They also reiterated their concern about the food crisis and humanitarian situation in the country and about Venezuelan migrants.

Speakers: *Stelios Kouloglou, Mónica Silvana González, Sandra Pereira, Leopoldo López Gil, Jordi Cañas, Josep Puxeu (EESC).*

5. Other business

None.

6. 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 15.51.

**ПРИСЪСТВЕН ЛИСТ/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/
 ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/KATASTAΣH ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/
 LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/POPIS NAZOČNIH/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU REĢISTRS/DALVIŲ SĀRAŠAS/
 JELENLÉTI ÍV/REĢISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŚCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/
 LISTĀ DE PREZENTĀ/PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/NÄRVAROLISTA**

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Jordi Cañas (P), Mónica Silvana González (VP), Stelios Kouloglou (VP)
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Bouλευτές/Members/Députés/Zastupnici/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselők/Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputati/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Gabriele Bischoff, Daniel Buda, Nicola Danti, Beata Mazurek
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Zamjenici/Supplenti/Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantysnariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/Namestniki/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
Leopoldo López Gil, Sandra Pereira

209 (7)	
216 (3)	
56 (8) (Точка от дневния ред/Punto del orden del día/Bod pořadu jednání (OJ)/Punkt på dagsordenen/Tagesordnungspunkt/Päevakorra punkt/Σημείο της ημερήσιας διάταξης/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 schôdzke/Točka UL/Esityslistan kohta/Punkt på föredragningslistan)	
Unión Europea <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Javier Niño, Director Ejecutivo Adjunto para las Américas del Servicio Europeo de Acción Exterior (SEAE) Partidos políticos <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Juan Guaidó, Presidente Encargado de la Rep. Bolivariana de Venezuela y Presidente de la Asamblea Nacional Leopoldo López Mendoza, Voluntad Popular Henrique Capriles, líder opositor de Primero Justicia María Corina Machado, coordinadora nacional del Partido Vente Venezuela Nicmer Evans, presidente del Movimiento Democracia e Inclusión (MDI) e integrante del 	Item 4

Movimiento Venezolano por el Revocatorio (Mover)	
• Gerardo Blyde, jefe de la delegación de la Plataforma Unitaria en las negociaciones en México	
Sociedad civil	
• Roberto Abdul, presidente de la asociación civil Súmate	

Наблюдатели/Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaatlejad/Παρατηρητές/Observers/Observateurs/Promatračí/Osservatori/Nověrotáji/Stebétojai/Megfigyelők/Osservaturi/Waarnemers/Obserwatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelia/Opažovalci/Tarkkailijat/Observatører

Lapíz Venezuela: Antonio Ecarri, Julio Pena

Пъкана на председателя/Por invitación del presidente/Na pozvání předsedy/Efter indbydelse fra formanden/Auf Einladung des Vorsitzenden/Esiimehe kutsel/Mε πρόσκληση του Προέδρου/At the invitation of the Chair/Sur l'invitation du président/ Na poziv predsjednika/Su invito del presidente/Pēc priekšsēdētāja uzaicinājuma/Pirmininkui pakvietus/Az elnök meghívására/ Fuq stedina tāc-'Chairman'/Op uitnodiging van de voorzitter/Na zaproszenie Przewodniczącego/A convite do Presidente/La invitācia președintelui/ Na pozvanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan

Съвет/Consejo/Rådet/Rat/Nōukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/Conseil/Vijeće/Consiglio/Padome/Taryba/Tanács/Kunsill/Raad/ Conselho/Consiliu/Svet/Neuvosto/Rådet (*)	
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Paolo Garzotti	
Javier Niño, Ernesto Salinas Gomez	
EESD	Други институции и органи/Otras instituciones y organismos/Ostatní orgány a instituce/Andre institutioner og organer/Andere Organe und Einrichtungen/Muud institutsioonid ja organid/Λοιπά θεσμικά όργανα και οργανισμού/Other institutions and bodies/Autres institutions et organes/Druge institucije i tijela/Altre istituzioni e altri organi/Citas iestādes un struktūras/Kitos institucijos ir įstaigos/ Más intézmények és szervek/Istituzzjonijiet u korpi ohra/Andere instellingen en organen/Inne instytucje i organy/Outras instituições e outros órgãos/Alte instituiji si organe/Iné inštitúcie a orgány/Muut toimielimet ja elimet/Andra institutioner och organ
EESC	Josep Puxeu, José Ignacio Salafranca, Elena Herrara

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/Parteicipanti ohra/Andere aanwezigen/Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Altı participantı/Iní účastníci/Drugi udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare

Embassy of Argentina: Pablo Grinspan, Santiago Mones Ruiz

Embassy of Uruguay: Gabriel Winter

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/Politiske gruppe sekretariāts/Frakcijų sekretoriai/Képviselőcsoporthoz titkársága/Segretariat gruppi političi/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secretariado dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupín/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristöt/De politiska gruppernas sekretariat

PPE	Juan Salafranca, Hugo Van der Werff, Alejandra Ramirez
S&D	Maria Gema Caballero
Renew	Itziar Munoa Salaverria, Ursula Pondelek
ID	
Verts/ALE	Marina Ruiz Carnes
ECR	
The Left	Cecilia Olivet
NI	

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DG PRES DG IPOL DG EXPO DG EPRS DG COMM DG PERS DG INLO DG TRAD DG LINC DG FINS DG ITEC DG SAFE	Gonzalo de Mendoza
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Juan Carlos Perez Navas, Jesper Tve vad, Myrofora Kostidou, Rocío Rodrigo Muñoz	
Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asystent/Pomočník/ Avustaja/Assistenter	
Rebecca Alrutz	

- * (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chairman/Président/Predsjednik/Priekšsēdētājs/
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Tjänsteman