



Delegation for relations with the countries of Central America

DCAM_PV(2022)1019

MINUTES

of the meeting of 19 October 2022, 15.00-16.00

Strasbourg

The meeting opened at 15.06 on Wednesday, 19 October 2022, with Tilly Metz (Chair) presiding.

1. Adoption of draft agenda OJ – PE629.262v01-00

The draft agenda was adopted.

2. Chair's announcements

The Chair informed Members that an inter-parliamentary meeting (IPM) with the National Congress of Honduras was held for the first time, on 29 September in Brussels. During this IPM, the Parliamentarians exchanged views on the challenges the new government and the new Congress in Honduras are facing when trying to elaborate and implement a comprehensive reform agenda after 12 years of rule by the National Party of Honduras. The Chair was pleased to learn that the Congress is determined to combat corruption and set up a new anti-corruption body - “the International Commission against Impunity in Honduras” or “CICIH” - under the umbrella of the UN. The Chair said there would be a continuation of the dialogue with the colleagues from the Honduran Congress in less than two weeks in Tegucigalpa, when a DCAM delegation would visit the country.

**3. Exchange of views on the programme of the mission,
with the participation of:**

- H.E. Viviane de Pierrefeu, Chargé d'affaires, Embassy of Honduras to the Kingdom of Belgium and Mission of Honduras to the European Union (*via video conference*)

- H.E. José Gabriel Lambour Peñalonzo, Head of Mission of the Republic of Guatemala to the European Union (*via video conference*)
- Jonathan Hatwell, Head of Division, Mexico, Central America and Caribbean (AMERICAS.2), European External Action Service (EEAS) (*via video conference*)

Viviane de Pierrefeu, Chargé d'affaires, Mission of Honduras to the EU highlights the fact that Xiomara Castro has been the first woman elected as President in Honduras and explains that she enjoys wide social and international acceptance. She stresses that the visit of the DCAM is highly anticipated by the national authorities, recalling the visit of the Honduran Congress to the European Parliament on 26 September. She points out that the commitment shown by the delegation during their Brussels visit such as the fight against corruption and the desire to strengthen the relationship with the EU as well as the need to have an inclusive, positive dialogue for all, remains important to them,. Therefore, Congress reiterates its commitment to set up the CICIH under the auspices of the UN and to carry out the election of the Supreme Court of Justice with total transparency and with respect to gender parity.

José Gabriel Lambour Peñalonzo, Head of Mission of the Republic of Guatemala to the European Union, begins by saying that the last visit by an EP delegation took place from 29 October to 1 November 2018. He recalls that the commitment to a positive relationship with the EU dates back to 2001, with a desire to strengthen the exchange with the EU and the European Parliament. He states that the objective of the mission would be to have a clear and comprehensive vision of the country's situation and discuss relevant issues to strengthen the relationship in a positive and constructive manner. He also asks for openness in order to take into consideration the meeting suggestions they will send soon. He remembers that Guatemala believes in good governance and the rule of law where the political institutions must guarantee the separation of powers. He recognises the importance of judicial independence for economic and social development and the protection of human rights. The Ambassador highlights the creation of a Presidential Commission on Corruption and the Presidential Commission for Peace and Human Rights (Comisión Presidencial por la Paz y Derechos Humanos - COPADEH) to assist the executive in fighting corruption and upholding human rights. He recalls Guatemala's commitment to strengthening the rule of law and emphasises that democracies are constantly evolving. The ambassador underlines that the EU is an important ally of Guatemala and that any existing concerns would require a balanced dialogue and a constructive spirit. He concludes by recalling that both Guatemala and the EU share values and principles as evidenced by the support given to the UN resolutions on the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

