

CANCELLERÍA EN LÍNEA

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QUESTION OF THE MALVINAS

Commemoration of the Day of Affirmation of Argentina's Rights Over the Malvinas, South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas

ARGENTINA- SPAIN

Foreign Minister Solá: "We share the same views with the Government of Spain on how the world has to face the pandemic: with universal access to vaccines"



Solá: “The Question of the Malvinas is a priority for Argentina”

On 10 June, Foreign Minister Felipe Solá headed the event commemorating the Day of Affirmation of Argentina's Rights Over the Malvinas, South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, and stated that “the Argentine Government reaffirms that the Question of the Malvinas is a foreign policy priority for Argentina, as reflected in the constitutional mandate”. A photography exhibition entitled “Architecture and Planning in Malvinas 1764-1833” was held following the event.

The Minister recalled that “from the beginning of its independence process in 1810, Argentina—having inherited the Spanish territories in the South Atlantic—continuously exercised its rights over the southern archipelagos located there,” adding that “the Argentine Government continuously expresses its willingness to resume negotiations and calls on the United Kingdom to heed the mandate of the United Nations General Assembly in this regard.”

“The Foreign Ministry, in line with President Alberto Fernández’ decisions, promotes a comprehensive strategy to reinforce the quest for international support in order to resume sovereignty dialogue and condemn British unilateral acts, particularly with regard to the unjustified military presence and the exploration and exploitation of Argentine renewable natural resources in the disputed area,” Solá stated.

The Secretary for the Malvinas, Antarctica and South Atlantic, Daniel Filmus, in turn stated that “on the 192nd anniversary of the creation of the Political and Military Commandancy for the Malvinas Islands, our government is firmly committed to continue working in order to develop State policies aimed at recovering sovereignty exercise over our Islands and to promote economic development based on the integration of the territory and resources that belong to us in the South Atlantic,” stressing that “Argentina's sovereignty rights over the Islands still have the same legitimacy, strength and consensus among the countries of Latin America and the world.”

“After 188 years of usurpation, the United Kingdom still has the same interests it had when it invaded the Islands: taking away our resources, controlling the bi-oceanic passage and our Antarctic Sector, and consolidating a military base, which is an armed threat to the entire region,” Filmus stated.

For the Foreign Ministry, the event was attended by the Chief of the Private Office, Guillermo Justo Chaves; the Deputy Foreign Minister, Pablo Tettamanti; the Secretary for International Economic Relations, Jorge Neme; the Secretary for Worship, Guillermo Oliveri; the Secretary for Coordination and Foreign Planning, Martín Yañez; and the President of the White Helmets Commission, Marina Cardelli.

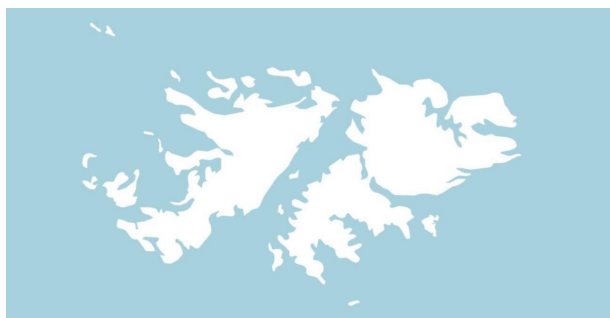
The event was also attended by the Argentine Senator, Jorge Taiana; the Director of the Organization of Ibero-American States in Argentina, Luis Maria Scasso; architect Ramón Gutiérrez; the Ambassadors of Bolivia, Ramiro Tapia Sainz; Cuba, Pedro Pablo Prada; El Salvador, Eduardo Cardoza; Perú, Peter Camino; and representatives of the Embassies of Paraguay, Mexico, Chile and Brazil, as well as the Argentine Representative, Juan Carlos Selva, officials of the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Science, Innovation and Technology, and members of the Library of the Argentine Congress.

The photography exhibition “Architecture and Planning in the Malvinas Islands 1764-1833” was organized by the Foreign Ministry together with the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI) and the Latin American Architecture Documentation Center (CEDODAL), and it is presented with a publication made thanks to the contribution of the Library of the Argentine Congress. The exhibition consists of fifteen panels that propose a historical-photographic tour commemorating the first time the Argentine flag was flown in the Malvinas Islands, on 6 November 1820.

