



**EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT**

**DELEGATION FOR RELATIONS WITH MERCOSUR**

**Report by Mr Sérgio Sousa Pinto, Chairman of the Delegation for Relations with the countries of Mercosur, on the Delegation Working Party visit to Argentina, for the Committee on External Affairs, Development and International Trade**

**30 March – 4 April 2008**

Brussels, 7 April 2008  
LMG/nal

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Delegation's programme of activities for 2008, approved by the Conference of Presidents on 10 January 2008, included two working party visits: the first to Argentina in March, and the second to Brazil from 21 to 26 July. After consultations with the Argentine authorities, it was decided that the visit should be postponed until the beginning of April, a change authorised by the Conference of Presidents on 14 February.

A working party headed by Mr Menéndez del Valle had visited Argentina from 17 to 22 April 2006.

### **Domestic situation**

Under the Presidency of Mr Néstor Kirchner (2003 to 2007), Argentina succeeded in putting economic recession behind it. The President renegotiated the arrangements with the IMF, and indeed was able to pay off the entire public debt ahead of schedule in January 2006. Argentina's significant economic growth has been in large measure due to growth in domestic consumption and to external demand for raw materials, of which soya in particular has significantly increased in price on the international market.

These healthy economic results, backed up by a significant reduction of poverty and an improvement in general living standards, secured the President strong grassroots support; his standing was also enhanced by the derogation of the amnesty law which had been protecting military personnel involved in the 'dirty war' of the 1980s.

The elections of 28 October 2007, in which President Kirchner had decided not to stand, were won by his wife, Mrs Cristina Fernández de Kirchner. A senator for Buenos Aires since October 2005, she based her campaign on the good results achieved by the outgoing government.

She secured 44.92% of the vote, as against the 22.95% achieved by Elisa Carrió; Mr Roberto Lavagna, the former Minister of Economics and principal architect of the economic recovery and the renegotiation of the external debt, came third with 16.88%.

Mrs Cristina Fernández de Kirchner is pursuing policies similar to her husband's, with the possible exception of foreign relations, where she has abandoned any form of isolationism, and has drawn closer to the Presidents of Brazil and Venezuela. In the recent Andean crisis, Ecuador enjoyed her unconditional support.

The major challenge facing her is how to develop the economic model established by her predecessor, which was based on a high level of interventionism – reflected in the control of prices of essential goods and services and of the exchange rate – and a high level of public spending. The renegotiation of the debt undermined the confidence of foreign investors, a confidence which has apparently only recently begun to be restored.

The economic emergency law of 2002, which has been extended to 2010, has enabled the government to maintain fixed public services tariffs – extremely low from the suppliers' point of view.

Another of the President's priorities is establishing a new approach to the energy issue, which will reduce dependency on foreign suppliers and spare the population the serious shortages experienced in recent winters. Experts say that price controls have discouraged investment in the energy sector, which is stretched to the absolute limit, and that this is impeding its growth.

With regard to relations with Argentina's neighbours, the dispute with Uruguay over the authorisation of the construction of two cellulose factories on the river dividing the two countries. The Uruguayan decision to authorise the Finnish Botnia company to build a plant led to formal protests by the Argentine Government, and also from Argentine civil society in the shape of road and bridge closures. A further consequence was the erosion of Mercosur's institutions, which, lacking the appropriate powers, were incapable of resolving the dispute internally. In the end, the Hague Court of Justice will have to give a ruling.

The recently-established Mercosur Parliament should be in a position, following the future direct election of its members, to help plug the institutional gap that complicates the resolution of bilateral disputes.

Relations with Venezuela are currently good, which has led to Argentine support for Venezuela's membership of Mercosur. The buying up of Argentine public debt by the Venezuelan Government, and the exchange of Argentine foodstuffs for Venezuelan fuel, are further proofs of the good relations between the countries. Many take a positive view of Venezuelan membership of Mercosur, since this could help correct the imbalance between Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay.

Some of those we spoke to said that, at the behest of both the EU and Brazil, the negotiations on the EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement are currently blocked until the WTO Doha Round is concluded. Furthermore, we were told that today things are not how they were when the opening of the negotiations on the Partnership Agreement was announced during the I Summit of Heads of State and of Government of the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean in Río in 1999, or indeed in 2004, when the negotiations were very nearly brought to a successful conclusion.

