Fourth Meeting of the European Union – Chile Negotiations Committee

CONCLUSIONS - Brussels, 12 to 15 March 2001

In accordance with the conclusions of the third meeting of the European Union – Chile Negotiations Committee in Santiago from 13 to 16 November 2000 the fourth meeting of the Negotiations Committee was held from 12 to 15 March 2001 in Brussels.

The Chilean delegation was presided by Mr. Heraldo Muñoz, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, and the delegation of the European Union by Mr. Guy Legras, Director General for External Relations of the European Commission.

The meeting developed as follows:

1. Approval of the agenda:

   Both sides agreed on the agenda.

2. Results of the meeting:

   A) Political Dialogue:

   In the discussions on the institutional framework of an association agreement there was a high degree of consensus between both sides leading to an agreed text on the subject.

   The text proposed by the Chilean side on "Final Provisions" will be discussed at a future meeting of the Negotiations Committee.

   B) Co-operation:

   The Commission informed the Chilean side that it was about to request the EU Council to give it a negotiating mandate for a scientific and technological co-operation agreement between Chile and the European Community. The objective is to conclude these negotiations before the end of 2001. Both sides agreed to start informal discussions as soon as possible.

   Texts were agreed on the subjects of financial and technical co-operation, drugs, information society and upgrading.

   It was also agreed to add some new elements to the text on social and cultural co-operation and education already agreed at the third meeting of the Negotiations Committee.

   The text on economic co-operation presented by Chile during this meeting of the Negotiations Committee will be discussed at its next meeting.

   C) Trade:

   The trade groups made very important progress in all areas, mostly on the basis of proposals which had been exchanged beforehand, as agreed at the third round. Both sides could deepen their knowledge of their respective positions and started identifying common ground and areas of divergences with a view to deepen the negotiations of texts at the next round.

   Furthermore, in order to ensure the best results at the fifth round, it was agreed that experts would continue, during the first semester, to exchange information, to clarify positions and, where identified during the meetings, would proceed with any necessary technical work (i.e. technical meetings, video conferences etc).
The negotiating texts and working documents covered the following areas: technical prerequisites for the negotiations on goods; tariffs and non-tariff disciplines; rules of origin (including origin procedures); standards, technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures; wines; trade defence instruments; government procurement; competition; intellectual property rights; and dispute settlement.

Both Parties agreed that business facilitation constituted a relevant objective of the negotiating process, in conformity with the ambitious agenda set out for the future agreement. They noted that the work underway is already contributing to this objective.

In view of the next round both Parties agreed to prepare working documents and negotiating text proposals taking into account the outcome of the discussions and to present additional proposals. These will be made available one month before the fifth round.

Finally, both Parties confirmed their intention to intensify the negotiating process in all areas currently being negotiated and to start negotiations on tariffs and services as from 1 July 2001.

3. Date and place of the next meeting of the Negotiations Committee:

The Parties agreed to hold the fifth meeting of the Negotiations Committee in July 2001 in Santiago.