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AMLAT 15
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Delegations will find attached the partially declassified version of the above-mentioned document.



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 15 February 2010

**6523/10
EXT 2 (17.07.2014)**

**AMLAT 15
PESC 203
PVD 8**

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

From : Latin America Working Party
date: 2 February 2010
No. prev. doc. : 6148/10
Subject : Report Latin America Working Party

I. OPERATIONAL CONCLUSIONS

4. EOM forecast:

Venezuela, parliamentary election (26 September 2010)

The Presidency concluded that a new version of the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the Demarche would be submitted to delegations soon.

9. EUROLAC Foundation: state of play

The Presidency circulated a draft for the terms of reference of the EUROLAC Foundation, to be discussed in AMLAT on 4 February with the intention to present an agreed EU position in the bi-regional EULAC meeting of 8 February.

II. OTHER POINTS

1. EU-Canada Political Consultations (Brussels, 1 March 2010): Agenda

The Presidency indicated the points on the draft agenda as it stood: Security Cooperation in LA; Democracy and institutional support (link to the Interamerican system); EU-LAC Summit (info point); Haiti; Cuba). The Commission suggested to deal as well with the EU negotiations (CAN and Central America) and with the Canadian negotiation experiences

2. EU-Andean countries Multi-party Trade Agreements: Lima round debriefing

The Commission gave a concise report on this last Round. This Round had been very fruitful and it was hoped that the next Round, end of February 2010, would be the last one. Among the issues which still needed to be settled there was, concerning Peru, Fisheries/rules-of-origin and, concerning Colombia, bio fuels and cars. Most of these and other difficulties were liable to find a solution, felt the Commission. . **NOT DECLASSIFIED** Concerning finally Ecuador, this country had expressed the wish to return to the negotiating table now that their two prerequisites – a settlement of the Bananas issue and the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding - had been met. The Commission would nevertheless not move until they receive an official letter from the Ecuadorian Government asking for their reintegration into the process.

The Presidency informed delegations that a meeting for trade experts on this subject had been convened for Thursday, 11 February 2010.

3. Electoral processes: Election in Chile, second round (17 January 2010) – Debriefing

The Presidency briefed the Group on the Presidential elections in Chile.

4. EOM forecast:

- **Nicaragua, regional elections (7 March 2010): Election Expert Team**

The Commission informed on the election expert team that has set up to monitor regional elections in Nicaragua. Two experts are already on the ground and five experts will be deployed by the end of February. The signs received are encouraging: the regulation governing electoral observation has been published, and the electoral registry has been improved. It remains to be seen whether the two national electoral observation organisations will be allowed to carry out their activities.

- **Venezuela, parliamentary election (26 September 2010)**

Under this heading, the group discussed principally the Terms of Reference (ToR) for a Demarche to be undertaken vis-à-vis the Venezuelan authorities, on the basis of a text submitted by the Presidency to delegations. The exchange of views concerned in particular the nature of the Demarche (public or private) which, in principle was not opposed by any delegation; furthermore, it was suggested to bring up again the idea of an EOM, despite the rejection of this idea by the competent Venezuelan body, and to focus on Freedom of Expression. The Presidency explained the rationale of a broader demarche, a critical dialogue on the overall situation, to be held privately.

5. EU-Brazil Ministerial Meeting: Agenda

The Presidency informed that a draft agenda had been submitted to Brazil. The Commission informed that the Visa Waiver agreement will be initialled in the coming days by the Brazilian Ambassador in Brussels and Commission General Director for JLS. Brazil has proposed to hold the next Joint Committee on 15 June 2010, in Brasilia. Due to the time required to proceed with the exchange of letters, the agreement will not be ready for signature at the Ministerial meeting on 15 February.

6. Paraguay: HOMs report

The Group took note of the HOMs report (Coreu MAD/0076/10). One delegation suggested that in a forthcoming report HOMs elaborate on the opposition's prospects. The Commission highlighted the need to overcome the division in the country and reach areas of consensus. Key reforms are needed, and the Commission is ready to look into new cooperation areas to promote dialogue between the government and the opposition on institution-building issues.

7. Honduras

Both the Presidency and the Commission were of the opinion that attending President Lobo's inauguration had proved to be the right decision. Initial steps by the new administration were expected, especially the setting up of the Truth Commission, which would allow to rapidly resume cooperation. In general, the Group acknowledged that the measures taken by the new government were encouraging, but prudence was required. . **NOT DECLASSIFIED**

The Presidency informed that President Lobo had not yet answered to the request for a meeting with the Chargés d'affaires. It also informed that a meeting with OAS Secretary General had been scheduled on 5 February in Washington. The HR had been informed and invited to attend, as well as EU Member States.

8. Haiti

The Presidency explained that while Amlat was not involved in the management of the disaster, the point had to be taken to have a political discussion of this event which could constitute a witness case for the future. In the face of what seemed to be an example of a new U.S. policy of re-building failed states – where the U.S. seemed to accord minor importance to the EU -, it was opportune to recall a number of points:

- In Haiti, the central state had collapsed which prompted the need to involve local authorities;
- **NOT DECLASSIFIED**
- The reconstruction was the first priority and in that regard, the Haitian wish for the construction of a *Cité administrative*, following the destruction of the physical facilities of the GoH, had to be examined;
- Education constituted another priority;
- The balance of the operations of the EU was good and the path chosen for the EU interventions – coordination through the UN – was the correct one;
- Gratitude was due to the Dominican Republic and their constructive attitude.

Apart from the indication of assistance in all forms, delegations made i.a. the following points:

- the support for the Dominican Republic should be kept in order to avoid social tensions there;
- coordination was essential, both EU internally and in the UN framework;
- the Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) was key and should precede, with sufficient time, the Donors' Conference, scheduled for 22 March 2010 – 3 days were certainly not enough;
- in case elections would be held still this year, the EU should help;
- the issue would be dealt with by Development Ministers in a meeting on 17 February 2010;
- NGOs and the Haitian diasporas should be involved at the Donors' Conference;
- Beyond the reconstruction of Port-au-Prince, the fate of the rural zones should not be forgotten;
- A reinforcement of MINUSTAH was felt to be a pre-requisite.

The Commission (DG DEV), for their part, reported that the Haitian Government now was more assertive and wanted to decide, e.g., when the PDNA could start. As to the reconstruction of the state, the Commission could draw on pre-earthquake work. The PDNA needed absolutely to be concluded – the idea of having it split up in two parts was inappropriate – well before the Donors' conference.

9. EUROLAC Foundation: state of play

The Presidency circulated a draft for the terms of reference of the EUROLAC Foundation, to be discussed in AMLAT on 4 February with the intention to present an agreed EU position in the bi-regional EULAC meeting of 8 February.

Delegations raised several issues (regarding the legal basis, scope, structure, financing) and agreed to present written suggestions. The Commission expressed satisfaction with the text, underlining as an agreed basis for discussion by the two co-Presidencies and agreed on the procedure suggested by the Presidency.