Currently, the Mercosur countries are finding extensive market niches for their agriculture and livestock products in the shape of the emerging economies, particularly China, and the EU no longer has the agricultural surpluses of the past. Furthermore, the Doha results, should they be achieved, will be the point of departure for fresh EU-Mercosur negotiations. In case of a possible failure of the Doha Round, the negotiating teams held an exploratory meeting from 2-4 April, and make no secret of the fact that they hope that within the framework of the V Summit of Heads of State and of Government of the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean, in Lima in May, it may be possible to present a declaration relaunching the negotiations.

The Delegation's visit coincided with the first major crisis which Mrs Fernández' government has had to deal with, in the shape of demonstrations by agricultural producers against the export taxes which have to be paid on Argentinian products. These charges affect two-thirds of exports.

During the various demonstrations, there were clashes between the producers' representatives (large and small producers were of one mind, because the quantitative charge makes no

distinction between quantities being exported in terms of their respective volume) and *piquetero* organisations supporting the President. Finally, both sides, following a huge march in support of the President on 1 April, in the Plaza de Mayo, agreed to give themselves time for reflection and negotiation, and agreed to suspend protests for a month. Some of those we spoke to described the current crisis as being a 'second generation pots and pans uproar' (*cacerolazo*), in which the middle class is taking part: with precisely the social stratum which the President is most concerned to win over, since the middle class has traditionally been anti-Peronist.

The current government's economic policies are similar to its predecessor's: encouraging domestic consumption and maintaining surpluses both in the budget, where these have been achieved for five years running, and in trade, since a trade surplus funds the various social policies undertaken by the government.

Last winter was extremely severely, and the demand for heating sent energy consumption levels through the roof, with industrial energy demand also rising. The government was forced to impose lower consumption levels, which to some extent undermined the country's industrial capacity. Now that the summer is over, the energy issue is again being tackled as if it were a specific problem, when in reality, it needs to be resolved by establishing a whole new approach to energy, within which nuclear energy could play a significant role.

The exchange rate policy continues to protect a weak peso, artificially low against the dollar. This makes Argentina's exports more competitive. The decision to levy charges on exports of agricultural products, on the basis of not leaving the national population short, and to curb price increases for basic products, and to disallow enormous profits at a time when the price of raw materials has risen considerably on the international markets thanks to strong demand, is bringing in major state revenue, which, since it is not included in the budgets, allows discretionary use to be made of it; various of those we spoke to criticised this because it was not transparent. The provincial governments are also critical of the use of this particular tax revenue, which, unlike other taxes, is not shared between the central government and the provinces. The tax policy applied to exports is required to prevent the area under soya from getting beyond what is sustainable and jeopardising agricultural production absolutely essential to the country. At the same time, it is helping to restrict major shortages of basic products such as meat, milk, flour, etc.

Furthermore, this tax policy is allowing the exceptionally high profits from sales of raw materials (particularly soya) on the international market, to be distributed to the whole of society. However, doubts about the transparency of the way the charges are being used were not cleared up.

Another major challenge is the high rate of inflation; none of those we spoke to put it under 20%, although the official figure is circa 10%.

#### **Meetings with members of the executive:**

The delegation met **Mr Julio César COBOS, Vice-President of Argentina and President of the Senate**, who was accompanied by **Mr Jorge TAIANA, Minister for Foreign Relations, International Trade and Worship**. With the Foreign Minister, we dealt above all with the

reasons for an EU-Mercosur Agreement in terms of historical, cultural and economic complementarity, reasons which mean Argentinians are more favourable towards an agreement with the EU than a free trade agreement with the USA.

The problem with the negotiations is apparently that each party thinks that the other is offering too little, and the fact that very significant asymmetries exist between the two blocs.

We recalled the commitment of both Commission and Parliament to negotiations between the blocs, rather than negotiations on a country-to-country basis.

Finally, the Foreign Minister said it was a priority of his government to recover sovereignty over the Falkland Islands.

The delegation also met **Mr Martín LOUSTEAU, Minister of Economics and Production**, who told us about recent economic developments in Argentina, and explained how the export charges on agricultural products worked; one of the justifications for them was that they uncoupled domestic prices from international prices for raw materials. He then spoke about the influence of international prices on the amount of land under cultivation, which had risen 140% in the last ten years. The other side of the coin had been that this was extensive crop-growing, which encouraged deforestation in the search for more land, and as low-intensity in terms of workforce. Even agricultural land which required larger workforces had been converted to soya in a search for greater profits. By way of example, he said that 50 000 hectares of soya require four workers, the same number as for one hectare of tobacco.