Jonathan Hatwell, Head of Division, Mexico, Central America and Caribbean (AMERICAS.2), European External Action Service (EEAS) highlights the timing of the visit to Central America, especially after the commitment shown by the EU to strengthen the relations with Latin America and the Caribbean, reminding that there have been no summits in the region since 2015. He is pleased with the agendas as they include meetings with national authorities but also with civil society and other relevant stakeholders, in line with the aim of having a comprehensive overview of the situation. As for Honduras, he recalls that there are positive relations with the country and that the EU has been an important development cooperation partner. He emphasises that the EU is committed to supporting the country to address economic and social challenges faced after tropical storms, the impact of COVID and the consequences of Russian aggression. He underlines the need for a sustainable, inclusive agenda to tackle structural high levels of poverty, deep-rooted inequality, as well as to build resilience to external

shocks and foster better-living conditions and economic opportunities in order to reduce migration, particularly irregular migration. He points to the EUR 128 million that are earmarked for development cooperation in the four coming years and that would serve as the basis for cooperation efforts in the areas of sustainable use of natural resources, decent work and employment, and the rule of law and democratic governance. He highlights the need to put human rights as a priority to have a sustainable agenda and welcomes the plan of setting up the CICIH under the UN umbrella, with the EU following closely the debate on the mandate of this commission. He stresses that Honduras is the first country to have signed the Voluntary Partnership Agreement with the EU, a strong signal of the commitment to the green transition and sustainable development. Nonetheless, he expresses his disappointment at Honduras' change of stance in relation to Ukraine and underscores the importance of the vote on the latest UNGA resolution that condemned Russian annexation, in which Honduras abstained. He suggests this recent development as something to raise during the mission of the EP.

Concerning Guatemala, he highlights that there are good relations with the country, as also demonstrated after the Russian aggression, where Guatemala's condemnation of the war has been strong. He explains that this message of appreciation was conveyed by HR/VP Josep Borrell to President Giammattei in New York. On the less positive side, he shows concern about the increasing pressure on the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary, which is closely monitored by the EU. He stresses that there is a pattern of legal actions initiated against independent judges, lawyers and prosecutors and that the loss of judicial immunity has resulted in 20 judges leaving the country. He highlights that this has been accompanied by campaigns of intimidation on social media, particularly by far rights groups. Furthermore, Mr Hatwell draws attention to the arrest of the journalist Jose Ruben Zamora, which raised concerns about press freedom in the country as stated by the Spokesperson. He asks the Guatemalan authorities to guarantee the right to due process. He praises the good macroeconomic performance and high resilience to external shocks the country is showing, being among the first countries, which recovered from the negative economic impact of the pandemic. However, he emphasises that the positive economic development is accompanied by high levels of poverty, inequality and chronic malnutrition, recalling that these are important issues that need to be addressed for macroeconomic performance to be sustainable. He concludes by expressing readiness to work with the authorities to address these challenges and calling for further efforts to fight corruption and impunity and respect the rule of law.

Speakers: Gabriel Mato (EPP/Spain), Alicia Homs Ginel (S&D/Spain), Leopoldo López Gil (EPP/Spain).

4. Information on logistical issues

The Chair briefed the Members on the logistical preparation of the delegation visit.

5. Any other business

The meeting closed at 16.04.

**ПРИСЪСТВЕН ЛИСТ/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/
 ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KO HALO LIJATE NIMEKIRI/KATASTAΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/
 LISTA DE PRÉSENCE/POPIS NAZOČNIH/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU REGISTRS/DALVIŲ SARAŠAS/
 JELENLÉPI ÍV/REGISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA O BEĆENOŠCI/LISTA DEPRESENÇAS/
 LISTA DE PREZENTĀ/PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/NÄRVAROLISTA**

Бюро/Меса/Председништво/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Президије/Bureau/Predsjedništvo/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/Biuras/Elnökség/Prezydium/Birou/Predsedničtvvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
Tilly Metz(P)
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Bouλευτές/Members/Députés/Zastupnici/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselők/Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Alicia Homs Ginel
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Avatληρο τάξη/Substitutes/Suppléants/Zamjenici/Supplenti/Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantys nariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/Namestniki/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
Leopoldo López Gil, Gabriel Mato

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 ítem/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)	Point 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Viviane de Pierrefeu, Chargé d'affaires, Embassy of Honduras to the Kingdom of Belgium and Mission of Honduras to the European Union (via video conference) • H.E. José Gabriel Lambour Peñalonzo, Head of Mission of the Republic of Guatemala to the European Union (via video conference) • Jonathan Hatwell, Head of Division, Mexico, Central America and Caribbean (AMERICAS.2), European External Action Service (EEAS) (via video conference) 	

