



Delegation for relations with the countries of Central America

DCAM_PV(2022)0616_1

MINUTES

of the meeting of 16 June 2022, 14.00-16.00

Brussels

The meeting opened at 14.10 on Thursday, 16 June 2022, with Tilly Metz (Chair) presiding.

1. Adoption of draft agenda

OJ – PE629.259v01-00

The agenda was adopted.

2. Approval of minutes of meetings

Meeting of DCAM of 31 March 2022

PV – PE629.258v01-00

These minutes were adopted.

3. Chair's announcements

The Chair informed Members that on June 9, the Conference of Presidents authorised the visit from a delegation of the National Congress of Honduras to Strasbourg from 5 to 7 July. Xiomara Zelaya, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Honduran Congress, will lead the Delegation.

4. Exchange of views with the Pro tempore SICA Presidency of Panama

- H.E. Yanel Francis Lanuza, Ambassador of Panama to the European Union, on behalf of the pro tempore SICA Presidency
- Tomas Reyes Ortega, Chair of Working Group - Latin America, Caribbean (COLAC), European External Action Service (EEAS)

H.E. Yavel Francis Lanuza, Ambassador of Panama to the European Union provided a summary of Panama's work and initiatives during the Pro Tempore Presidency of the Central American Integration System (SICA), which Panama held during the first half of 2022. The Presidency focussed on improving regional integration and cooperation and promoting political dialogue and institutional strengthening. The process of bringing into force the Association Agreement has also been a priority for the Panamanian Presidency, along with the approval and implementation of the post-Covid-19 Economic Reactivation Plan. Additionally, the Presidency worked on strengthening the Central American Strategy for Commerce Facilitation to improve intra-regional trade, competitiveness, and cooperation. The Panamanian Presidency has also addressed social integration. The most remarkable element in this section is the effort to implement the Resilience, Recuperation and Social Reconstruction Plan for Central America and the Dominican Republic and promote the youth within SICA. Regarding security, the Presidency decided to move towards updating the Security Strategy of Central America (ESCA), which includes action on Climate Change and Risk Management. This strategy touches upon food security, energetic supply and sustainability. Moreover, the Ambassador pointed out the actions taken by the Central American Embassies in Brussels, such as assisting in the ordinary meetings of COLAC at the Council of the European Union, discussions within the DCAM framework as well as meetings regarding the Digital Alliance LAC-EU and briefing sessions for EL PACcTO and COPOLAD III. The Republic of Panama considers of great relevance the future establishment of the Copernicus Regional Data Centre in Panama. Eventually, she stressed the importance of Josep Borrell's visit to Panama and his presence at the SICA-CARICOM-EU meeting. On the other hand, he mentioned the relevance of the SICA-CARIFORUM/CARICOM meeting in Brussels along with DG INTPA and SEAE representatives. Additionally, the Panamanian Presidency endorses the initiative of organising an EU-LAC summit meeting in the near future, since the last one was held in 2015.

Tomás Reyes Ortega, Chair of the Council Working Party for Latin America and the Caribbean (COLAC), EEAS congratulated the Panamanian Presidency on the successfully hosting of a high-level meeting with the High Representative of the European Union, Josep Borrell, in Panama. Additionally, he also congratulated the Panamanian Ambassador on the work conducted during their PTP. The EEAS hopes to continue with the development of a positive and shared agenda. The EU and Central America have developed a close relationship for decades, with a political dialogue from region to region as well as at the bilateral level between member states. With ten years having passed since the Association Agreement between both regions has been signed, Mr Reyes Ortega expressed his hope that the ratification process of the Agreement would be concluded soon. Central America is an example of regional integration for the rest of the Latin American states. Areas like climate change or trade will benefit from this regional cooperation. However, some problems still require solutions, such as reaching an agreement on the appointment of the next Secretary-General of SICA, who should be nominated by Nicaragua according to the rotation principle. Mr Reyes Ortega underlined that the EU-Central America cooperation on trade and investment had to be accompanied by good governance and a solid institutional framework.

