



DCAM_PV(2022)0926_1

MINUTES

of the meeting of 26 September 2022, 16.45-18.45

Interparliamentary Meeting

Brussels

The meeting opened at 16.52 on Monday, 26 September 2022, with Tilly Metz, Chair, in the chair.

1. Adoption of draft agenda

OJ – PE629.261v01-00

The draft agenda was adopted.

2. Chair's announcements

The Chair informed the members that, on 9 June, the Conference of Presidents had authorised the new date for the European delegation's visit to Honduras and Guatemala. It had been originally scheduled for September but was now confirmed for 31 October to 2 November. Any members who wished to take part should notify the secretariat.

3. DCAM Interparliamentary Meeting

Exchange of views with the President and Members of the Honduran Congress on the bilateral relationship

The Chair of DCAM welcomed the delegation from the National Congress of Honduras, noting that it was the first time that the Delegation for relations with the countries of Central America had welcomed Members of the Honduran Congress. The devastating COVID-19 pandemic had had dramatic social, economic and political consequences that would continue to be felt for years to come. More than 2 million Europeans and more than

1.7 million people in Latin America and the Caribbean had sadly died from COVID-19. The Chair pointed out that the war in Ukraine posed challenges not only within Europe but also beyond its borders. The increases in global food and energy prices would probably affect the Central American economies, which were just recovering from the pandemic. That was likely to lead to greater food insecurity in those countries, which were already affected by climate change and extreme weather.

She stressed that, in these difficult times, it was crucial, above all, to prioritise public policies that respected the rights of all people, including indigenous populations and women, and policies offering long-term plans to combat climate change and environmental degradation. The only way to build a sustainable future was to build a resilient and inclusive society that could respond to these numerous crises. The war in Ukraine would also have far-reaching geopolitical consequences, which were giving the European Union an incentive to rediscover Latin America and the Caribbean. She admitted that Europe had neglected its relationship with that part of the world for too long and it was now time to strengthen bilateral ties, to the benefit of both parties. The war in Ukraine was also a war between democracy and autocracy. However, Ukraine was not the only battlefield where that war was being fought. Throughout the world, including in the European Union and Central America, countries were succumbing to the temptation of authoritarianism, and were gradually undermining the democratic system and fundamental values.

She welcomed the results of the 2021 elections, in which the Honduran people had elected their first female President, which was an important signal and further proof that female emancipation was improving in the region. She noted that one of the most important challenges facing Honduras was the fight against corruption. She was very pleased to learn that a new anti-corruption body, the International Commission against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (CICIH), was to be set up under the auspices of the UN. The European Parliament and European Union would do everything in their power to support Honduras in this task.

The President of the National Congress of Honduras, Luis Redondo, thanked the European Parliament for the opportunity to establish a bilateral relationship after the 2009 coup d'état that had led to the drug dictatorship, weakening the country's institutional structure and creating poverty. He emphasised the work being done by President Xiomara Castro to restore the people's trust in the government and Congress through an agenda aimed at eliminating from the legal order all of the decrees that for years had facilitated drug trafficking, corruption and impunity, notably the so-called Criminal Code of Impunity and the Special Law on Money Laundering. He also underlined the commitment to establish the CICIH through the final Mission to Support the Fight against Corruption and Impunity in Honduras (MACCIH). This would help to restore the people's trust in the institutions, the judiciary and the prosecutor's office, and would ensure that subsequent governments could not alter the anti-impunity and anti-corruption mechanisms. There was also greater support for indigenous peoples and women's rights. In this regard, Mr Redondo referred to the selection of the Supreme Court the following year and the fact that gender parity on the Court would allow for harsher penalties for violent crimes against women, which had been reduced under the previous regime.