He then recalled the excellent results with regard to macro-economic data, now that sustained economic growth had been achieved, unemployment reduced and living standards significantly increased. Poverty had been reduced, and reserves were estimated at USD 50 billion. He said that the government's priorities were improving road and energy infrastructure, for which it is hoped that international investment would be forthcoming. With regard to the doubts voiced by some delegation members as to legal security for investments, he said that the problem lay in the relaying information to the outside world, since investments in Argentina were obviously safer than in China, which did not prevent the latter from being highly attractive to European investors. Particularly interesting was the exchange of views on the EU-Mercosur negotiations. Mr LOUSTEAU said that the opening up of markets to agricultural products was no longer a priority in the negotiations, because the way the markets had evolved had opened up all sorts of possibilities for exports. He thought that the negotiations should be carried out by opening and closing specific issues.

Mr Lousteau displayed no great interest in issues concerning Mercosur, which he did not describe as being a priority. The delegation noted that this was strikingly different from the opinions expressed by the Foreign Minister.

We also met **Mr Mauricio MACRI, the Head of Buenos Aires City Government**, who highlighted as fundamental factors in his country's institutional crisis the absence of political parties and the lack of independence in the way that the state authorities operated.

Mr MACRI, who will probably be standing in the next presidential elections, said that the main priority of the city government was to improve the quality of life of Buenos Aires' inhabitants by investing in transport, housing and environmental management. His government's major project was to start developing the southern area of Buenos Aires, which would, as he saw it, attract international investment in the wake of the expected agreement which Mrs FERNÁNDEZ de KIRCHNER's government would be seeking to reach in the near future with the Club de Paris.

Since the delegation was unable to visit Santa Fe, **Mr Hermes BINNER, the Provincial Governor**, travelled to Buenos Aires to meet the delegation. We had an interesting meeting, at which he tackled the situation of the projects funded by the EU and the way their development continued once Community aid ceased.

Mr BINNER explained the impact of the crisis on his region, and the efforts that had been made to develop quality cattle farming in order to make it competitive.

With regard to relations between the regional governments and the central government, he spoke about the drive for tax revenue which underlay some central government decisions, and the lack of agreement with regional governments with regard to the sharing out of the revenues raised.

#### **Other meetings:**

The delegation held no meetings at all with members of the MERCOSUR Parliament, but it did meet the **Chairman of the Commission of Permanent Representatives, Mr Chacho Álvarez**, who said paradoxically, Argentina's economic growth was not going hand in hand with an appropriate redistribution of wealth. He then spoke about Mercosur, describing it as a full-blown solid nucleus of a future South American Community of Nations.

Mercosur's regional neighbour, the Andean Community, could not play this role at present, embroiled as it was in bilateral political and economic disputes as a result of two of the four member countries' having opted to negotiate a free trade agreement with the USA. The entry of Venezuela into Mercosur, which would bring with it desperately needed major energy reserves, and the foreseeable entry of Mexico in the medium term would make Mercosur's claim to this central role all the stronger.

He pointed out, however, that despite the success of Mercosur, already visible in a major increase in internal trade, certain shortcomings still needed to be overcome with regard to the complementarity of production and institutional weakness, particularly caused by asymmetries. With regard to the former, 95% of regional GDP was produced by Brazil and Argentina. Mr Álvarez felt that strengthening the common institutions, with supra-nationality taking priority, to the detriment of government decisions, would help to counteract these asymmetries.

He also mentioned that strengthening infrastructures and energy interconnection would contribute to integration; this could be funded by the recently established Banco del Sur.

The delegation held a working meeting with the **former Minister of Economics and former Ambassador to the EU, Mr Roberto Lavagna**, who highlighted the salient points of President Kirchner's government policy, which had enabled the country to get out of the deep crisis in which it found itself at the beginning of the century. One of the pillars of this economic policy had been boosting domestic consumption as a driving force for recovery. A better redistribution of available income would further boost consumption, which would in turn lead to greater SME activity. The other elements of Kirchner's programme had been the fiscal surplus, the devaluation of the exchange rate, the low exchange rate, and the early repayment of the foreign debt which the country's massive reserves had made possible.

Mr Lavagna also said that there was a need to boost investment, particularly from abroad: it had fallen, because of legal insecurity or low service tariffs on the one hand, and inflation and political and social instability on the other.

He then spoke about the situation in the energy sector, unable to cope with consumption levels driven both by the improved economic situation and the low charges which had been frozen, in pesos, by the government following the crisis. The freezing of charges had meant that investment in the sector had not been renewed because of poor profit prospects. He said a new economic model was called for, and advocated greater cooperation with Brazil on energy matters, and the establishment of a national emergency programme to deal with the energy issue.