Members emphasised the relevance of the future of the General Secretary of SICA and the threat that SICA members represent to the organisation. He referred directly to the case of Nicaragua. The stability of SICA is crucial for the EU-Central America cooperation in fields such as climate change, migration and trade.

Interventions: Gabriel Mato (EPP, Spain)

5. Exchange of views on the “Alliance for Development in Democracy”

- H.E. Iván Ogando Lora, Ambassador of the Dominican Republic to the European Union
- Tomas Reyes Ortega, Chair of Working Group - Latin America, Caribbean (COLAC), European External Action Service (EEAS)

H.E Iván Ogando Lora, Ambassador of the Dominican Republic to the European Union said that the Alliance for Development and Democracy was the direct result of a shared concern by the governments of Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Panama regarding the economic recovery after the pandemic and facing common regional challenges. The basis of this initiative is the defence of the rule of law and the protection of democracy, which brings together these three countries to maintain constant political dialogue and seek joint initiatives regarding issues like human rights and economic and sustainable development. Since last September, there have been three summits between the three regional countries, along with multilateral meetings. There are five main courses of action identified within the Alliance.

Firstly, the Alliance seeks to play a significant role in the regional leadership of Central America. In this regard, they have raised their concerns over the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the insecurity and state fragility in Haiti. Secondly, the migration dynamics require a regional approach to achieve a safe environment for migrants and a good management by host countries. Thirdly, the region suffers from a specific problem of climate change and environmental degradation. These three countries are highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. The fourth course of action is security, which implies a consolidated justice system and vigorous measures against corruption. These countries regard economic development as largely dependent on the state's ability to ensure social peace and public safety. Eventually, the fifth pillar is economic development, promoting job opportunities and investments and establishing financial mechanisms with other actors. These five pillars revolve around protecting democracy, human rights and sustainable development. The Alliance acknowledges the crucial role of the private sector within the economic approach of the Alliance. Therefore, these countries recently established a High-Level Business Council to propose public policy recommendations. The Alliance is also working on cooperating with third countries on political dialogue, such as Canada. Additionally, the Alliance is open to expanding its membership. In this regard, they have already established contact with the Republic of Ecuador for a potential adhesion. The Ambassador highlighted that this initiative did not aim to replace SICA but rather to complement its work.

Tomás Reyes Ortega: Chair of the Council Working Party for Latin America and the Caribbean (COLAC), EEAS, started by praising the initiative, which aims to further the institutional and democratic development in the Central American region. The approach to human rights and sustainability makes the Alliance member states closer and more aligned with the European Union. Democratic governance, the rule of law and strong institutions will always imply benefits regarding social cohesion and economic prosperity of countries. The Central American region has multiple examples of how lack of democracy leads to impoverishment and worsening socioeconomic conditions.

Members welcomed the Alliance started by Costa Rica, Panama and the Dominican Republic. They stated that not even a year after its establishment, a promising framework for vital issues for the region, such as migration, security and justice and the environment could be observed. The integration of Ecuador and a potential expansion of this Alliance represents very good news for democracy in the region. The border between the Dominican Republic and Haiti is the best

example of how governance and economic policy can make two nations on the same island so different. The adequate policies implemented by the Dominican Republic have resulted in hundreds of thousands of Haitians migrating to the neighbouring country. The management of regional migration dynamics must remain a core element of this Alliance.

Interventions: Gabriel Mato (EPP, Spain)

6. Exchange of views on the joint Mexico-U.S. plan to contain Central America migration

- Mileydi Guilarte, Central America and Mexico Deputy Assistant Administrator, United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