The event was held at 11 a.m., as set forth for this commemoration in Law 20,561, regulated by Executive Order 1635/74 signed by President Juan Domingo Perón.



10 June: Day of affirmation of Argentina's rights over the Malvinas, South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas



On 10 June 2021, the Government and the People of the Argentine Republic commemorated the 192nd anniversary of the creation of the Political and Military Commandancy for the Malvinas Islands and the islands adjacent to Cape Horn by the Government of the Province of Buenos Aires.

From the beginning of its independence process in 1810, Argentina—having inherited the Spanish territories in the South Atlantic—continuously exercised its rights over the southern archipelagos located there. Since 1767, Spanish jurisdiction over the islands had been continuously exercised by 32 successive Governors residing in the islands and reporting to Buenos Aires up until 1811, when Spain withdrew its garrison (leaving signs of possession) in the context of the Independence War in the Río de la Plata.

In 1820, the Argentine flag was flown for the first time in the Malvinas Islands, the bicentenary of which was commemorated last 6 November. The Argentine Government also enacted legislation and established legal and administrative bodies to consolidate the full exercise of its sovereignty, including the promotion of trade activities and the establishment of settlements.

A significant landmark in the consolidation process of Argentina's sovereignty over the South Atlantic Islands was a Decree signed on 10 June 1829 by the then Governor of the Province of Buenos Aires, Martín Rodríguez, whereby the government structure we commemorate today was created, the control of which was vested in Luis Vernet, who settled in the islands and publicly exercised his authority and jurisdiction. Under this Decree, "the Malvinas Islands and the Islands adjacent to Cape Horn in the Atlantic Ocean shall be governed by a Political and Military Commander, appointed immediately by the Government of the Republic."

However, on 3 January 1833, such effective exercise of sovereignty was interrupted by an act of force by the United Kingdom, which illegally occupied the islands, expelling the legitimate Argentine authorities and the existing settlers. This usurpation disrupted the territorial integrity of Argentina, a situation to which no Argentine Government has ever consented in over 188 years of history.

Since then, there has been a sovereignty dispute between the Argentine Republic and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as recognized by the United Nations General Assembly through Resolution 2065 (XX), adopted in 1965.

In compliance with this Resolution, starting in 1966 and for 16 years, both countries conducted negotiations in order to find a solution to the sovereignty dispute. However, despite Argentina's countless invitations and the United Nations' exhortations, the United Kingdom has systematically refused to resume sovereignty negotiations.

The international community has for its part reiterated the need for prompt resumption of bilateral negotiations, as stated in 10 UN General Assembly resolutions and in 38 resolutions of the Special Committee on Decolonization, in addition to several declarations issued at regional and multilateral fora such as the OAS, the G77 and China, MERCOSUR, the Ibero-American Summit, CELAC, SICA, PARLASUR, PARLACEN, the Africa-South America Summit (ASA), and the Summit of South American-Arab Countries (ASPA).

The refusal to comply with the obligation to resume sovereignty negotiations has been aggravated by the United Kingdom's continuous unilateral actions, including the exploration and exploitation of renewable and non-renewable natural resources, which Argentina has continuously condemned.

In addition, the United Kingdom maintains an unjustified and disproportionate military presence in the Islands and regularly conducts military manoeuvres and exercises against which Argentina has emphatically protested and which constitute wilful disregard for the appeals made in the various resolutions adopted by the United Nations and other international organizations.

All these activities are contrary to Resolution 31/49 of the United Nations General Assembly and have prompted expressions of concern and condemnation by the international community. In particular, the military presence also contravenes Resolution 41/11 of the General Assembly (Zone of Peace and Co-operation of the South Atlantic), which, among other provisions, calls upon States of all other regions, particularly militarily significant States, to scrupulously respect the region of the South Atlantic as a zone of peace and co-operation, especially through the reduction and eventual elimination of their military presence there.

Recovering effective exercise of our sovereignty over the Malvinas, South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime and island areas, in accordance with international law and respecting the way of life of the islanders, is a permanent and unrenounceable goal of the Argentine people, as established in the First Temporary Provision of the Argentine Constitution.

