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MISSION REPORT

following the ad hoc mission to Santiago and Valparaíso (Chile), and Brasilia (Brazil), from 18 to 23 June 2023

Committee on Foreign Affairs

Members of the mission:

David McAllister	Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs (PPE)
Francisco José Millán Mon	(PPE)
Leopoldo López Gil	(PPE)
Nacho Sánchez Amor	(S&D)
José Ramón Bauzá Díaz	(Renew)
Jaak Madison	(ID)
Manu Pineda	(The Left)
Inma Rodríguez-Piñero	Chair of the Delegation to Chile (S&D)
José Manuel Fernandes	Chair of the Delegation to Brazil (PPE)
Javi López	Chair of Delegation to the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly (S&D)

Introduction

Members from the Foreign Affairs Committee in the European Parliament visited Santiago and Valparaíso in Chile from 19 to 20 June 2023 for talks with Chilean high-level political representatives, civil society and think tanks. The focus of the visit was to discuss finalisation of the EU-Chile Advance Framework Agreement and to restate the EU's interest in engaging more with partners in Latin America at a time of geopolitical shifts and ahead of the summit between the EU and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) taking place in Brussels on 17 and 18 July 2023.

The delegation then continued its mission in Brasilia on June 21-22 to discuss the EU-Mercosur Agreement, geopolitical challenges and the new EU agenda for Latin America with high-level representatives of the Brazilian government, members of the National Congress, civil society groups and think tanks. The AFET delegation landed in Brazil just a few days after the mission of Commission President von der Leyen, which followed a long streak of high profile visits from EU and Member States officials since January 2023. AFET mission was the last in a series of Parliament missions to Brazil, which included those of D-BR and INTA in May and ENVI in June.

Summary account of meetings

Chile

In Santiago, the delegation met with Juan Antonio Coloma, President of the Senate, Gloria de la Fuente, acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Ricardo Lagos, former President of Chile and Chair of the Democracy and Development Foundation. In Valparaíso, Members met with Vlado Mirosevic, President of the Chamber of Deputies, the Committee of External Relations of the Chamber of Deputies led by its President Tomás De Rementería and with the Committee of Foreign Relations of the Senate led by its President Francisco Chahuán.

Members reiterated that the European Parliament has been a firm supporter of closer relations between Chile and the EU. All interlocutors welcomed the longstanding partnership with the EU and highlighted shared democratic values and common interests in the area of trade, climate change, digitalisation, and sustainable development. The consistent foreign policy of Chile was praised by Members as well as the new ambitious feminist foreign policy.

As regards the strategic partnership between the EU and Latin America, Members welcomed Chile's constructive role in the bi-regional cooperation. The recent visit of President Ursula von der Leyen to Chile was warmly welcomed and considered as a testament of EU's renewed interest in engaging more with the region.

The Chilean authorities expressed their strong support for the political agreement on the EU-Chile Advanced Framework Agreement reached in December 2022. Members highlighted that this agreement will take up the EU-Chile partnership to the next level, strengthening political dialogue, deepening cooperation and fostering trade and investment opportunities. Furthermore, its strategic importance was emphasised against the backdrop of geopolitical shifts. Both, Chilean and European parliamentarians welcomed the inclusion of a separate chapter on gender equality within the Advanced Framework Agreement.

The delegation reassured the Chilean side that the European Parliament would strive for a swift consent vote in due time before the next European elections in early June 2024. Both the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies reaffirmed their readiness to support a swift ratification of the agreement after its signature (expected in late 2023). Members recalled the importance of ensuring that the EU-Chile Joint Parliamentary Committee is in place to monitor the implementation of the new EU-Chile Advanced Framework Agreement.

Members also took stock of global and regional security dynamics. Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine was discussed in all meetings. Members reiterated that this war was a blatant violation of the UN Charter and of the international rules-based world order. They thanked Chile for its clear stance in the United Nations General Assembly, for providing humanitarian support to Ukraine and for the commitment to support Ukraine with de-mining its territories.

China's systemic expansion of its presence in Latin America since the turn of the millennium was also addressed. Members stressed that the EU's alternative offer was to provide partners with high quality investments. The Fund for Renewable Hydrogen (EUR 225 million), announced by Commission President von der Leyen during her visit to Chile the week before, was warmly welcomed by the Chilean authorities.