Mr Lavagna spoke about the system of deductions applied by Mrs Fernandez Kirchner's government, and said it was a necessity, although he thought the deductions should be around 35%; for some products, they were currently as high as 45% and could even rise further. He also said he supported differentiated treatment in terms of export volume, prioritising small and medium-sized producers, should fresh investment be made with a view to improving the business. Finally, he mentioned the need to facilitate and encourage the incorporation of workers into the formal economy.

The delegation visited the headquarters of the **Abuelas de la Plaza de Mayo, where Mrs Estela de Carlotto** spoke about the efforts the grandmothers had made to recover grandchildren who had disappeared on being born while their parents were in custody. She estimated the total number of stolen children at circa 500, and the number of people kidnapped under the dictatorship at 30 000. 88 of the 500 children had been recovered.

The delegation visited various projects funded by the EU, most of which had been set up in the wake of comments made by EP delegation members during earlier visits to Argentina with regard to the poverty prevailing in some regions of the country. The **APAC cooperation project** (Apoyo a proyectos de alimentación comunitario – Support for community food programmes), endowed with € 10 million, was designed to improve the operation of the existing 'community canteen' system (infrastructure, training and self-sufficiency), so that the assistance in question could be provided under decent conditions, with particular concern for safety and hygiene.

### **Meetings in Salta**

The delegation visited the province of Salta, where we met the **Governor, Mr Juan Manuel Urtubey**. After commenting on the current healthy state of the Argentine economy, he spoke about the State's role in the economy. As tasks still outstanding if sustainable growth was to be encouraged, he named Argentina's need for the appropriate institutional framework to enable economic policy measures to have the desired effect. Solid institutions would generate the requisite investor confidence.

He said that it was also necessary to achieve a more participative model, since the country's laws reflect no tradition of grass roots initiatives or a 'referendum culture'. The dictatorship had led to the disappearance of part of the political class, leading to a crisis with regard to representativeness when democracy was restored. A member of our delegation observed that the real Argentine crisis is not the economic one, which has already been overcome, but an institutional crisis which is reflected, for example, in the absence of political parties.

Finally, the stage reached with regard to regional integration was discussed. Mr Urtubey felt that the mistake of Mercosur had been to boost internal trade and to leave the issue of encouraging a commercial presence abroad very much to one side. With a view to the future of integration, he said this would require the integration of Mercosur and the Andean Community, and that if this commercial union went hand in hand with progress on political integration, the South American Community of Nations would be a success.

Energy and transport infrastructure were also medium-term priorities, and he added that in this connection, he hoped the South American 'energy ring' project would become a reality.

The delegation also met the **Deputy Governor and President of the Regional Senate, Mr Andrés ZOTTES**, in the presence of a sizeable delegation of parliamentary representatives from Salta.

### **Conclusion:**

In the two years which have elapsed since the last delegation visit to Argentina, there is no question that the country's, and above all its inhabitants', economic situation has improved. The doubts expressed during the previous visit as to the possible unsustainability of growth have proved groundless. Domestic consumption has continued to rise, as has the price of raw materials: Argentina has been enjoying high levels of growth for several years now, and the only shadow is the high inflation rate.

The steps taken by Argentina and to improve the situation of its people have produced good results, particularly with regard to the fight against poverty, where the support programmes for heads of families have been fairly successful.

These good results have been secured thanks to the increase in domestic consumption, hand-in-hand with rising international prices for agricultural and livestock products; the decision to tax exports of these products, so as not to leave domestic supply in difficulties, and give some muscle to a 'redistributive' policy, have had the drawback of arousing protests from the sectors which produce the raw materials, since their profits suffer.

Various of those we met drew our attention to the importance of institutional problems, which lie at the heart of many of the difficulties facing the country: the crisis in the party political system; the lack of transparency with regard to budget management; the funding of the provinces on the basis of party political affinities; or the indisputable existence of corruption: these, we are told, are the real reasons why Argentina is lagging behind.

The way in which power is distributed is unfairly weighted in favour of the executive, which is the sole real decision maker, and which furthermore sees its image strengthened thanks to revenue stemming from exports or the fiscal surplus. Legislative power is divided between the supporters of the President and her opponents, for virtually all the political 'forces' (rather than parties) acknowledge themselves to be the heirs of *peronismo*. The tendency has furthermore been for the centralisation of political power to increase, particularly with regard to the implementation and distribution of revenue which either does not appear in the budget, or does so at far less than the real value. This gives the executive significant room for manoeuvre with regard to how these monies are used.

