



Delegation for relations with Mercosur

DMER_PV(2023)0323

MINUTES

of the meeting of 23 March 2023, 15.00-17.00

Brussels

The meeting opened on Monday 23 March 2023 at 15.08, with Jordi Cañas (Chair) presiding.

1. Adoption of agenda

PE 596.575v02-00

The draft agenda was adopted.

2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of:

- 13 October 2022

PE 596.574v01-00

The minutes were approved.

3. Chair's announcements

The Chair thanked the Ambassador of Argentina to the European Union, Pablo Ariel Grinspan, for his excellent work during his mission in Brussels and wished him every success in his new role.

The Chair pointed out that a number of documents for Members' information had been included in the meeting papers.

4. Venezuela: the political situation following the end of Juan Guaidó's interim government, and the human rights situation in the country

Exchange of views with:

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PE596.577v01-00

- Marta Valiñas, Chair of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Venezuela, United Nations Human Rights Council
- Veronique Lorenzo, Head of Division, South America, European External Action Service

The experts of the UN Human Rights Council's Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on Venezuela recalled that their mandate was to investigate human rights violations that have occurred in Venezuela since 2014. They expressed disappointment at the Venezuelan authorities' lack of cooperation, which forced them to carry out their work outside Venezuela. The experts indicated that the Fact-Finding Mission's reports found that crimes against humanity had been committed in Venezuela, and that the perpetrators enjoyed impunity. They noted that the 2023 report would focus on restrictions on civic space that may have repercussions on the elections scheduled for 2024. They stressed that international monitoring would be essential to ensure that these elections are transparent and fair. They also mentioned a draft law on non-governmental organisations being debated in the Venezuelan National Assembly, which could further limit the activities of NGOs.

The representative of the European External Action Service recalled that Venezuela was experiencing a serious political, economic, social and humanitarian crisis. She stressed that the upcoming 2024 elections would be an opportunity to restore respect for Venezuela's institutional system. She pointed out that the National Assembly's decision to end Juan Guaidó's interim presidency highlighted a major shift in the opposition's strategy, which is expected to forego abstentionism in favour of active participation in the upcoming elections by putting forward a united candidate. She stated that democracy in Venezuela remained the ultimate goal of the international community, and was confident that the new strategy – as well as the negotiations between the regime and the opposition – would bear fruit.

Leopoldo López emphasised the dire humanitarian situation of all Venezuelans – be they in the country or migrants and/or refugees – and the regime's appalling record in government. This led him to describe the situation as a genocide. In his view, the European Union's action was not commensurate with the gravity of the situation.

Speakers: Leopoldo López Gil (EPP/Spain), Jordi Cañas (Renew/Spain)

In association with the Delegation for relations with the Federative Republic of Brazil

5. Brazil: monitoring the political landscape in the country following the 2022 general election, with particular reference to the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement

Exchange of views with:

- H.E. Pedro Miguel Da Costa e Silva, Ambassador of the Federative Republic of Brazil to the European Union
- Ignacio Ybáñez, Ambassador of the European Union to the Federative Republic of Brazil (*via video link*)

- Günther Maihold, Deputy Director, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik) (*via video link from Germany*)

The Brazilian Ambassador to the European Union outlined some of the main policy objectives that the new Lula da Silva government was working towards, highlighting its dialogue with civil society, as well as its social protection measures and the actions taken to support families, uphold equality, tackle racism, protect the environment and promote education. He stressed the need to strengthen the strategic partnership between Brazil and the European Union and recalled President Lula da Silva's support for the Association Agreement between the European Union and Mercosur, noting that Brazilian authorities were evaluating the additional sustainability instrument proposed by the European Union.

The Head of the European Union Delegation to Brazil recalled the high degree of polarisation that characterised the legislative and presidential election campaign. He expressed a favourable opinion on the new government's policies, particularly those supporting the most disadvantaged sections of society, as well as those safeguarding indigenous peoples and the environment. He also took a positive view of Brazil's efforts to overcome the impasse in the negotiations on the Association Agreement.

He warned about the persistence of populism and extremism in Brazil. He pointed out that the measures adopted by the new government signalled a desire to move closer to the European Union, and predicted that Brazil would play a more prominent role in international fora and in discussions on global issues. He concluded by saying that, in the framework of the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement, both parties should aim to move forward together in outlining common standards in areas such as social or environmental policy.

The speakers highlighted Brazil's leading role on the regional and international stage, stressing that the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement was beneficial for both parties, that its text was the result of an agreement between equals and that it should not be renegotiated, and that every effort had to be made to ensure the successful conclusion of the current negotiations. In response to questions from Members, the ambassadors said that the agreement enjoyed majority support among the Brazilian population, while acknowledging that efforts were needed to raise awareness of its impact. They were also confident that negotiations would gain momentum in 2023, not least because of the upcoming EU-CELAC summit in July.

Speakers: José Manuel Fernandes (EPP/Portugal), João Albuquerque (S&D/Portugal), Samira Rafaela (Renew/Netherlands), Ana Miranda (The Greens/Spain), Nacho Sánchez Amor (S&D/Spain), Jordi Cañas (Renew/Spain)

6. Any other business

None.

7. 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 17.06.