Mileydi Guilarte, Central America and Mexico Deputy Assistant Administrator, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) started her intervention by reminding participants that almost a year ago the Biden-Harris administration launched the root causes strategy for migration and the collaboration plan with Mexico to address migration from Central America. This strategy underlines the importance of political will and regional cooperation to tackle migration. This approach also departs from the basis that the main reason behind migration is the lack of opportunities for the people in their respective home communities, a scenario intrinsically related to poor governance and insecurity. The US considers partnership with Mexico a vital element in addressing these challenges. The best example of this cooperation is the Memorandum of Understanding signed between USAID and the Mexican Cooperation Agency to provide economic opportunities in Honduras, El Salvador and Guatemala. Shortly after the North American Summit in November 2021, the US and Mexico created a common framework to address migration called “Sowing Opportunities”. The main goals of this common framework are accelerating major livelihoods and market access opportunities in the target countries and, secondly, promoting youth employment programs in Central America while sharing experiences, results and other tools between the participating countries. In this regard, an employment program implemented in El Salvador demonstrated that most young Salvadorians who took part in it decided to remain in the country.

Guilarte confirmed that the Mexican and the US cooperation agencies are currently still identifying opportunities to collaborate on improving the condition of Honduran, Salvadorian and Guatemalan young workers and farmers. This collaboration includes joint field missions and the arrangement of training sessions in the target countries. Both countries expect support for this work from the international community. The recent Americas Summit was a unique context to work on the progress of this type of initiative. During the Summit, Mexico committed to increment the number of labour rights for Guatemalan beneficiaries of these employment programs in Mexico. Guilarte concluded by highlighting that the status of Spain as an observer state during the Summit of America brings the EU closer to these regional cooperation initiatives. In this regard, she asked the entire EU to commit to supporting what was agreed upon at the Los Angeles declaration.

Once Guilarte finished her intervention, the Ambassador of Guatemala supported the initiative and stressed the necessity of regional cooperation to tackle the root causes of migration. In their case, Guatemala will continue cooperating with the United States and neighbouring countries to handle regular and irregular migration. He nevertheless considered there is still a lot of work left to do. The session continued with an intervention from the Ambassador of El Salvador, who reassured El Salvador’s open position for dialogue and cooperation with partners and third

actors on migration, which is considered one of the top priorities for the Salvadoran government. The representative of Honduras agreed with the statements from her colleagues.

Members commented on the US-Mexico Plan, stating that “containing” migration should not be the focus but addressing the issues that trigger that same migration in the first place. However, they praised the initiative “Sowing Opportunities” and its particular approach to youth employment, as they are more prone to migrating to other countries.

Interventions: Gabriel Mato (EPP, Spain)

7. Any other business

None.

8. Date and time of the next meeting

The date and venue of the next DCAM meeting will be communicated later on.

The meeting closed at 15.35.

**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/REGISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŚCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/
 LISTA DE PREZENTĀ/PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/NÄRVAROLISTA**

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Tilly Metz (P)
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Bouλευτές/Members/Députés/Zastupnici/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselők/Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputati/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

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 Aģenda/Agendapunt/Punkt porządku dziennego/Ponto OD/Punct de pe ordinea de zi/Bod programu schôdze/Točka UL/Esityslistan kohta/Punkt på föredragningslistan)	Item 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Yavel Francis Lanuza, Ambassador of Panama to the European Union, on behalf of the pro tempore SICA Presidency • Tomas Reyes Ortega, Chair of Working Group - Latin America, Caribbean (COLAC), European External Action Service (EEAS) 	Item 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Iván Ogando Lora, Ambassador of the Dominican Republic to the European Union • Tomas Reyes Ortega, Chair of Working Group - Latin America, Caribbean (COLAC), European External Action Service (EEAS) 	Item 5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mileydi Guijarro, Central America and Mexico Deputy Assistant Administrator, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) 	Item 6

Наблюдатели/Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaatlejad/Паратηρητές/Observers/Observateurs/Promatrači/Osservatori/Nověrotáji/Stebétojai/Megfigyelők/Osservaturi/Waarnemers/Obserwatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelia/Opozovalci/Tarkailijat/Obsrvatörer

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/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 invitación președintelui/Na pozvanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan

