

EU-Argentina 7th Joint Committee meeting

Brussels, 13 December 2006

JOINT DECLARATION

On the occasion of the 7th meeting of the EU-Argentina Joint Committee (Brussels, 13 December 2006) the European Commission and the Argentine Government underlined the priority that they attach to the development of their bilateral relationship in order to strengthen their partnership.

The 7th meeting of the EU-Argentina Joint Committee allowed for a wide exchange of information and views on bilateral, inter-regional and international issues. The parties reviewed, in a constructive and collaborative way, the main topics of the bilateral agenda: 1) policy dialogues ; 2) cooperation; and 3) trade, agriculture and investment relations.

With regard to the issues discussed during the policy dialogues the two sides emphasized their wish to further consolidate this effective mechanism for discussing issues of mutual interest. In addition to the existing dialogues on Satellite Navigation (Galileo), Cooperation on Human Rights, Cooperation in the United Nations, Economic and Financial, and Information Society, the parties also agreed to open two new dialogues concerning respectively “Energy”, and “Education and Culture”. The parties noted with satisfaction the advances made in the policy dialogue process since its establishment at the latest Joint Committee meeting in December 2004. In particular, they reaffirmed their commitment to concluding Argentina’s co-operation agreement to the Galileo programme in the course of 2007 and agreed to define specific action-lists for the other dialogues including seminars, workshops and other technical meetings and joint activities.

Cooperation issues were also discussed during the Joint Committee. The parties took stock of the present cooperation programmes being implemented and noted the positive advances made in the implementation of programmed activities. They also considered ways and means to further improve the implementation of the cooperation. They reviewed the implementation of the bilateral agreements on science and technology, and on the peaceful use of nuclear energy exploring means to develop specific projects and encouraging Argentine participation in the 7^o Framework Programme. Finally, they discussed and identified the main areas for future cooperation (2007-2013) between the European Union and Argentina.

Both parties had an in-depth and constructive discussion on various trade, agriculture and investment issues of bilateral interest, stressing their intention to helping resolve some pending topics, including market access issues and the common interest to further develop bilateral trade and investment flows. The European Commission is ready to continue the dialogue with Argentina to improve and strengthen the mutual understanding of the respective conditions related to food safety and animal welfare.

The parties expressed satisfaction about the recovery and growth of the Argentine economy and the opportunities it opens for the expansion of trade and investment in different areas.

They reaffirmed their commitment to the Doha Round and the multilateral trading system based on the WTO, acknowledging the importance of more flexibility by its members to help the process to move forward.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to the ongoing EU-Mercosur negotiations and expressed their willingness to work in order to arrive at a balanced and ambitious agreement.

Existing talks about the relationship between air services agreements and EU Regulations were addressed as well as possible cooperation on migrations..

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For the Argentine Republic

For the European Commission