Although there is a risk of a drift towards a populist approach, encouraged by the clear successes of an economic policy which has in recent years benefited millions of people from the lowest ranks of society, and despite the risks identified in this report, we have no reason to believe that Argentina will not continue on its upward path.

Finally, the delegation was surprised by how small a role Argentina believes Mercosur has played in the national economic recovery process, and the medium-term regional economic integration process.

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## Delegación para las relaciones con MERCOSUR

Visita de un grupo de trabajo a Argentina

31 de marzo - 4 de abril de 2008

### Lista de Participantes

#### Miembros de la Delegación

Nombre		Apellido	Grupo político	País
Sr.	<b>Sérgio</b>	<b>SOUSA PINTO, Presidente</b> • <i>Comisión de Asuntos Constitucionales, Miembro</i>  ***	PSE	Portugal
Sr.	<b>Francisco</b>	<b>ASSIS (*)</b> • <i>Comisión de Comercio Internacional, Miembro</i>	PSE	Portugal
Sra.	<b>Pilar</b>	<b>AYUSO</b> • <i>Comisión de Medio Ambiente, Salud Pública y Seguridad Alimentaria, Miembro</i>	PPE-DE	España
Sr.	<b>Fernando</b>	<b>FERNÁNDEZ MARTÍN</b> • <i>Comisión de Desarrollo, Miembro</i>	PPE-DE	España
Sra.	<b>Nathalie</b>	<b>GRIESBECK</b> • <i>Comisión de Presupuestos, Miembro</i>	ALDE	Francia
Sra.	<b>Malgorzata</b>	<b>HANDZLIK</b> • <i>Comisión de Mercado Interior y Protección del Consumidor, Miembro</i>	PPE-DE	Polonia
Sra	<b>Erna</b>	<b>HENNICOT-SCHOEPGES</b> • <i>Comisión de Industria, Investigación y Energía, Miembro</i>	PPE-DE	Luxemburgo
Sr.	<b>Emilio</b>	<b>MENÉNDEZ DEL VALLE</b> • <i>Comisión de Asuntos Exteriores, Miembro</i>	PSE	España

(\*) representa a la comisión "INTA"

#### Grupos Políticos de los Miembros de la Delegación

**PPE-DE** - Grupo del Partido Popular Europeo (Demócrata-Cristianos) y Demócratas Europeos

**PSE** - Grupo del Partido de los Socialista Europeos

**ALDE** - Grupo de la Alianza de los Demócratas y Liberales por Europa

**Verts/ALE** - Grupo de los Verdes/Alianza Libre Europea

**GUE/NGL** - Grupo Confederal de la Izquierda Unitaria Europea/Izquierda Verde Nórdica

**IND/DEM** Grupo Independencia/Democracia  
**UEN** Grupo Unión por la Europa de las Naciones  
**IDE** Grupo Independencia/Democracia  
**NI** No inscritos

**Secretaría de la Delegación**

Sr.	Luis	<b>MARTÍNEZ-GUILLÉN</b>	Administrador principal, Jefe de la Secretaría
Sr.	Raymond	<b>HERDIES</b>	Asistente principal
Sra.	Nekane	<b>AZPIRI LEJARDI</b>	Asistente

**Secretarías de los Grupos Políticos**

Sr.	Juan	<b>SALAFRANCA</b>	Consejero grupo PPE-DE
Sr.	José Carlos	<b>MARÍN</b>	Consejera grupo PSE

**Intérpretes**

Sr.	Francisco	<b>HIDALGO</b>	ES Jefe de equipo
Sr.	Harold	<b>BLEMAND</b>	FR
Sr.	Luis	<b>MONGINHO</b>	FR
Sr.	Grzegorz	<b>PRZYBYSZEWSKI</b>	PL
Sra	Krystyna	<b>RUTKOWSKA</b>	PL

**Otros participantes**

Sr.	Tomé	<b>ANDRADE DE SOUSA</b>	Asistente del Presidente Sousa Pinto
Sra.			

**PROGRAMA PARA LA VISITA DE LA  
DELEGACIÓN PARA LAS RELACIONES CON EL MERCOSUR DEL  
PARLAMENTO EUROPEO**

Argentina, 30 de marzo al 4 de abril de 2008

<b>Domingo 30 de marzo</b>	<b>Europa / Buenos Aires</b>
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Llegada a Buenos Aires en vuelos según lo detallado en Anexo.

