

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Delegation for relations with Mercosur

DMER 7/08

MINUTES

Meeting of 3 September 2008, from 15.00 to 16.00

BRUSSELS

The meeting opened at 15.00 on Wednesday 3 September 2008, with Fernando Fernández Martín, standing in for Mr Sousa Pinto and in the absence of the Vice-Chairs, in the chair.

1. Adoption of the draft agenda

The agenda was adopted, with consideration of Delegation activities for the first half of 2009 being incorporated in Item 4.

2. Approval of minutes of the meeting of 26 June 2008

The minutes were approved without change.

3. Chair's oral announcements

- The Chair informed the Delegation that after the visit of the Mercosur Parliament to Brussels on 28 May 2008, the President of that institution had written to Parliament to confirm his intention to establish regular contacts. In reply, President Pöttering would send him a proposal concerning political and administrative meetings for the first half of 2009, in keeping with our Delegation's programme of activities.
- The Chair informed the Delegation of a proposal by the Delegation for relations with the countries of the Andean Community to involve the Mercosur Delegation in its visit to Venezuela scheduled for February 2009, since Venezuela no longer participated in the activities of the Andean Community, while its accession process to Mercosur was under way. The Delegation approved this proposal.
- The Chair informed members of a request by the EP's "High-Level Group for Equality and Diversity" to appoint one of the members as the Delegation's contact person in a network monitoring the integration of the gender perspective in the work of the committees and delegations and invited the political groups to nominate a candidate for this function.

4. Programme of Delegation activities for the second half of 2008 and first half of 2009

The Chair submitted to the Delegation an amended draft calendar to take account of requirements for preparing the visit to Brazil (attached to the current minutes). The Delegation approved this draft.

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5. Preparation of Delegation Working Party visit to Brazil (24-28 November 2008)

The Chair pointed out that, despite the importance of the country, the European Parliament's relations with Brazil were sporadic. Since the last visit to Brazil in 2005, contacts had been limited to meetings alongside multilateral meetings (Eurolat, Mercosur Parliament) or to individual or specialist visits.

However, our visit in November would take place at a particularly significant time, shortly after the municipal elections of 5 and 26 October and one month before the EU-Brazil summit. During this summit a joint action plan should be adopted as part of the establishment of a strategic partnership between the EU and Brazil. This visit was therefore an opportunity to step up our relations and place them on an official footing; we had also suggested to the Commission and Council that the parliamentary dimension of EU-Brazil relations be explicitly mentioned in the action plan objectives.

The Chair invited Members to express their proposals on the content of the visit and on the regions to visit in the country. He mentioned in particular, among the subjects to be dealt with, cooperation and trade between the EU and Brazil, and regional integration prospects, in particular with regard to defence.

He also asked Members to express their views on the advisability of taking advantage of this visit also to meet the Mercosur Parliament.

With regard to the composition of the working group, the Chair proposed that it be limited to a size enabling direct exchanges to take place with our Brazilian partners, i.e. 14 members at the most, the aim being not to exceed 11 members, rather than the 21 places theoretically available. Following statements by Søren Bo Søndergaard and Ján Hudacký, who were worried about the fair representation of small political groups, and the assurances of the Chair that the latter would definitely have a place, the Delegation approved this proposal unanimously.

Gerardo Galeote stressed the importance of helping to raise the profile and strengthen the institutional role of the Mercosur Parliament and endorsed the principle of a visit to the headquarters of this institution in Montevideo. As far as the visit to Brazil itself was concerned, he mentioned the issue of alternative energies.

Wolfgang Kreissl-Dörfler expressed the desire for the Delegation to meet the President of the

Republic and the Minister of the Environment. With regard to the choice of a place to visit in the region, he expressed his preference for the *Nordeste*, mentioning Belém in particular. He also supported the principle of a meeting with the Mercosur Parliament, but suggested that the latter could take the form of an informal meeting in Brasilia in order to avoid an additional trip to Montevideo, in view of the size of Brazil and the length of journeys between cities.

Mrs Figueiredo proposed that, over and beyond institutional contacts, the Delegation should also meet those involved in civil society, in particular women's organisations, landless farmers and trade unions. The Chair confirmed to her that contacts with civil society would indeed be scheduled into the programme yet to be drawn up.

Gérard Onesta took the view that holding a meeting with the Mercosur Parliament in Brasilia rather than at its headquarters in Montevideo would send out a negative signal and run counter to the political objectives of both Parliament and Mercosur. The Chair agreed with this position: if the meeting was to take place, it should be in Montevideo in order to increase the legitimacy and visibility of the Mercosur Parliament and of its cooperation with the European Parliament.