In this regard, the Argentine Government is devoted to the design and implementation of State policies to achieve this goal. As a result, in 2020, reaffirming Argentina's legitimate sovereignty rights, the Argentine Congress unanimously passed three laws that bolster the work in support of Argentina's claim.

Particularly, the National Council on Affairs relative to the Malvinas, South Georgias, and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime spaces was created, for the purpose of developing a plural space at the highest institutional level that designs medium- and long-term State strategies.

At the same time, the Argentine Government continues to redouble its efforts, always through peaceful means, diplomacy and in line with international law, to muster support from the international community in the Question of the Malvinas Islands, and to build consensus through multilateral organizations in order to create the conditions for the United Kingdom to resume bilateral sovereignty negotiations, as provided for in Resolution 2065 (XX) of the United Nations General Assembly and in multiple resolutions by various international organizations and fora.

The Argentine Republic once again reaffirms its sovereignty over the Malvinas, South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, which are an integral part of its national territory, and its willingness to promptly resume sovereignty negotiations with the United Kingdom with a view to finding a definitive solution to this colonial situation.

President Alberto Fernández: “We are again recovering the collective memory to preserve our rights over the Malvinas”

On 10 June, the Day of Affirmation of Argentina's Rights over the Malvinas, South Georgias and South Sandwich Islands and the surrounding maritime areas, President Alberto Fernández stated that “we are again recovering the collective memory to preserve Argentina's rights over the Malvinas”, adding that “we have to work every day to recover that territory.”

The Head of State headed an event at the Government House's Museo del Bicentenario, during which he announced the call for members of the scientific community to submit their proposals for the Focused Research and Technological Development Projects (PICTO in the Spanish acronym) related to the maritime area of the Malvinas, Antarctica and the South Atlantic, within the context of the reactivated Pampa Azul programme.

Speaking of the Malvinas, the President stressed that “the pain is immense pain because even though we know they are part of our territory, we do not have them,” and said that “diplomacy is the way to regain this territory.”

He recalled the war with the United Kingdom in 1982 and stressed that “we all suffer the outcome of that war, but that does not in any way diminish the heroic deed of those who were there, the heroism of the veterans, including General Balza, among many others who died fighting for a legitimate claim.”

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deed of those who were there, the heroism of the veterans, including General Balza, among many others who died fighting for a legitimate claim."

The President asserted that the Islands were occupied for economic and military reasons and stated that "somebody settled there, usurping Argentine land, so there must be a permanent claim by the Argentine people, because we are fragmented. A part of our territory has been separated and usurped by someone who is not entitled to it."

The event was attended by the Ministers of Science, Technology and Innovation, Roberto Salvarezza; Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship, Felipe Solá; the Secretary for the Malvinas, Antarctica and South Atlantic of the Foreign Ministry, Daniel Filmus; the head of the Advisory Cabinet Unit of the MSTI, Carolina Vera; Jorge Taiana, Argentine Senator and former Foreign Minister; and Malvinas veteran General Martín Balza; among other officials, lawmakers and veterans.

Secretary Filmus stressed that "the British invaded the Malvinas Islands in 1833 to take away the resources and deny us control, and they continue to be there 200 years later because it is one of the most productive areas, because of the fishing, hydrocarbons, and the geopolitical importance, due to the access to Antarctica and the bi-oceanic corridor."

Salvarezza in turn described the Pampa Azul project as "strategic", stating that it is aimed at "the sustainable development of the Argentine Sea and the growth of all the industries that can support it, and it is based on the knowledge and the technological and scientific research applied to that Sea. The primary goal is to make use of that knowledge."

He also announced that "two billion Argentine pesos will be allocated to develop the infrastructure of specialized centres along the Argentine maritime coastline."

For his part, the head of the Argentine Agency for the Promotion of Research, Technological Development and Innovation (Agency I+D+i), Fernando Peirano, explained that: "On this day, we wanted to note that sovereignty also concerns science, technology and innovation, and that is why this is the right time to launch this call, that adds to other projects already under way, such as Pampa Azul."

The PICTO are aimed at developing new knowledge in science and technology areas of interest to a partner willing to finance the projects together. Within this context, the call will be launched by the Agency I+D+i and the Secretariat for the Malvinas, Antarctica and South Atlantic, which will be in charge of establishing the general profile and will be part of the Advisory Council that will oversee the process and determine the main topics. During the first year, 25 million Argentine pesos will be allocated to this end.