USAID: Mileydi Guilarte, Edward Gonzalez

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

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

Европейска служба за външна дейност/Servicio Europeo de Acción Exterior/Evropská služba pro vnější činnost/EU-Udenrigstjenesten/Europäischer Auswärtiger Dienst/Euroopa väliseenistus/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/Europai Külügyi Szolgálat/Servizz Ewropew ghall-Azzjoni Esterna/Europese dienst voor extern optreden/Europaea Służba Działalń Zewnętrznych/Serviço Europeu para a Ação Externa/Serviciul european pentru acțiune externă/Európska služba pre vonkajšiu činnosť/Evropska služba za zunanje delovanje/Euroopan ulkosuhdehallinto/Europeiska avdelningen för yttrre åtgärd (*)

Tomás Reyes Ortega, Karolien Kras, Amanda Guerra, Uwe Wissenbach

Други институции и органи/Otras instituciones y organismos/Ostatní orgány a instituce/Andre institutioner og organer/Andere Organe und Einrichtungen/Muud institutsoonid ja organid/Λοιπά θεσμικά όργανα και οργανισμοί/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/Istituzzjoni jiet u korpi oħra/Andere instellingen en organen/Inne instytucje i organy/Outras instituições e outros órgãos/Alte instituições și organe/Iné inštitúcie a orgány/Muut toimielimet ja elimet/Andra institutioner och 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/Parteicipanti ohra/Andere aanwezigen/Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Altı participantı/Iní účastníci/Drugi udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare

Embassy of Costa Rica: Sergio Alfaro Salas, Guillermo Rojas Vargas, Mónica Chamberlain Saénz

Embassy of El Salvador: Hugo Ortiz Dubon, Claudia Beltran

Embassy of Guatemala: José Lambour, Myriam de la Roca

Embassy of Honduras: Viviane de Pierrefeu

Embassy of Nicaragua: Cesar Castañeda

Embassy of Panama: Yavel Francis Lanuza, Alfonso Young Hassan, Tómas Guardia

Embassy of the Dominican Republic: Iván Ogando Lora, Angela Vigliotta Mella, Sarah Herasme Echavarría

Parlacen: Ricardo Lagos Andino

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/Tajništva klubova zastupnika/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko grupu sekretariāts/Frakcijų sekretoriai/Képviselőcsoportok 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	Kathryn Stack, Juan Salafranca
S&D	Luca Fossati
Renew	Itziar Munoa Salaverria, Eva Hassar
ID	
Verts/ALE	
ECR	
The Left	
NI	

Кабинет на председателя/Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelář předsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinett des Präsidenten/Presidendi kantsleí/Γραφείο του 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

Кабинет на генералния секретар/Gabinete del Secretario General/Kancelář generálního tajemníka/Generalsekretærens Kabinet/Kabinett des Generalsekretärs/Peasekretäribüro/Γραφείο του Γενικού Γραμματέα/Secretary-General's Office/Cabinet du secrétaire général/Ured glavnog tajnika/Gabinetto del Segretario generale/Generalsekretära kabinets/Generalinio sekretorius kabinetas/Föltitári hivatal/Kabinet tas-Segretarju Ĝeneral/Кabinet van de secretaris-generaal/Gabinet Sekretarza Generalnego/Gabinete do Secretário-Geral/Cabinet Secretar General/Kancelária generálneho tajomníka/Urad generalného sekretarja/Pääsihteerin kabinetti/Generalsekreterarens kansli

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/Pääsasto/Generaldirektorat	
DG PRES DG IPOL DG EXPO DG EPRS DG COMM DG PERS DG INLO DG TRAD DG LINC DG FINS DG ITEC DG SAFE	Juan Carlos Jimenez Marin
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Helmut Weixler, David Chico Zamanillo	
Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Боŋόć/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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Vice-Chair/Potpredsjednik/Vice-Präsident/Potpředsednik/Priekšsēdētāja vietnieks/Pirmininko pavaduotojas/Alelnök/ Viči
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Membru/Lid/Czlonek/Membro/Membra/Člen/Poslanec/Jäsen/Ledamot
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Funzionario/Ierēdnis/Pareigūnas/Tisztviselő/Ufficjal/Ambtenaar/Urzéndnik/Funcionário/Funcționar/Úradník/Uradnik/Virkamies/
Tjänsteman