

SECOND MEETING OF THE
EUROPEAN UNION- CHILE
NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

20 - 23 JUNE 2000
BRUSSELS

FINAL CONCLUSIONS

Negotiators from Chile and the European Union met for the second time in the framework of the Chile – European Union Negotiations Committee (NC) during 20 - 23 June 2000 in Brussels. This meeting formed the second round of negotiations between Chile and the European Union, aiming at the conclusion of an Association Agreement between Chile and the European Union. The negotiators established the following set of conclusions.

1. GENERAL DISCUSSIONS

At the plenary session of the NC, negotiators from Chile and the European Union made opening statements that reflect both sides' commitment to the process of negotiations and their confidence in its successful conclusion. They also shared a common view on the goals to be achieved at this round by the various groups created in the first meeting.

An important exchange of information and opinions took place in the plenary session of the NC and various presentations were made on issues of interest to the Parties. The EU negotiators presented the current state of affairs as regards the Common Agricultural Policy of the EU, the enlargement process and trade agreements with South Africa, Mexico, the Mediterranean (MEDA) and ACP countries. The Chilean negotiators presented the current state of affairs concerning Chile's Free Trade Agreements already in force and under negotiation, underlining the general approach that has been developed in trade policy issues. Also the Chilean negotiators informed about the status of Chile's regional integration policies.

In general terms, both parties shared the view that the process of negotiations between Chile and the EU should be compatible and coherent with other negotiations being carried out, both at the multilateral and bilateral level.

Meetings of the three technical groups and their respective sub groups in trade issues, which had been established during the first meeting of the NC in Santiago, were carried out. The conclusions of these meetings will be described hereafter.

The Subgroup on Economic Co-operation as well as the Subgroup on Social and Cultural Co-operation and Education, as established during the first NC, also met during the second meeting of the NC in Brussels and reached a set of conclusions that are described hereafter.

Chile and the European Union decided to hold a third round of negotiations within the framework of the NC during November 2000 in Santiago. The exact dates of the meeting and other arrangements will be agreed on through the regular diplomatic channels.

2. NEGOTIATIONS ON FUTURE POLITICAL DIALOGUE

During this NC session a discussion took place on the legal framework of the political dialogue within the context of the future Association Agreement.

It was agreed that the legal framework of the political dialogue included in the 1996 Framework Co-operation Agreement should serve as a basis for the definition of the framework of the political dialogue within the future Association Agreement.

The Parties agreed to continue this discussion and underlined the importance of this exercise.

The Parties agreed to undertake an exchange of texts, to be presented to the NC during the third round of negotiations.

3. NEGOTIATIONS ON CO-OPERATION

On the basis of the agreements reached during the first round of negotiations, the Subgroup on Economic Co-operation and the Subgroup on Social and Cultural Co-operation and Education met with the objective of identifying:

- a series of EC programmes that might be open to Chile's participation and might have particular relevance for a real exchange of information and best practices between the Parties, as well as a transfer of know-how, where necessary;
- the objectives of the various co-operation fields to be negotiated by the parties and the instruments for their implementation.

The parties attach great importance to the exchange of information and opinion that took place on relevant issues. Three main questions were the subject of fruitful

discussions: the meaning of an association agreement, its practical implications as well as the objectives and instruments of a first series of co-operation sectors that has been discussed during this second round of negotiations.

1. The meeting was opened by a discussion on the meaning of an eventual upgrading of Chile's status from a "third country" to an "associated country", as well as the consequences of this change on the co-operation programmes and their implementation. The discussion will continue during the third round of negotiations.

2. A thorough presentation of several EC programmes (Technological Innovation for SMEs, Statistics co-operation and Energy; Socrates, Youth II, Leonardo da Vinci, Media II, Culture 2000) led to a fruitful exchange of views on practical possibilities for Chile to participate in them.

3. Working papers on the general objectives of Economic Co-operation and on the specific objectives and instruments of some co-operation sectors that should be mentioned in the future association agreement - Industrial, Energy and Statistics co-operation - were exchanged. The same methodology was applied to Social and Cultural Co-operation and Education and some of its sectors: social co-operation, culture as well as education and training.

The parties discussed the possibility that during the third round of negotiations the Subgroup on Science and Technology will meet for the first time and the Subgroup on Social and Cultural Co-operation and Education will continue the discussion on its possible areas of intervention.

4. NEGOTIATIONS ON TRADE ISSUES

According to the conclusions of the first round, Technical Groups on trade issues meet to:

- exchange information;
- discuss specific objectives and modalities;
- identify non-tariff barriers to trade.

Both delegations shared the view that the result of these negotiations should be in full accordance with the principles and rules of the WTO.

Information exchange:

During the meetings of the three Technical Groups and their Subgroups, substantial information was exchanged on issues of general and specific interest to both Parties. As agreed in the first round, both sides had submitted substantial packages of information requested by the other side. This exercise of information exchange gave rise to fruitful discussions among experts on both sides.

The information will be subject to further analysis and follow-up questions and both Parties committed themselves to facilitate this exchanges, using all available means.

It was agreed that this process has achieved substantial progress, thus contribution to further progress in the process of negotiations.

Discussion on specific objectives and modalities:

Both sides started to explore specific objectives in the various negotiation areas. Prior to the third round, each party will prepare and exchange, where possible, proposals regarding specific objectives. These proposals should summarise the goals to be reached by the negotiations and propose modalities or approaches to address each issue.

Identification of non-tariff obstacles:

The EC submitted an initial list of non-tariff obstacles with a view to identifying non-tariff barriers to trade. Chile will provide a similar list before the end of July.

Agenda and preparations for the next round:

The agenda for the next round will include a continuation of the work programme and agenda established at the first round, namely:

- continuation of the exchange of information as required for the negotiating process;
- discussion of specific objectives on the basis of proposals prepared by each side;
- ways of addressing non-tariff obstacles to trade.

All information necessary for the third round as well as proposals on specific objectives will be submitted 30 days prior to the meeting.

Finally, both sides reaffirmed their commitment to carrying out the work programme for the first year agreed at the first round, notably information exchange, exchange of negotiating texts, and the issue of non-tariff obstacles.