With regard to regional migration challenges, Members noted that Chile, which currently holds the Pro Tempore Presidency of the Quito Process, has been playing an important role in coordinating a regional response to the Venezuelan migration crisis. Chilean authorities noted an increasingly challenging situation with migratory flows and expressed their interest to learn from the EU about border management and integration of migrants.

Chilean authorities also reported a deteriorating security situation marked by an increase in violence and activities of organised crime groups. Cooperation with the EU on security aspects via El Pacto programme was much appreciated by the Chilean counterparts. Launching of the Chile-EU security and defence dialogues in autumn was welcomed.

In Santiago, Members also visited the Museum of Human Rights on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of General Augusto Pinochet's military coup.

Brazil

In the meetings with the Vice-President of the Federative Republic of Brazil and Minister of Development, Industry and Trade, Geraldo Alckmin, and with Maria Luiza Escorel, Secretary for Europe and North America, Members exchanged views on the status of EU-Brazil bilateral relations and highlighted the need to revive the EU-Brazil strategic partnership.

Brazilian authorities welcomed the EU's renewed interest for their country and expressed eagerness to increase cooperation on the existing 30 sectoral dialogues, with a particular focus inter alia on climate change and digitalisation. They defined EU-Brazil relations as "natural" but stated that they should not be taken for granted. In this respect, the recent visit of Commission President von der Leyen was highly praised.

Members also discussed the state of play of the negotiations on the EU-Mercosur agreement. It was repeatedly stressed that the agreement could become the cornerstone of a long-term geopolitical partnership. Members also indicated that there is a clear, albeit not indefinite, "window of opportunity" for the conclusion of the Mercosur agreement under the Spanish presidency of the Council and Brazil's presidency of Mercosur, and that it should not be wasted.

On this issue, Brazilian officials expressed in all meetings serious concerns on the so-called "additional instrument" brought forward by the EU. Additional perplexities have been voiced

by Brazilian interlocutors on the EU legislation on deforestation free supply chains, CBAM, and due diligence. Those developments allegedly altered the delicate balance of the agreement reached in 2019 and the EU has been criticised for having adopted an approach too much focused on the environment rather than on a sustainable social development.

To reach an agreement, more communication and efforts on both sides have been encouraged. Brazilian authorities are working on a counter-proposal together with their Mercosur partners, which will be submitted to the EU in the coming weeks.

Members also asked questions about Brazil's role as a global player, particularly with regard to its agenda for the forthcoming presidencies of the UN Security Council, G20, Mercosur, and BRICS. Brazilian authorities expressed the view that the Brazilian participation in international fora and platforms is important to foster the country's development, boost trade and support peace. Brazil is however concerned about the current state of WTO and supports a reform of the UN.

Brazil is actively preparing its presidency of the G20. The country's officials mentioned the difficulties currently faced by the incumbent Indian presidency and pledged to work hard to achieve a positive outcome with a leaders' declaration in September. Brazil would like to revamp also the parliamentary dimension of G20 ("Parliament 20"), in which the European Parliament could play an important role.

On the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine and its global consequences, Brazilian officials highlighted Brazil's principled stance in the UNGA and its consistent voting pattern. They pledged support for the territorial integrity of Ukraine while reaffirming the country's commitment to international law and the principle of "defence of peace" enshrined in its Constitution. They stressed the need to achieve a sustainable peace while reiterating that Brazil's participation in international sanctions would be against Brazilian legislation.

The delegation subsequently met with members of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and National Defence of the National Congress, chaired by its President Paulo Alexandre Barbosa and with the President of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and National Defence of the Senate, Renan Calheiros.

In those meetings, Members reiterated the EU's willingness to build a geostrategic partnership with Brazil and enquired about the positioning of Brazil as an important regional player that could play an increased role in addressing regional crises such as the ones in Venezuela and Nicaragua.

The topic of racism against Brazilian sportsmen and citizens in Europe has been also discussed at length, alongside the planned tax reform and the so-called "fake news draft law".

Members also visited Embrapa Cerrados Apex, a research centre focused on the sustainable development of agriculture, located in the Cerrado biome. During the visit, they were given a very interesting presentation on the ground-breaking techniques developed by Embrapa to achieve a more sustainable and productive use of the soil with a reduced use of fertilisers.