**ПРИСЪСТВЕН ЛИСТ/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/
 ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/KATASTAŞH PAPONTΩN/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**

Бюро/Меса/Председниство/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Predsjedništvo/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/Biuras/Elnökség/Prezydium/Birou/Predsedništvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
DMER: Jordi Cañas (P)
D-BR: José Manuel Fernandes (P), João Albuquerque (VP)
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
DMER: Leopoldo López Gil, Colm Markey, Samira Rafaela
D-BR: Ana Miranda

209 (7)	
216 (3)	
Francisco José Millán Mon, Nacho Sánchez Amor	
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 Ağenda/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"> • Marta Valiñas, Presidente de la Misión Internacional Independiente de Determinación de los Hechos sobre Venezuela, Consejo de derechos Humanos, Naciones Unidas • Veronique Lorenzo, jefe de la División para América del Sur en el Servicio Europeo de Acción Exterior 	Punto 4
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S. E. Pedro Miguel Da Costa e Silva, embajador de la República Federativa de Brasil ante la Unión Europea • Ignacio Ybáñez, embajador de la Unión Europea ante la República Federativa de Brasil (por videoconferencia desde Brasil) • Günther Maihold, subdirector, Instituto Alemán de Asuntos Internacionales y de Seguridad (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik) (por videoconferencia desde Alemania) 	Punto 5

Наблюдатели/Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaatlejad/Παρατηρητές/Observers/Observateurs/Promatrači/
Osservatori/Nověrotáji/Stebétojai/Megfigyelök/Osservaturi/Waarnemers/Obserwatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelia/
Opazovalci/Tarkkailijat/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

Marta Valiñas, Francisco Cox, Patricia Tappatá, Günther Maihold

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/Komissio/Kommissionen (*)

Andrea Nicolaj, Jana Krestynova

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/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 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 (*)

Ignacio Ybáñez, Veronique Lorenzo

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/Istítuzzjoni jiet u korpi oħra/Andere instellingen en organen/Inne instytucje i organy/Outras instituições
e outros órgãos/Alte instituições si organes/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 Argentina: Pablo Grinspan, Constanza Crespo, Santiago Mones Ruiz

Embassy of Brazil: Pedro Miguel Da Costa e Silva, Sarah Prado Chikala, Elias Luna A. Santos, Pedro Gazzinelli Colares

Embassy of Paraguay: Rigoberto Gauto, Federico Bartolozzi, German Benitez

Embassy of Uruguay: Pablo Sader, Alejandro Rosello, Beatriz Iriñiz

Секретариат на политическите групи/Secretaría de los Grupos políticos/Sekretariát politických skupin/Gruppernes sekretariat/Sekretariat der Fraktionen/Fraktsioonide sekretariaat/Τραμποτεία των Πολιτικών Ομάδων/Secretariats of political groups/Secrétaire des groupes politiques/Tajništvo klubova zastupnika/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko gruпу sekretariāts/Frakcijų sekretoriai/Képviselőcsoportok titkársága/Segretarjat gruppi političi/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secretariado dos grupos políticos/Secretariate gruppu politice/Sekretariát politických skupín/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristöt/De politiska gruppernas sekretariat

PPE	Juan Salafranca, Kathryn Stack
S&D	
Renew	Ursa Pondelek
Verts/ALE	
ID	
ECR	Jaime Moro Agud
The Left	
NI	

Кабинет на председателя/Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelář předsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinett 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/Puhemien 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/Generälsekretära kabinets/Generalinio sekretoriaus kabinetas/Főtitkári hivatal/Kabinet tas-Segretarju Ĝeneral/Kabinet van de secretaris-generaal/Gabinet Sekretarza Generalnego/Gabinete do Secretário-Geral/Cabinet Secretar General/Kancelária generálneho tajomníka/Urad generalnega sekretarja/Pääsihteerin kabinetti/Generalsekretarerens 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/Pääsästö/Generaldirektorat	
DG PRES	
DG IPOL	
DG EXPO	
DG EPRS	
DG COMM	
DG PAPA	
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Правна служба/Servicio Jurídico/Právní služba/Juridisk Tjeneste/Juristischer Dienst/Õigusteenistus/Νομική Υπηρεσία/Legal Service/ Service juridique/Pravna služba/Servizio giuridico/Juridiskais dienests/Teisés tárnyba/Jogi szolgálat/Servizz legali/Juridische Dienst/ Wydział prawnego/Serviço Jurídico/Serviciu Juridic/Právny servis/Oikeudellinen yksikkö/Rättsstjänsten	
Секретариат на комисията/Secretaría de la comisión/Sekretariát 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/Segretarjat tal-kumitat/Commissie secretariaat/ Sekretariat komisji/Secretariado da comissão/Secretariat comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottsssekretariatet	
Juan Carlos Perez Navas, Helmut Weixler, David Chico	
Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistente/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asystent/Pomočník/ Avustaja/Assisternter	
Rebecca Alrutz, Rocio Rodrigo Muñoz	

- * (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esiemees/Πρόεδρος/Chairman/Président/Predsjednik/Priekšsēdētājs/
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Vice-Chair/Potpredsjednik/Vice-Präsident/Potpredsjednik/Priekšsēdētāja vietnieks/Pirimiminko pavaduotojas/Alelnök/ Viči
'Chairman'/Ondervoorzitter/Wiceprzewodniczący/Vice-Präsident/Vicepreședinte/Podpredseda/Podpredsednik/
Varapuheenjohtaja/Vice ordförande
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Membru/Lid/Członek/Membro/Membru/Člen/Poslanec/Jäsen/Ledamot
(F) = Должностно лице/Funcionario/Úředník/Tjenestemand/Beamter/Ametnik/Υπάλληλος/Official/Fonctionnaire/Dužnosnik/
Funzionário/Ierēdnis/Pareigūnas/Tisztviselő/Uffīcial/Ambtenaar/Urzędnik/Funcionário/Funcționar/Úradník/Uradnik/Virkamies/
Tjänsteman