



Newsletter Latin America Unit



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[Who does what in the Unit](#)

EuroLat Parliamentary Assembly

Meeting of the EP Delegation to the EuroLat Parliamentary Assembly

The meeting of the EP Delegation took place on 16 December 2009 in Strasbourg. The Chairman, Mr José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra (ES-EPP), presented an extensive report on the Assembly's activities in 2009, including inter alia the organisation of the Third Ordinary Plenary Session on 6-8 April 2009 in Madrid, as well as the participation at the XIV EU-Rio Group Ministerial Meeting on 11-14 May 2009 in Prague. The incorporation of the Parlasur into membership of the Assembly and the revision of the EuroLat Rules of Procedure was also mentioned, as well as the setting-up of the EU-LAC Working Group on Migration Issues.



Particular attention was then given to the need to highlight the visibility and the political impact of the Assembly's activities.

European Parliament - DG External Policies - Latin America Unit

Ongoing EuroLat Documents

Committee on Political Affairs, Security and Human Rights

Motion for a Resolution "[The European Union-Latin America Partnership with a view to the Sixth Summit in Madrid in May 2010](#)" - EP co-rapporteurs: Mr. Ramón Jáuregui Atondo (S&D) and Mrs Renate Weber (ALDE) - LAC co-rapporteur: Mrs Vilma Reyes (Central American Parliament)

Consideration of amendments and vote will take place in the next Committee on Political Affairs, Security and Human Rights meeting in May 2010.

Deadline for tabling amendments is Friday 29 January 2010, 12h00.

Committee on Economic, Financial and Commercial Affairs

Motion for a Resolution "[Reform of the World Trade Organisation](#)" EP co-rapporteur: Mrs Bernardette Vergnaud (S&D) - LAC co-rapporteur: Mr. Fausto Lupera (Parlandino)

Consideration of amendments and vote will take place in the next Committee on Economic, Financial and Commercial Affairs meeting in May 2010.

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It was subsequently decided to invite the forthcoming Spanish Presidency of the Council of the Union to present its priorities for Latin America to the EP Delegation. Invitations will be extended to the High Representative/Vice President of the Commission, Baroness Catherine Ashton once the hearings have taken place and the new Commission is in office, as well as the United States Assistant Secretary of State for Latin America, Mr Arturo Valenzuela.

The following day, the Conference of Presidents approved the EuroLat Programme of Activities for 2010, including the EuroLat Ordinary Plenary Session which will take place in Seville on 13-15 May 2010.

Deadline for tabling amendments is Friday 29 January 2010, 12h00.

Committee on Social Affairs, Human Exchanges, Environment, Education and Culture

Motion for a Resolution "[Tackling climate change challenges together: for an EU-LAC coordinated strategy in the framework of the UNFCCC negotiations](#)" EP co-rapporteur: Mr Peter Liese (PPE) - LAC co-rapporteur: Mr. Carlos Baraibar (Parlatino)

Consideration of amendments and vote will take place in the next Committee on Social Affairs, Human Exchanges, Environment, Education and Culture meeting in May 2010.

Deadline for tabling amendments is Friday 29 January 2010, 12h00.

Upcoming meetings

- The next meeting of the EP Delegation will be held on [10 March 2010](#) in Strasbourg.

EP Standing Delegations for Latin America

Delegation to the [EU-Mexico JPC](#)

Chair: Mr Ramon Jauregui Atondo (ES, S&D)

IX EU-Mexico JPC meeting on 10 and 11 December in Mexico City

The IX EU-Mexico JPC meeting took place on 10 and 11 December 2009 in Mexico City. This was the first JPC meeting following the June 2009 elections with the new composition, under the chairmanship of Mr Ramon Jáuregui. His co-chairman on the Mexican side was Senator Jose Guadarrama. During the JPC meeting, parliamentarians on both sides examined the latest developments on the implementation of the EU-Mexico Association Agreement and the Strategic Partnership.