Durante su visita, Gustavo MARTIN PRADA, Jefe de Delegación, y/o Matthias JØRGENSEN, Jefe del Sector de Asuntos Políticos y Económicos, acompañarán a los Eurodiputados a sus actividades oficiales.

Matthias JØRGENSEN, Jefe del Sector de Asuntos Políticos y Económicos, irá a buscar al Dip. Sérgio SOUSA PINTO al Aeropuerto.

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<b>Lunes 31 de marzo</b>	<b>Buenos Aires</b>
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09h00	<b>Reunión de coordinación</b>
-	<u>Lugar:</u> Hotel Sofitel, Salón Mermoz
10h00	<u>Contacto:</u> Laura Carrizo, Delegación CE en Argentina
10h00	<b>Reunión con los Embajadores de los Estados Miembros de la UE acreditados en Argentina</b>
-	
11h00	<u>Lugar:</u> Hotel Sofitel, Salón Mermoz
	<u>Contacto:</u> Laura Carrizo, Delegación CE en Argentina
11h00	<b>Reunión con el Lic. Carlos “Chacho” ÁLVAREZ, Presidente de la CRPM (Comisión de Representantes Permanentes del Mercosur)</b>
-	
12h00	<u>Lugar:</u> Hotel Sofitel, Salón Mermoz
	<u>Contacto:</u> Patricia, Mariel, Tel. 4373-0985 / 4375-1913; Facundo NEJAMKIS (Jefe de Gabinete), <a href="mailto:fnejamkis@hotmail.com">fnejamkis@hotmail.com</a> ; Cel en Bs. As.: 15.4072-6413
12h00	<b>Reunión con Lic. Roberto LAVAGNA, ex Ministro de Economía</b>
-	
13h00	<u>Lugar:</u> Hotel Sofitel, Salón Mermoz
	<u>Contacto:</u> Lucy Aguirre, Tel. 4382-8181 <a href="mailto:aguirrelucy@hotmail.com">aguirrelucy@hotmail.com</a>

13h00 - 15h00	<b>Almuerzo con Félix PEÑA (experto Mercosur), Juan TOKATLIAN y Carlos PAGNI (analista político del Diario La Nación).</b> <u>Lugar:</u> Hotel Sofitel, Salón Foyer. <u>Contacto:</u> Laura Carrizo, Delegación CE en Argentina
15h00 - 16h45	<b>Visita a la Sede de <i>Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo</i>, y reunión con la Sra. Estela de CARLOTTO y otras Abuelas</b> <u>Lugar:</u> Casa de las Abuelas, Virrey Cevallos 592, PB - Dpto. 1, Buenos Aires. <u>Contacto:</u> Pablo / Paula. Tel. 4381-0642 int. 113
17h00 - 17h45	<b>Reunión con Mauricio MACRI, Jefe de Gobierno de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires</b> <u>Lugar:</u> Bolívar 1, Salón Blanco – Buenos Aires <u>Contacto:</u> Cecilia, <a href="mailto:ceremonial@buenosaires.gov.ar">ceremonial@buenosaires.gov.ar</a> Fulvio Pompeo (Director Gral RRII y Protocolo). Tel. 4323-3520 / 9609. <a href="mailto:fpompeo@buenosaires.gov.ar">fpompeo@buenosaires.gov.ar</a> Carolina Tel. 4323-9520, 4345-7392 <a href="mailto:cfernandesrojo@buenosaires.gov.ar">cfernandesrojo@buenosaires.gov.ar</a>
18h00	<b>Regreso al Hotel</b>
	<b>Cena libre.</b>