Members finally had the opportunity to meet with representatives of indigenous civil society groups, think tanks and other civil society representatives. They exchanged views on the current status of internal Brazilian politics and foreign relations. Civil society and indigenous groups representatives gave an account of the various issues affecting the Brazilian population, with particular regard to the condition and rights of minorities such as the indigenous groups in Amazonia and elsewhere as well as the Afro-Brazilian community.

Conclusions and follow-up

- Prepare for finalisation of the EU-Chile Advanced Agreement allowing the European Parliament to consider giving its consent still in the current legislative procedure. This requires starting the parliamentary work ahead of the referral of the consent.
- Continue engaging with the Chilean parliament in order to set up the EU-Chile Joint Parliamentary Committee.
- Continue monitoring the negotiations on the EU-Mercosur agreement with a view to a possible consent procedure before the end of the current legislative term.
- Engage with Brazilian counterparts during the country's presidencies of Mercosur, UNSC, G20. With regard to the latter, follow up in particular on the possible organisation of a "Parliament 20" meeting. Monitor cases of racial discrimination against Brazilian citizens in the EU.

Final programme
AFET ad hoc delegation
Santiago de Chile and Valparaiso (Chile) and Brasilia (Brazil)
18-23 June 2023

Sunday 18 June - individual arrivals to Santiago de Chile (Chile)

Monday 19 June - Santiago de Chile (Chile)

09:00-10:00	Joint AFET-AFCO briefing by H.E. León de la Torre Kraiss, Ambassador, EU Delegation to Chile
10:30-11:30	Visit of Museum of Memory and Human Rights
12:00-12:45	Meeting with H.E. Ricardo Lagos, former President of Chile, Chair of the Democracy and Development Foundation
13:00-15:00	Joint AFET-AFCO working lunch with EU Member States' Ambassadors hosted by the European Parliament
15:30-16:30	Meeting with Gloria de la Fuente, acting Minister of Foreign Affairs and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs
17:00-18:00	Meeting with think tanks and civil society
18:45-19:15	Press interview by the AFET Chair
19:30-21:00	Joint AFET-AFCO working dinner with Chilean authorities hosted by the European Parliament

Tuesday 20 June - Santiago de Chile and Valparaíso (Chile)

8:30-9:15	Meeting with H.E. Juan Antonio Coloma, President of the Senate
9:15-9:35	Joint Press Statement by the AFET Chair and H.E. Juan Antonio Coloma, President of the Senate
10:00-11:30	<i>Transfer from Santiago to Valparaíso</i>

- 11:30-12:30 Meeting with the Committee of External Relations of the Chamber of Deputies led by Tomás De Rementería, President of the Committee of External Relations
- 12:30-12:45 Meeting with H.E. Vlado Mirosevic, President of the Chamber of Deputies
- 12:45-13:15 Meeting with the Committee of Foreign Relations of the Senate led by Francisco Chahuán, President of the Committee of Foreign Relations
- 13:15-01:05 *Transfer from Valparaíso to Brasilia*

Wednesday, 21 June 2023 - Brasilia (Brazil)

- 09:00-10:00 Meeting with the H.E. Geraldo Alckmin, Vice-President of the Federative Republic of Brazil and Minister of development, industry and trade
- 11:00-12:00 Meeting with Ambassador Maria Luiza Escorel, Secretary for Europe and North America
- 15:00-16:00 Meeting with the Committee on Foreign Affairs and National Defence of Lower House - chaired by the President Deputy Paulo Alexandre Barbosa
- 16:30-17:15 Meeting with the President of the Committee on Foreign Affairs and National Defence of the Senate, Senator Renan Calheiros
- 18:30-19:00 Press interview by the AFET Chair
- 19:00-22:00 Reception with Ambassadors accredited to Brazil hosted by the European Parliament

Thursday 22 June 2023 - Brasilia (Brazil)

- 8:30-11:00 Visit of Embrapa Cerrados Apex Research Center
- 14:00-15:30 Meeting with the think tanks representatives
- 15:30-17:45 Meeting with the Indigenous Representatives and Civil Society Representatives

Friday 23 June - individual departures from Brasilia (Brazil)