Both sides welcomed the high level of political dialogue and the maturity of the EU-Mexico relationship. The adoption of the Strategic Partnership between the EU and Mexico reflects the relevance of this relationship. However, Parliamentarians on both sides insisted that the Strategic Partnership should

provide a clear added value in addition to the Association Agreement. In this context, bilateral trade was also examined, with the main feature being the overdependence of the Mexican economy on the US, and the need for Mexico to diversify its exports and use the opportunities offered by the EU market. Mexican interlocutors also regretted also that the Calderon Administration did not address the impact of the current economic downturn sufficiently. The parliamentarians discussed also human rights situation both in Mexico and the EU, as well as the possibilities for increased cooperation in security matters under the umbrella of the Strategic Partnership.



The European delegation had the opportunity to discuss the state of EU-Mexico relations with the Vice minister for Foreign Affairs, Ms Lourdes Aranda. The Vice minister underlined the necessity for Mexico to focus more on its relations with other international players, including the European Union. In reply to questions, she admitted that not much progress has been achieved in regional integration and that Mexico could take a more leading role in this context. She also briefed Members on relations with Cuba and Venezuela, noting that all communication channels have to remain open despite a challenging relationship.

Delegation to the [EU-Chile JPC](#)

Chair: Ms María Muñoz de Urquiza (ES, S&D)

Delegation meeting on 17 December 2009

The EP Delegation to the EU-Chile Joint Parliamentary Committee took place on 16 December 2009. It focused on two different issues. During the first part, Members discussed the agenda of the Interparliamentary meeting EP-Congress of Chile which will take place on 26 January 2010 in Brussels with the aim to evaluate the work of the Joint Parliamentary Committee in the past years, and to prepare the activities of the JPC for the period to come, especially in the light of the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty, and the Presidential and Congressional elections, which are taking place in Chile these days.



The second part of the meeting was dedicated precisely to the exchange of views with H. E. Mr Carlos APPELGREN BALBONTÍN, the Ambassador of Chile, on the elections in Chile. Since none of the four candidates gained a majority of votes in the first round which took place on 13 December 2009, Chilean Conservative candidate Sebastián Piñera, who garnered 44% of the vote, and Concertación's candidate Eduardo Frei (30% vote) will run in the second round to take place on 17 January 2010.

Delegation for relations with the countries of the [Andean Community](#)

Chair: Mr José Manuel García-Margallo y Marfil (ES, PPE)

Delegation meeting on 2 December 2009

The meeting of the Delegation took place on 2 December 2009 in Brussels. The Chairman, Mr José Manuel García-Margallo y Marfil, informed the members that he will chair the EP election observation mission to Bolivia of 6 December, which will be composed of 7 MEPs. The Delegation Vice-Chairwoman, Ms Izaskun Bilbao Barandica, and Member Mr Willy Meyer also participated on this mission.

European Commission DG TRADE representative described the current state of play of the negotiations towards an EU-Andean Community multilateral trade agreement and expressed the Commission's optimism in closing the negotiations with Colombia and Peru by the end of January 2010, which would allow the agreement to be signed under the forthcoming Spanish presidency of the EU. To that end, the Commission, Colombia and Peru need to close the pending subjects, i.e. agricultural issues, mainly bananas and sugar, geographical indications, spiritual drinks and automobile industry. He stressed that if the banana's issue is solved during the current WTO Ministerial Conference, it would be possible to conclude the negotiations of the FTA with Colombia and Peru by the above-mentioned date, and Ecuador would also likely join such a FTA. The Ambassadors of Peru and Colombia reiterated their countries outstanding interest and willingness to conclude the negotiations of the FTA in the shortest term, as there is momentum to overcome the pending negotiating subjects.