Martes 1º de abril

Buenos Aires

10h30	<b>Check-out y partida del Hotel <u>con equipajes.</u></b>
11h00 - 11h45	<b>Reunión con el Ministro de Economía Martín LOUSTEAU</b> <u>Lugar:</u> Ministerio de Economía, Hipólito Yrigoyen 250 - Piso 5, Of. 511, Buenos Aires <u>Contacto:</u> Sonia – <a href="mailto:smagal@mecon.gov.ar">smagal@mecon.gov.ar</a> - Patricia Alvarez. Tel. 4349-8801. E-mail: <a href="mailto:palvarez@mecon.gov.ar">palvarez@mecon.gov.ar</a> . Coordinadora de Ceremonial: Raquel Melgin, Tel. 4349-5201, Cel. 15.4403-6618 / <a href="mailto:rmelgi@mecon.gov.ar">rmelgi@mecon.gov.ar</a>
12h00 - 13h00	<b>Encuentros individuales con la prensa: Entrevista del Dip. Sérgio SOUSA PINTO con Carmen López para el diario <i>Perfil</i>; con Carlos Burgueño con equipo de televisión para <i>América TV</i> y para el diario <i>Ámbito Financiero</i>; con Cecilia Diwan para el programa “Panorama Internacional” de <i>Radio Nacional</i>; y con Alejandro Rebossio del diario <i>La Nación</i></b> <u>Lugar:</u> Delegación de la CE en Argentina <u>Contacto:</u> Branko ANDJIC, Delegación de la Comisión Europea
12h00 - 13h45	<b>Almuerzo libre para los demás Eurodiputados.</b>
14h00 - 15h15	<b>Reunión con el Ministro de Relaciones Exteriores, Comercio Internacional y Culto Canciller Jorge TAIANA, Saludo del Vicepresidente de la Nación y Presidente del Senado Julio César COBOS</b> <u>Lugar:</u> Esmeralda 1212, piso 13, Buenos Aires <u>Contacto:</u> Darío - Jimena. Tel. 4819-7317/8. E-mail: <a href="mailto:tje@cancilleria.gov.ar">tje@cancilleria.gov.ar</a> ;

	<a href="mailto:eller@cancilleria.gov.ar">eller@cancilleria.gov.ar</a> , <a href="mailto:ozandario@hotmail.com">ozandario@hotmail.com</a> Noelia (Ceremonial) 4819-7147
15h15	<b>Salida hacia el Congreso de la Nación</b>
15h30 - 17h00	<b>Visita Protocolar al Vicepresidente de la Nación y Presidente del Senado Julio César COBOS =confirmada=, con el Dip. Eduardo FELLNER, Pr</b> <b>Reunión cancelada por el acto de la Presidente Cristina F. de Kirchner en Plaza de Mayo</b> <b>Argentina y (r-) y el Dip. miembro de la Comisión de Relaciones Exteriores de la Cámara de Diputados = confirmada = y con el Dip. Julián OBIGLIO, Presidente de la Comisión Mercosur de la Cámara de Diputados = confirmada =</b>  <u>Lugar:</u> Congreso de la Nación, Hipólito Yrigoyen 1835, Salón Eva Perón, Buenos Aires
17h00	<b>Salida hacia el Aeroparque Jorge Newbery (vuelos de cabotaje.)</b>
17h30	<b>Check-in en el Aeroparque Jorge Newbery</b>
18h30	<b>Partida del vuelo AR-2458 de Aerolíneas Argentinas con destino a la ciudad de Salta</b>
20h45	<b>Arribo a la ciudad de Salta y alojamiento en el:</b>  <div style="border: 1px dashed black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"><b>Hotel SHERATON</b> Av. Ejército del Norte 330 Salta, Prov. de Salta Tel. + 54 + 387 + 432 3000 Fax: + 54 + 387 + 432 3001 <a href="http://www.sheratonpaq.com.ar/hotel.asp?id=9">www.sheratonpaq.com.ar/hotel.asp?id=9</a></div>
22h00	<b>Cena libre</b>

<b>Miércoles 2 de abril -</b>	<b>Salta</b>
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09h00	<b>Salida del hotel - visita cultural por carretera a la región de Cafayate y ruinas de los indios Quilmes.</b>
20h00	<b>Regreso al Sheraton Hotel</b>

21h00	<b>Cena libre</b>
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**Jueves 3 de abril**