Silvia-Adriana Țicău mentioned, among the matters to be included in the discussions, the issue of climate change.

Mrs BARTHELMESS, representing the Brazilian Embassy, welcomed the dynamism of the bilateral EU-Brazil relationship and the interest shown by the EP. She confirmed that there were many aspects of Brazil's experience in renewable energies and sustainable development which could be of interest to MEPs when they were defining European strategies. She stressed the current dynamism of cooperation at all levels, with the launch of the strategic partnership and the drawing up of the joint action plan.

Mrs MARTINS, for the Commission, set out the key aspects of the action plan, which focused in particular on:

- promoting democracy and an international legal order
- pursuing the Millennium Development Goals
- environment and climate change
- cooperation in energy matters
- the dialogue of security, non-proliferation and conflict prevention
- the fight against terrorism and drug trafficking
- the promotion of regional integration
- the strengthening of economic and trade ties
- cooperation in research, technology and transport
- the strengthening of ties in culture, education and civil society.

She also mentioned the strengthening of parliamentary exchanges, the arrangements for which had been drawn up in cooperation with the European Parliament.

She said that on 26 and 27 November 2008 a conference on 'Regional integration and local development' would be held, supported by the Commission and likely to interest Members on account of both its content and the participants involved.

The Chair noted that the various opinions expressed called for further discussion in consultation with Mr SOUSA PINTO, Delegation Chair, who would submit some options for decision at the next Delegation meeting.

6. Other business

None.

7. Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting would be held on Wednesday, 24 September at 15.15 in Brussels.

The meeting closed at 15.45.

Revised calendar of Delegation meetings for the second half of 2008

September	Time	Place
Wednesday 3	15.00	Brussels
Wednesday 24	15.15	Brussels

October	Time	Place
Wednesday 15	10.15	Brussels

November	Time	Place
Thursday 13	10.15	Brussels

Working group external visits

November		Place
24-28 November		Brazil

**ПРИСЪСТВЕН ЛИСТ/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/
ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/KATAΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/
LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU REĢISTRŠ/DALYVIŲ SAŪAŠAS/JELENLÉTI ÍV/
REĢISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŠCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/LISTÁ DE PREZENŤÁ/
PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA**

Бюро/Mesa/Předsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/Biuras/Elnökség/ Prezydium/Birou/Predsednictvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselők/ Membri/Leden/Poslowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Małgorzata HANDZLIK, Ján HUDACKÝ, Wolfgang KREISSL-DÖRFLER, Donato Tommaso VERALDI, Gérard ONESTA, Leopold Józef RUTOWICZ, Ewa TOMASZEWSKA, Ilda FIGUEIREDO, Søren Bo SØNDERGAARD,
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Supplenti/ Aizstājēji/Pavadojuantys nariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/Namestniki/ Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
Gerardo GALEOTE, Amalia SARTORI, Silvia-Adriana ȚICĂU, Bernadette VERGNAUD

178 (2)
183 (3)
Fernando FERNÁNDEZ MARTIN
46 (6) (Точка от дневния ред/Punto del orden del día/Bod pořadu jednání (OJ)/Punkt på dagsordenen/Tagesordnungspunkt/Päevakorra punkt/Ημερήσια Διάταξη Σημείο/Agenda item/Point OJ/Punto all'ordine del giorno/Darba kārtības punkts/Darbotvarkēs punktās/ Napirendi pont/Punt Agenda/Agendapunt/Punkt porządku dziennego/Ponto OD/Punct de pe ordinea de zi/Bod programu schůdce/ Točka UL/Esityslistan kohta/Föredragningslista punkt)

Наблюдатели/Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaatlejad/Παρατηρητές/Observers/Observateurs/Osservatori/ Novērotāji/Stebētāji/Megfigyelők/Osservatori/Waarnemers/Observatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelia/Opazovalci/ 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(wo)man/ Sur l'invitation du président/ 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/Nōukogu/ Συμβούλιο/ Council/Conseil/Consiglio/Padome/Taryba/Tanács/Kunsill/Raad/Conselho/ Consiliu/Svet/Neuvosto/Rådet (*)
Комисия/Comisión/Komise/Kommissionen/Kommission/Euroopa Komisjon/Επιτροπή/Commission/Commissione/Komisija/Bizottság/ Kummissjoni/Commissie/Komisja/Comissão/Comisie/Komisia/Komissio/Kommissionen (*)
Ana Beatriz MARTINS; Carlo NATALE
Други институции/Otras instituciones/Ostatní orgány a instituce/Andre institutioner/Andere Organe/Muud institutsioonid/ Άλλα θεσμικά όργανα/Other institutions/Autres institutions/Altre istituzioni/Citas iestādes/Kitos institucijos/Más intézmények/ Istituzzjonijiet oħra/Andere instellingen/Inne instytucje/Outras Instituições/Alte instituții/Iné inštitúcie/Druge institucije/Muut toimielimet/Andra institutioner/organ