Delegation for relations with [Mercosur](#)

Chair: Mr Luis Yañez-Barnuevo García (ES, S&D)



The Delegation Chairman, Mr Luis Yañez-Barnuevo García, visited on 29 November - 2 December 2009 Montevideo, Uruguay. During his visit, he addressed the Parlasur on the occasion of the opening of the plenary session. In his speech, he stressed the utmost necessity to continue deepening relations between Parlasur and European Parliament, and committed himself to an early re-launch of the negotiations for a conclusion of an Association Agreements between the European Union and Mercosur. During the discussion, members of the five national delegations represented in Parlasur expresses their concerns in relation with the economic situation in some European countries and the European migration policy. They also underlined their interest in environmental questions and climate change. The Argentinean delegation rejected the electoral process in Honduras.

In the framework of the contacts with Parlasur, Mr Yañez-Barnuevo met the Parlasur President Juan José Dominguez, and Vice-president Ignacio Mendoza. The discussions focused on some aspects of the European integration.

Simultaneously, as the Chair of the EP Delegation for relations with Mercosur, Mr Yañez-Barnuevo participated at the seminar on: "Mercosur-European Union: a Strategic Partnership?", organised by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung. His presentation at this seminar focused on the role of the parliamentarians, and in particular of the political groups in the relations between the European Union and Latin America.



Delegation for relations with the countries of [Central America](#):

Chair: Ms Emine Bozkurt (NL-S&D)

European Parliament adopted on 26 November 2009 a [resolution on Nicaragua](#).

Delegation meeting on 17 December 2009

The meeting of the Delegation took place on 17 December 2009 in Strasbourg. The Chairwoman, Ms Emine Bozkurt, informed the members that did not take part in the Working Group visits to Costa Rica and Panama (25-28 October) of its main events.

Subsequently, a short debate took place on the opportunity to invite members of the Central American Parliament (Parlacen) to a working visit to Brussels/Strasbourg. The Chair concluded that before taking a decision on that, DCAM is to follow closely the political developments taking place at Parlacen. She added that a DCAM working group visit to Guatemala is scheduled to week 29 of next year (19-25 July), which would allow to hold meetings with Members of Parlacen, as the Institution is based in Guatemala City.



Then, the Chairperson informed Members that, in the last meeting of INTA, for which she, in her capacity as Chairperson of DCAM, was invited to attend and intervene, the Commission's Director-General for Trade announced that an agreement on trade in bananas was reached between the EU and the Most Favoured Nations' (MFN) Latin American suppliers. In this respect, the Chairperson stressed that, bearing in mind the outstanding importance of a such an agreement for the successful conclusion of both the Association Agreement with Central America and the EU-Andean Multiparty Trade

Agreement it is envisaged to invite the Commission to present the agreement in an upcoming joint meeting with the Delegation for relations with the countries of the Andean Community. The Chair also informed Members that she will attend INTA's next meeting of 14 January 2010, in which there will be a presentation by the Commission on the bananas' agreement.

As concerns the political situation in Honduras after the Presidential elections, and taking into account the absence of the invited representatives of the Commission and the Council's Presidency, whom both excused, upon proposal of the Chair, DCAM agreed to postpone this item to its next meeting, as the views of those Institutions are crucial to feed the debate.

Political Groups

- [Tendiendo Puentes](#): Blog del Grupo de la Alianza Progresista de los Socialistas y Demócratas en la Asamblea Parlamentaria Euro-Latinoamericana (EUROLAT)

Commission

- 9th EU-Mexico Joint Committee took place in Brussels on 26-27 November. The final [Joint Declaration](#) is available now.

Council

- [EU Presidency statement on the elections in Bolivia](#)
- [Council Conclusion on the Commission Communication regarding the EU-Latin America relations](#)
- [EU Presidency Declaration on the situation in Honduras after the elections](#)
- [EU Presidency Declaration regarding relations between Colombia and Venezuela](#)

External events

- 9 and 10 November 2009 took place in Estoril, Portugal, [XIX Cumbre Iberoamericana](#). [Lisbon Declaration](#), [Action Plan](#) and [Presidency statement on Honduras](#) are available now.
- 8 December: [XXXVIII Cumbre del Mercosur](#), Montevideo, Uruguay

For further information please consult [DG EXPO EuroLat webpage](#)

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