

Fifth Meeting of the EU - Chile Negotiations Committee

CONCLUSIONS - Santiago de Chile 9-12 July 2001

Negotiators from Chile and the European Union met for the fifth time in the context of the EU-Chile Negotiations Committee (NC) during 9-12 July 2001 in Santiago, Chile. This meeting formed the fifth round of negotiations, aiming at the conclusion of an Association Agreement between the European Union and Chile.

The Chilean Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mrs Soledad Alvear, on behalf of Chile, and the Director General for External Relations of the European Commission, Mr Guy Legras, on behalf of the European Union, jointly opened the fifth meeting of the NC with statements that strongly reflected both sides' deep commitment to the negotiating process and interest in making significant progress in the discussions during the present phase of the negotiations.

During the opening session, Director General Legras announced that the Council of the European Union the following day would approve the European Commission's negotiating mandate for an Agreement on Science and Technology with Chile.

Moreover, on Tuesday 10 July 2001, during a plenary session of the NC the EU and Chile exchanged their respective tariff offers and negotiating texts for goods, services and government procurement. Both Parties expressed their satisfaction, as this step marked the beginning of the substantive part of the trade negotiations.

The Parties made significant progress in, and almost concluded, their negotiations in the areas of political dialogue and co-operation.

The Chilean delegation was headed by Mr. Heraldo Muñoz, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and the delegation of the European Union was headed by Mr. Guy Legras, Director General for External Relations of the European Commission.

1) Results of the meeting:

A) Political Dialogue:

The discussions on the future political dialogue were almost concluded and the Parties agreed on several amendments to the chapters on "institutional framework" and "political dialogue". Other amendments still remain between square brackets and will be discussed at a future meeting of the NC. In addition, Chile proposed a text on the final provisions of the association agreement, which will also be discussed at a future meeting of the NC.

B) Co-operation:

In the framework of activities developed during the fifth NC in the field of co-operation, the Subgroup on Economic Co-operation met on Tuesday 10 July. The Parties agreed on a joint draft text in the field of economic co-operation.

This means that the co-operation negotiations have led to agreed texts on all co-operation areas to be negotiated with only very few points remaining in square brackets which will be resolved at future meetings of the NC.

In addition, Chile made a new proposal on "co-operation within the association relationship (upgrading)".

C) Commerce:

Both sides started an in-depth discussion on the tariff offers and the negotiating texts for services, investment and government procurement. In addition, work continued on tariff and non tariff matters, rules of origin, customs, technical barriers to trade, trade defence instruments (antidumping and safeguards), services, investment and capital movements, intellectual property rights, government procurement, competition and wine agreement in the technical groups.

As a result, both Parties identified a set of common elements and issues which require further analysis. In all groups serious progress was achieved and work was amplified on the consolidation of negotiating texts.

In some areas technical meetings will take place before the next round.

2) Venue and date of the next meeting of the Negotiations Committee:

Both sides agreed to hold their next meeting in Brussels in the first week of October 2001. This meeting will address all relevant issues, in particular the discussions on tariff offers as well as the services sector.