This initiative is one of the priorities of the Interministerial Committee of the reactivated Pampa Azul programme, aimed at promoting research in the Argentine Continental Shelf. The Committee is made up of representatives of the following Ministries: Science, Technology and Innovation; Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship; Defence; Security; Tourism and Sports; Environment and Sustainable Development; and Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries.

Pampa Azul was born out of the National Programme for Research and Productive Innovation in Argentine Maritime Spaces (PROMAR), created by law 27,168 during the presidency of Cristina Fernández de Kirchner in September 2015. However, when a new administration took office in December 2015, research tools were no longer used and oceanographic ships became inoperative due to lack of maintenance.



Felipe Solá and Daniel Arroyo Launched Mercosur Social Policies Forum



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"Without border areas in harmony we cannot achieve full and harmonious integration of our countries in the health, productive and trade fields," stated Foreign Minister Felipe Solá at the Mercosur Social Policies Forum on "Vulnerabilities in Border Areas" he launched on 10 June along with the Minister of Social Development, Daniel Arroyo.

Solá noted that "the pandemic caused many difficulties, especially in border areas, in relation to the movement of people, and this context required serious, critical, and hard work. People were anxious and there were demands, but we worked to solve the problems." And he added that "closing borders is contrary to the spirit of Mercosur, which is openness and the ability to move from one country to another naturally; however, we maintained dialogue and coordination, and we were able to implement measures to foster the return of citizens to their country of origin or residence, guarantee the exchange of goods and services, and cooperate to mitigate the consequences of the health crisis."

With the virtual participation of the Chief Executive Director of the Mercosur Social Institute, Juan Miguel González Bibolini, and with experts and specialized officials from Member States, the Foreign Minister stated that we must "think of the recovery of Mercosur and its border areas holistically. This requires, among other things, implementing a health surveillance scheme that enables an organized and gradual opening of land borders, and which is widely disseminated and informed to the people, guaranteeing human mobility, health control and healthcare at the same time."

"It is also essential to increase support for cross-border productive chains and SMEs development. To that end,

we believe that it is necessary to have quality infrastructure that enables contact between the different regions because people from one country often have partners from another. We need to reduce transport costs and facilitate life at the borders. These are challenges we will address and that is why we have thought of meetings like this forum," stated Solá, accompanied by the Undersecretary for Latin America of the Foreign Ministry, Juan Valle Raleigh.

Minister Arroyo reaffirmed that "border integration has various pillars and work is the essential one; post-pandemic reconstruction requires a bottom-up approach and the idea is to rebuild labour-intensive activities with local development, promoting the integration of the informal sector."

He further added: "these meetings should help us build new paradigms for the post-pandemic era, which can help us shape new public policies and models of intervention with the focus on jobs, social development, and upward social mobility."

This forum, organized by the Argentine Foreign Ministry, the Social Development and Health Ministries, and the Mercosur Social Institute, is among the key activities that Argentina has been undertaking during its Presidency Pro Tempore of the bloc.

The initiative is intended to give visibility to the advances that have been made in the political, social and civic fields since Mercosur was founded 30 years ago, promote information sharing and the analysis of accumulated experiences regarding social policies through meetings with specialists, national authorities and local parties.



Alberto Fernández: “Argentina and Spain share an inseparable bond”

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On 9 June, President Alberto Fernández received his Spanish counterpart, Pedro Sánchez, at the Argentine Government House, and they held a private meeting. The President also met with Argentine and Spanish businesspeople and signed several agreements on various work areas aimed at strengthening the strategic partnership in their bilateral and regional relations.

After the meeting, Fernández stated that “Spain and Argentina share an inseparable bond”, adding that “all of the conditions are present for us to join efforts and make the most of the opportunities on both sides of the Atlantic.”

Sánchez in turn expressed Spain’s “full and total support” for Argentina’s negotiations with the IMF and the Paris Club and stated that “the 4.5 billion euros internationalization plan of the Spanish economy is focused on Latin America, and particularly on such important countries as Argentina.”

Fernández received Sánchez at the Argentine Government House and they held a private meeting

in the presidential office before meeting with the businesspeople at the Museo del Bicentenario.