Javier Niño, Deputy Managing Director for the Americas within the European External Action Service expressed his desire for a closer relationship with Honduras and for Europe to change the way it viewed Latin America and the Caribbean. Although that region was

closely involved in many European issues, it was not as prominent on Europe's foreign policy agenda as it should be. The relationship should thus be viewed in the long term. He mentioned the desire to organise a summit of Heads of State or Government with Latin America and the Caribbean in 2023, and his hope of building a true strategic alliance in this ever-changing world, in which both regions were fundamental partners in defending values such as democracy, the protection of minorities, the fight against corruption and human rights. In this regard, he thanked the Government of Honduras for its clear and robust support for the European Union following the Russian aggression. He hoped that the President's agenda would be inclusive, open to dialogue and brave, based on a spirit of reconciliation that would welcome all of the country's political forces. He expressed his support for Honduras, which was experiencing a difficult period with the impact of COVID, natural disasters, the war in Ukraine, food security and natural resources. Honduras was one of the largest recipients of EU development aid, with a funding programme of EUR 128 million up to 2024 focusing on sustainable use of natural resources, climate change, decent working and employment conditions, and the rule of law and democratic governance. In this regard, the European Union regretted the dismantling of the MACCIH, which was under the supervision of the Organization of American States, and he hoped that the foundations for transparent, effective and long-term work could now be laid.

Gerardo Torres, Vice-Minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Honduras, presented the origins of the current government as a movement that was born in direct opposition to the 2009 coup d'état and the subsequent regime, and that took to the streets to call for an end to corruption and the militarised structure, along with respect for natural resources and the rights of women, girls and the LGBT community. Everyone had been aware of the links between the regime and the drug cartels, and the current government now had an opportunity to reassess the situation. He underlined the country's commitment to the fight against corruption and impunity through the CICIH and the renewal of the Supreme Court of Justice and the Public Prosecutor's Office. However, the only way to reduce poverty and inequality was to attract investment. He welcomed the cooperation of the European Union, but urged it to go further by opening up markets in Honduras and Central America. He hoped that that would bring the regions closer in terms of cooperation and investment, as well as at a political level in their defence of common values.

Carlos Armando Zelaya Rosales, Secretary of the National Congress of Honduras and Member of Congress for LIBRE, said that the government plan that had taken shape over the 12 years that they had been on the streets was being implemented one step at a time. He spoke about the establishment of green battalions in the army to protect the environment and natural resources, the work on a reforestation plan and a ban on open-cast mining. He hoped that Honduras would soon have access to carbon offsetting to help protect resources. He also emphasised the commitment to fight corruption and outlined the decree that Congress had passed to grant independence to the Specialised Fiscal Unit Against Corruption Networks (UFERCO), the special anti-corruption unit. He said, however, that the fact that some Members of Congress came from the previous regime was an obstacle to the desired progress. He underlined once again the importance of the renewal of the Supreme Court of Justice and the Attorney General in ensuring justice for the people and the commitment to the role of women in the country.

Isis Carolina Cuellar Erazo de Cárcano, a Member of Congress for LIBRE, also referred to the 12-year struggle on the streets for a return to constitutional order and to the role that

Xiomara, the first female President, had played in the protests. She highlighted the government's four key points. The first was the lack of opportunities for the citizens who ended up in migrant caravans, resulting in disintegration and poverty. The second key item on the agenda was the environment and food security, and the desire to go back to being Central America's breadbasket. The third and fourth points incorporated the need to regain the trust of the people by selecting the Supreme Court of Justice through transparent and non-corrupt mechanisms, like the establishment of the CICIH. Finally, she emphasised the importance of historical memory in the country in order to prevent any repeat of the past.

Silvia Bessy Ayala, a Member of Congress for LIBRE, pointed out that this was the first visit by the Honduran Congress to the European Parliament and, like her colleagues, she reiterated the commitment to restore constitutional order and trust in the institutions. She referred to the decree that Congress had passed to condemn the military coup, recognising those who had died in the resistance, and the amnesty allowing social activists to return to their daily lives, as well as the reintegration into Honduras of people in exile and the end to the criminalisation of peasants and student movements. She reiterated the call for the establishment of the CICIH. She also mentioned the repeal of the Official Secrets Law, which had allowed state funds to be used without any scrutiny or control by the people or institutions; the Organic Law on Employment and Economic Development Zones (ZEDEs), which adversely affected the country's sovereignty and form of government; trust funds, legal entities through which control of the general budget was handed over to private banks that encouraged corruption; and the review of energy contracts with harmful clauses. Ms Ayala also mentioned the initiative to turn the National Women's Institute into a ministry and the work on the comprehensive law on violence against women. She highlighted the initiatives to obtain prior and informed consent for projects affecting indigenous peoples. She hoped that it would be possible to restore trust in the institutions and gain the respect of the international community.