Наблюдатели/Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaaltejad/Παρατηρητές/Observers/Observateurs/Promatrači/Osservatori/Novčrotáji/Stebētojai/Megfigyelők/Osservaturi/Waarnemers/Obserwatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelia/Opazovalci/Tarkailijat/Observatører

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/Péc priekšsēdētāja uzaicinājuma/Pirmininkui pakvietus/Az elnök meghívására/Fuq stédina tač-'Chairman'/Op uitnodiging van de voorzitter/Na zaproszenie Przewodniczącego/A convite do Presidente/La invitación președintelui/Na pozvanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kut susta/På ordförändens inbjudan

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/Komisia/Komissio/Kommissionen (*)

Европейска служба за външна дейност/Servicio Europeo de Acción Exterior/Evropská služba pro vnitřní činnost/EU-Udenrigstjenesten/Europäischer Auswärtiger Dienst/Euroopa väliseenistus/Europaitikή 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/Európai Külügyi Szolgálat/Servizz Ewropew ghall-Azzjoni Esterna/Europese dienst voor extern optreden/Européjska Služba Działal 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 (*)

Jonathan Hatwell

Други институции и органи/Otras instituciones y organismos/Ostatní orgány a instituce/Andre institutioner og organer/Andere Organe und Einrichtungen/Muud institutsioonid ja organid/Διοπά 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 oħra/Andere instellingen en organen/Inne instytucje i organy/Outras instituições e outras órgãos/Alte instituições e organos/Inné 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/Cíti klátesošie/Kiti dalyviai/Más résztvevők/Parteicipanti ohra/Andere aanwezigen/Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Altí participanți/Iní účastníci/Drugi udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare

Embassy of Honduras: Viviane de Pierrefeu,

Embassy of Guatemala: José Gabriel Lambour Peñalondo

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/Politisko grupu sekretariáts/Frakcijų sekretoriai/Képviselőcsoportok titkársága/Segretariat gruppi politici/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secretariado dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupín/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristö/Del politiska gruppernas sekretariat

PPE	Hugo Van Der Werff
S&D	
Renew	Itziar Munoa Salaverria
ID	
Verts/ALE	Garance Tardieu
ECR	
The Left	
NI	

Кабинет на председателя/Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelář předsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinet des Präsidenten/Presidendi kantselei/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/Kabinet des Generalsekretärs/Peasekretári bùroo/Γραφείο του Γενικού Γραμματέα/Secretary-General's Office/Cabinet du secrétaire général/Ured glavnog tajnika/Gabinetto del Segretario generale/Generalsekretāra kabinets/Generalinio sekretoriaus kabinetas/Főtitkári hivatal/Kabinet tas-Segretarju Čgeneralu/Kabinet van de secretaris-generaal/Gabinet Sekretarza Generalnego/Gabinete do Secretário-Geral/Cabinet Secretar General/Kancelária generálneho tajomníka/Urad generalného sekretarja/Pääsihteerin kabinetti/Generalsekretærarens kansli

Генерална дирекция/Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/
Directorate-General/Direction générale/Glavna uprava/Direzione generale/Generaldirektoräts/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/
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DG EXPO
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Sekretariat komisi/Secretariado da comissão/Secretariat comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottsssekretariatet

Helmut Weixler, David Chico Zamanillo

Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistant/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asystent/Pomočník/
Avustaja/Assister

Rebecca Alrutz, Rocio Rodrigo Muñoz

- * (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chairman/Président/Predsjednik/Priekšsēdētājs/
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Vice-Chair/Potpredsjednik/Vice-Président/Potpredsjednik/Priekšsēdētāja vietnieks/Pirmininko pavadutojas/Alelnök/ Viči
'Chairman'/Ondervoorzitter/Wiceprzewodniczący/Vice-Präsident/Vicepreședinte/Varapuheenjohtaja/Vice ordförande
- (M) = Член/Miembro/Clen/Medlem/Mitglied/Parlamendiilige/Βουλευτής/Member/Membre/Član/Membro/Deputāts/Narys/Képviselő/
Membru/Lid/Członek/Membro/Membri/Clen/Poslanec/Jäsen/Ledamot
- (F) = Должностно лице/Funcionario/Uředník/Tjenestemand/Beamter/Ametnik/Υπάλληλος/Official/Fonctionnaire/Dužnosnik/
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Tjänsteman