For Argentina, the meeting was attended by the Foreign Minister, Felipe Solá; the Ministers of Economy, Martín Guzmán; and Productive Development, Matías Kulfas; the Deputy Chief of Cabinet, Cecilia Todesca Bocco; the Secretaries for Strategic Affairs, Gustavo Beliz; and International Economic Relations, Jorge Neme, and the Argentine Ambassador in Madrid, Ricardo Alfonsín.

The Spanish delegation included the Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism, María Reyes Maroto Illera; the State Secretary for Foreign Affairs and for Ibero-America and the Caribbean, Cristina Gallach Figueras; the Secretary General for Economic Affairs and the G20 of the Cabinet of the Presidency, Manuel de la Rocha Vázquez; and the Ambassador to Argentina, Javier Sandomingo, among other officials.

The delegation also included several businesspeople with substantial investments in Argentina, as well as trade union leaders.

"This is a unique opportunity to have a dialogue and move forward, Argentina meets all the necessary conditions for Spanish companies to continue investing and creating jobs," the Argentine President stated after the meeting.

Sánchez in turn stated that "this business meeting shows that Spanish companies are betting on Argentina, the creation of jobs and the development of this sister nation," and added that "we will increase Spanish investment, particularly in small and medium-sized enterprises."

The Presidents then headed, in the White Room, the signing of a Plan of Action for the strengthening of the strategic partnership between both countries, the Buenos Aires Statement, and agreements on the exchange of diplomatic files related to the last civil-military dictatorship in Argentina and on gender issues.

Following this event, and before the lunch offered by Fernández in honour of his counterpart and the Spanish delegation in the Eva Perón Room, the Presidents held a press conference.

"Spain will always support Argentina in its negotiations with the IMF and the Paris Club. Our support is full and total," Sánchez stated, agreeing with the remarks made by Alberto Fernández that this is "a great opportunity for international financial institutions and development banks to be mindful of the economic impact of the pandemic on middle-income countries."

The Argentine Head of State thanked his Spanish counterpart "because every time I needed his help during difficult times, to deal with private creditors and the IMF and the Paris Club, he always supported us, and he was understanding and attentive to our claims."

Sánchez expressed his "deep gratitude" to Alberto Fernández for his "solidarity, empathy and commitment to the Spanish people" since the start of the pandemic.

He also highlighted the joint proposals of their countries to overcome the pandemic and in relation to vaccination. He stated that "our countries' best economic policy is to speed up vaccination," and stressed the need to "transfer technology and knowledge and expand production capacity and vaccine distribution."

"The pandemic demands that we realize that we need a commitment to ensure that vaccines are a global good," Fernández insisted, calling for technology transfer to various countries in order to speed up vaccine production.

Finally, the Spanish President visited the Memory Site Museum at the former Officers' Casino of the Naval Mechanics School (ESMA). "Our two peoples have suffered the brutality of dictatorships, and democratic memory must be a daily exercise we need to defend and emphasise," he noted.

The following officials took part in the signing of agreements: Foreign Minister Felipe Solá; the Ministers of Health, Carla Vizzotti; Women, Gender and Diversity, Elizabeth Gómez Alcorta; Economy, Martín Guzmán; Productive Development, Matías Kulfas; Justice and Human Rights, Martín Soria; Culture, Tristán Bauer; and Environment and Sustainable Development, Juan Cabandié; the Legal and Technical Secretary, Vilma Ibarra; and the Secretary for Human Rights, Horacio Pietragalla.



Working meeting with Argentine and Spanish business leaders

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On 9 June, President Alberto Fernández and Spain's President, Pedro Sánchez, held a working meeting with twenty Spanish and Argentine business leaders at the Government House's Bicentenary Museum, at the end of which they addressed those present.

For the Argentine Government, the meeting was attended by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship, Felipe Solá; the Minister of Economy, Martín Guzmán; the Minister of Productive Development, Matías Kulfas; the Deputy Chief of Cabinet, Cecilia Todesca Bocco; the Secretary for Strategic Affairs, Gustavo Beliz; the Secretary for International Economic Relations, Jorge Neme; and the Ambassador to Madrid, Ricardo Alfonsín.