Fátima Patricia Mena Baide, a Member of Congress from the Partido Salvador, said that the current situation had offered an opportunity to reframe the country's relationships with other parts of the world in search of shared efforts and values. Focusing on corruption, she discussed the anti-corruption commission set up in Congress. She was the Chair of the commission, which was the first of its kind to be set up within the institution. She outlined the five priorities of the fight against impunity and corruption. The first was to identify the laws that allowed structural corruption and the second was the institutional work carried out in conjunction with the executive, which had already set up the Ministry of Transparency. The third point referred to the relationship with civil society, the private sector and unions, and the availability of mechanisms for public participation, while the fourth was the transparency of the National Congress. Finally, she underlined the need to facilitate public hearings. She welcomed the EU's support on these issues, and she reiterated her country's commitment to the women's agenda and its intention to set up a technical unit in Congress to ensure gender mainstreaming across the board.

Speakers: *Alicia Homs Ginel (S&D).*

4. Other business

None.

5. Date and place of next meeting

The next interparliamentary meeting would take place during the delegation's visit to Honduras from 31 October to 2 November. The precise date and place had yet to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 18.17.

**ПРИСЪСТВЕН ЛИСТ/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/
ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/KATAΣTAΣH ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/
LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/POPIS NAZOČNIH/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU REĢISTRŠ/DALYVIŲ SAŲAŠAS/
JELENLÉTI ÍV/REĢISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŠCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/
LISTĂ DE PREZENȚĂ/PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/NÄRVAROLISTA**

Бюро/Mesa/Předsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Predsjedništvo/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/ Biuras/Elnökség/Prezydium/Birou/Predsednictvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
Tilly Metz (P)
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Βουλευτές/Members/Députés/Zastupnici/Deputati/Deputāti/ Nariai/Képviselők/Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Alicia Homs Ginel, Sabrina Pignedoli
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

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 schôdze/Točka UL/Esityslistan kohta/Punkt på föredragningslistan)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Luis Redondo (Congressman for Salvador de Honduras, President of the National Congress)Carlos Armando Zelaya Rosales (Congressman for LIBRE and Secretary of the National Congress Board)Isis Carolina Cuellar Erazo de Cárcano (diputada del LIBRE y vicepresidenta del Congreso Nacional, presidenta de la Comisión de Defensa y Soberanía, vicepresidenta de la Comisión de Relaciones Internacionales)Silvia Bessy Ayala (Congresswoman for LIBRE and 2nd Alternate Secretary of the National Congress Board)Fátima Patricia Mena Baide (Congresswoman for Salvador de Honduras and, VI Vice President of the National Congress Board)Gerardo Torres (Vice Chancellor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Honduras)Javier Niño, director ejecutivo adjunto para las Américas, Servicio Europeo de Acción Exterior (SEAE)	Punto 1

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

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 invitația președintelui/ Na pozwanie predsedu/ Na povabilo predsednika/ Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/ På ordförandens inbjudan

Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nõukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/Conseil/Vijeće/Consiglio/Padome/Taryba/Tanács/Kunsill/Raad/Conselho/Consiliu/Svet/Neuvosto/Rådet (*)
Комисия/Comisión/Komise/Kommissionen/Kommission/Komisjon/Επιτροπή/Commission/Komisija/Commissione/Bizottság/Kummissjoni/Commissie/Komisja/Comissão/Comisie/Komisja/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/Evropska 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 činnosť/Evropska služba za zunanje delovanje/Euroopan ulkosuhdehallinto/Europeiska avdelningen för yttre åtgärd (*)
Javier Niño Perez, Karolien Kras
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 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/Istituzzjonijiet u korpi ohra/Andere instellingen en organen/Inne instytucje i organy/Outras instituições e outros órgãos/Alte instituții și organe/Iné inštitúcie a orgány/Muut toimielimet ja elimet/Andra institutioner och organ
EESC
Josep Puxeu, Jose Manuel Roche Ramo