Други учасници/Otros participantes/Ostatní účastníci/Endvidere deltog/Andere Teilnehmer/Muud osalejad/Επίσης Παρόντες/Other participants/Autres participants/Altri partecipanti/Citi klātesošie/Kiti dalyviai/Más résztvevők/Partecipanti oħra/Andere aanwezigen/ Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Alți participanți/Ini účastnici/Drugi udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare																
Ambassade d'Argentine: Alan BÉRAUD; Maite FERNANDEZ Ambassade du Brésil: E. BARTHELMESS Ambassade du Paraguay: Maria AMARILLA Ambassade de l'Uruguay: M. BLANCO																
Секретариат на политическите групи/Secretaría de los Grupos políticos/Sekretariat politických skupin/Gruppernes sekretariat/ Sekretariat der Fraktionen/Fraktioonide sekretariaat/Γραμματεία των Πολιτικών Ομάδων/Secretariats of political groups/Secrétariat des groupes politiques/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko grupu sekretariāts/Frakcijų sekretoriai/Képviseletcsoportok titkársága/Sekretarjat gruppi polițici/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secr. dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariat politických skupin/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristö/Gruppernas sekretariat																
<table border="1"> <tr> <td>PPE-DE</td> <td>J. SALAFRANCA</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PSE</td> <td>H. GEUTHNER</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ALDE</td> <td>I. MUÑOA; J.P. TRAUFLER</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Verts/ALE</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>GUE/NGL</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>IND/DEM</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>UEN</td> <td>K. SLUSARCZYK</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NI</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	PPE-DE	J. SALAFRANCA	PSE	H. GEUTHNER	ALDE	I. MUÑOA; J.P. TRAUFLER	Verts/ALE		GUE/NGL		IND/DEM		UEN	K. SLUSARCZYK	NI	
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UEN	K. SLUSARCZYK															
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<p>DG PRES DG IPOL DG EXPO DG COMM DG PERS DG INLO DG TRAD DG INTE DG FINS DG ITEC</p>	
<p>Правна служба/Servicio Jurídico/Právní služba/Juridisk Tjeneste/Juristischer Dienst/Öigusteenistus/Νομική Υπηρεσία/Legal Service/Service juridique/Servizio giuridico/Juridiskais dienests/Teisės tarnyba/Jogi szolgálat/Servizz legali/Juridische Dienst/Wydział prawny/Serviço Jurídico/Serviciu Juridic/Právny servis/Pravna služba/Oikeudellinen yksikkö/Rättstjänsten</p>	
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<p>T. JACOB</p>	
<p>Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asystent/Pomočnik/Avustaja/Assistenten</p>	
<p>F. VERGNES</p>	

* (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Président/Priekšsēdētājs/Pirmininkas/Elnök/Chairman/Voorzitter/Przewodniczący/Preşedinte/Předseda/Puheenjohtaja/Ordförande
(VP) = Заместник-председател/Vicepresidente/Místopředseda/Næstformand/Stellvertretender Vorsitzender/Aseesimees/Αντιπρόεδρος/Vice-Chair(wo)man/Vice-Président/Priekšsēdētāja vietnieks/Pirmininko pavaduotojas/Alelnök/Víci 'Chairman'/Ondervoorzitter/Wiceprzewodniczący/Vice-Présidente/Vicepreşedinte/Podpredseda/Podpredsednik/Varapuheenjohtaja/Vice ordförande
(M) = Член/Miembro/Člen/Medlem./Mitglied/Parlamendiliige/Μέλος/Member/Membre/Membro/Deputāts/Narys/Képviselő/Membru/Lid/Członek/Membro/Membru/Člen/Poslanec/Jäsen/Ledamot
(F) = Длъжностно лице/Funcionario/Úředník/Tjenestemand/Beamtner/Ametnik/Υπάλληλος/Official/Fonctionnaire/Funzionario/Ierēdnis/Pareigūnas/Tisztviselő/Ufficial/Ambtenaar/Urządnik/Funcionário/Funcionar/Úradnik/Uradnik/Virkamies/Tjänsteman