**Salta / Buenos Aires**

09h30	<b>Check-out en el hotel. Salida hacia la reunión con el Gobernador de la Provincia en vehículo cortesía de la Gobernación de Salta.</b>
10h00 - 10h30	<b>Reunión con el Gobernador de la Provincia de Salta Juan Manuel URTUBEY</b> <u>Lugar:</u> Centro Cívico Grand Bourg, Salta. <u>Contacto:</u> Florencia (privada) <u>Tel.</u> 0387 + 436-0401; Carolina Wilches, Directora de Ceremonial y Protocolo de la Provincia - <u>Tel.</u> 0387 + 432-4116 / 4112 / 4550; Celular: 0387-154-526273; Sr. Leo Ramorino, cel. 0387 + 15.403-1945. E-mail: <a href="mailto:cwsalta@hotmail.com">cwsalta@hotmail.com</a>
10h30 - 11h00	<b>Encuentros con la Prensa</b> <u>Lugar:</u> a definir <u>Contacto:</u> Rodrigo García, Secretario de Prensa de la Gobernación: 0387 + 436-2308, 0387 + 15.502-6806 ; Alejandra Segovia, colaboradora: 0387 + 15.502-9087 ; Fernando Escudero: Coordinador de la Secretaría de Prensa: 0387 + 15.685-5266.
11h00 - 12h15	<b>Reunión con el Vicegobernador de la Provincia y Presidente del Senado Andrés ZOTTOS y legisladores salteños.</b> <u>Lugar:</u> Legislatura de la Provincia de la Salta, Mitre 550, Salta. <u>Contacto:</u> Leda, Pato. <u>Tel.</u> 0387 + 432-4155 / 432-4192 / 436-0403. <a href="mailto:privada.vicegobernacion@yahoo.com.ar">privada.vicegobernacion@yahoo.com.ar</a> ; <a href="mailto:privadavicegobernacion@salta.gov.ar">privadavicegobernacion@salta.gov.ar</a> / Ceremonial del Senado – Sr. Figueroa (cel. 0387 + 15.605-8396); 0387 + 421-4852; <a href="mailto:ceremonialsenadosalta@yahoo.com.ar">ceremonialsenadosalta@yahoo.com.ar</a> ; <a href="mailto:ceremonialsenado@hotmail.com">ceremonialsenado@hotmail.com</a>
13h30	<b>Almuerzo, agasajo a los Eurodiputados dispensado por el Gobernador Juan Manuel URTUBEY</b> <u>Lugar:</u> Finca del Sr. Gobernador, Las Costas, Cerro San Lorenzo - Salta <u>Contacto:</u> Florencia (privada) <u>Tel.</u> 0387 + 436-0401; Dirección de Audiencias: Sr. Agustín Usandivaras, <u>Tel.</u> 0387 + 436-0871
15h30	<b>Visita a APAC - Proyecto de Cooperación</b> <u>Lugar:</u> Posibles comedores a visitar: - Comedor “Juana Muro de Ramírez” (David Saravia Castro 1651, Salta) - Centro de Desarrollo Comunitario “San Juan Bautista” (Pje. Benjamín Zorrilla 225, Salta) - Hogar de Día para Adolescentes “Niño Dios” (Pje. Benjamín Zorrilla 225, Salta) <u>Contacto:</u> Marcela GORLA
20h15	<b>Check-in en el Aeropuerto de la Ciudad de Salta</b>
21h15	<b>Partida del vuelo AR-1459 de Aerolíneas Argentinas con destino a la ciudad de Buenos Aires</b>

23h13	<b>Arribo al Aeroparque Jorge Newbery de la Ciudad de Buenos Aires. Traslado al Hotel Sofitel.</b>
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<b>Viernes 4 de abril</b>	<b>Buenos Aires</b>
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09h00 - 10h15	<b>Conferencia del Dip. Souza Pinto en el CARI: “Visión del Parlamento Europeo sobre las negociaciones y las relaciones UE / Mercosur”.</b> <b>Introducción a cargo del Emb. Juan Archibaldo LANÚS.</b> <u>Lugar:</u> CARI, Uruguay 1037, piso 1º, Buenos Aires <u>Contacto:</u> Gloria Báez / Juan Carlos. Tel. 4811-0071
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10h30 - 11h30	<b>Conferencia de prensa sobre los resultados de la visita: Diarios, agencias, TV</b> <u>Lugar:</u> Delegación de la CE en Argentina <u>Contacto:</u> Branko ANDJIC, Delegación de la Comisión Europea
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11h30 - 12h30	<b>Reunión con Hermes BINNER, Gobernador de la Provincia de Santa Fe</b> <u>Lugar:</u> Delegación, Sala PB <u>Contacto:</u> Margarita Bargagna. E-mail: <a href="mailto:margaritabargagna@santafe.gov.ar">margaritabargagna@santafe.gov.ar</a> . Tel. 0342 + 450-6673.
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13h00	<b>Fin de las actividades oficiales para los Eurodiputados no españoles.</b>
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13h30 - 15h15	<b>Almuerzo ofrecido por el Embajador de España Rafael ESTRELLA para los Eurodiputados de nacionalidad española</b> <u>Lugar:</u> Residencia del Embajador de España, Av. del Libertador 2075, Bs. As. <u>Contacto:</u> Esperanza, 4802-6031 int. 107
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tarde	<b>Partida según vuelos de cada participante.</b>
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