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 ohra/Andere aanwezigen/Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Alți participanți/Ini účastníci/Drugi udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare	
National Congress of Honduras: Luis Redondo, Carlos Armando Zelaya, Isis Carolina Cuellar Erazo de Cárcano, Silvia Bessy Ayala, Fátima Patricia Mena Baide, Gerardo Torres, Dennis Muñoz, Edson Argueta, Embassy of Honduras: Viviane de Pierrefeu Embassy of Guatemala: José Lambour, Myriam de la Roca Embassy of Panama: Yavel Francis, Alfonso Young Embassy of Costa Rica: Guillermo Rojas Vargas Embassy of El Salvador: Hugo Ortiz Dubon, Claudia Beltrán	

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 poliitiči/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secretariado dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupin/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristöt/De politiska gruppernas sekretariat	
PPE S&D Renew ID Verts/ALE ECR The Left NI	Juan Salafranca, Julia Caballero, Kathryn Stack Sakari Linden Garance Tardieu

Кабинет на председателя/Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelář předsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinett des Präsidenten/Presidendi kantslei/Γραφείο του Προέδρου/President's Office/Cabinet du Président/Ured predsednika/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/Talmannens kansli	
Кабинет на генералния секретар/Gabinete del Secretario General/Kancelář generálního tajemníka/Generalsekretærens Kabinet/Kabinett des Generalsekretärs/Peasekretäri büroo/Γραφείο του 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 generálního tajemníka/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	
DG PRES DG IPOL DG EXPO DG EPRS DG COMM DG PERS DG INLO DG TRAD DG LINC DG FINS DG ITEC DG SAFE	
Правна служба/Servicio Jurídico/Právní služba/Juridisk Tjeneste/Juristischer Dienst/Öigusteenistus/Νομική Υπηρεσία/Legal Service/Service juridique/Pravna služba/Servizio giuridico/Juridiskais dienests/Teisės tarnyba/Jogi szolgálat/Servizz legali/Juridische Dienst/Wydział prawny/Serviço Jurídico/Serviciu Juridic/Právny servis/Oikeudellinen yksikkö/Rättstjänsten	
Секретариат на комисията/Secretaría de la comisión/Sekretariat výboru/Udvalgssekretariatet/Ausschusssekretariat/Komisjoni sekretariaat/Γραμματεία της επιτροπής/Committee secretariat/Secrétariat de la commission/Tajništvo odbora/Segreteria della commissione/ Komitejas sekretariāts/Komiteto sekretoriatas/A bizottság titkársága/Sekretariat 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/Pālīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asystent/Pomočnik/Avustaja/Assistenten	
Rebecca Alrutz	

- * (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chairman/Président/Predsjednik/Priekšsēdētājs/Pirmininkas/Elnök/Chairman/Voorzitter/Przewodniczący/Preşedinte/Predseda/Predsednik/Puheenjohtaja/Ordförande
- (VP) = Заместник-председател/Vicepresidente/Místopředseda/Næstformand/Stellvertretender Vorsitzender/Aseesimees/Αντιπρόεδρος/Vice-Chair/Potpredsjednik/Vice-Président/Potpredsjednik/Priekšsēdētāja vietnieks/Pirmininko pavaduotojas/Alelnök/ Viči 'Chairman'/Ondervoorzitter/Wiceprzewodniczący/Vice-Presidente/Vicepreşedinte/Podpredseda/Podpredsednik/Varapuheenjohtaja/Vice ordförande
- (M) = Член/Miembro/Člen/Medlem/Mitglied/Parlamendiliige/Βουλευτής/Member/Membre/Član/Membro/Deputāts/Narys/Képviselő/Membru/Lid/Członek/Membro/Membru/Člen/Poslanec/Jäsen/Ledamot
- (F) = Длъжностно лице/Funcionario/Úředník/Tjenestemand/Beamter/Ametnik/Υπάλληλος/Official/Fonctionnaire/Dužnosnik/Funzionario/Ierēdnis/Pareigūnas/Tisztviselő/Ufficial/Ambtenaar/Urzędnik/Funcionário/Funcționar/Úradník/Uradnik/Virkamies/Tjänsteman