On behalf of the Spanish Government, the event was attended by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism, María Reyes Marotto Illera; the State Secretary for Foreign Affairs and for Ibero-America and the Caribbean, Cristina Gallach Figueras; the Spanish Ambassador to Argentina, Javier Sandomingo; the Secretary-General for Economic Affairs and G20, Manuel De La Rocha Vázquez; the Secretary for International Relations and Cooperation, Cristina Faciaben Lacorte; the Director of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Emma María Aparici; the Cabinet Director at the Ministry of Industry, Juan Ignacio Díaz Bidart; and the Director-General for International Communication, Miguel Ángel Marfull Robledo.

Alberto Fernández and Pedro Sánchez signed bilateral agreements

In the Government House's White Room, President Alberto Fernández together with Spain's President, Pedro Sánchez, headed the signing of bilateral agreements to enhance relations between both countries.

Prominent among the documents executed are the Strategic Action Plan; the Buenos Aires Declaration; the Declaration on the exchange of diplomatic files relating to the last military dictatorship in Argentina; and the Joint Declaration on gender issues.



For the Argentine Government, the event was attended by the following Ministers: of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship, Felipe Solá; of Economy, Martín Guzmán; of Productive Development, Matías Kulfas; of Environment and Sustainable Development, Juan Cabandié; of Culture, Tristán Bauer; of Justice and Human Rights, Martín Soria; of Women, Gender, and Diversity, Elizabeth Gómez Alcorta; and of Health, Carla Vizzotti.

10 The Legal and Technical Secretary, Vilma Ibarra, and the Secretary for Human Rights, Horacio Pietragalla, also joined the meeting.

On behalf of the Spanish Government, the ceremony was attended by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism, María Reyes Marotto Illera; the State Secretary for Foreign Affairs and for Ibero-America and the Caribbean, Cristina Gallach Figueras; the Secretary-General for Economic Affairs and G20, Manuel De La Rocha Vázquez; the Director of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Emma María Aparici Vázquez De Parga; the Director-General for International Communication, Miguel Ángel Marfull Robledo; and the Spanish Ambassador to Argentina, Javier Sandomingo Núñez.



Solá: “We share the same views with the Government of Spain on how the world has to face the pandemic: with universal access to vaccines”

Foreign Minister Felipe Solá referred to the official visit paid by the President of the Spanish Government, Pedro Sánchez, to meet with the Argentine President, Alberto Fernández. He thanked for the renewed support for Argentina's debt negotiation with the IMF and stated that “we share the same views with the Government of Spain on how we have to face the world during and after the pandemic.”

“Today's public expression of support for our country by President Sánchez showcases that both governments work in sync with each other,” Solá stated. Earlier today, Sánchez, joined by Spanish businesspeople, had reaffirmed the “full and total



support” for Argentina's negotiations with the IMF and the Paris Club, stating that “Spain will always support Argentina in these negotiations.”

Following the meeting at the Argentine Government House, the Foreign Minister stated that “the Presidents discussed Spanish investments, debt renegotiation and the need to waive vaccine patents. However, Sánchez insisted that this is not enough, and that an increase in vaccine production and distribution is essential, adding that the Governments of Spain and Argentina will lead this discussion.”

“Alberto Fernández and Pedro Sánchez share views on the post-pandemic world, where bonds of solidarity and cooperation will have to be reinforced. In this regard, the Presidents signed several joint statements for a 2021-2023 Plan of Action, within the framework of the Plan of Action for Strengthening the Strategic Partnership, and two documents dealing with human rights and gender equality.”

“Due to the coronavirus pandemic, no Head of State had visited Argentina since Alberto Fernández took office in December 2019. President Sánchez decided to travel to Buenos Aires despite Covid-19 restrictions. He made this trip to show Spain's support during this difficult time for Argentina, both in economic and health terms,” Solá added.



After Pedro Sánchez' official visit, Foreign Minister Solá met with Spain's Deputy Foreign Minister

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As part of the 2021-2023 Strategic Partnership Plan (SPP) signed by the Presidents of Argentina and Spain, on 10 June Foreign Minister Felipe Solá met with the State Secretary for Foreign Affairs and for Ibero-America and the Caribbean, Cristina Gallach Figueras, to review the main pillars of the agreements signed in various working areas.

Accompanied by the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, Pablo Tettamanti, Solá and the Spanish official both noted how fruitful President Pedro Sánchez' visit was, having included the presence of ten important Spanish business leaders; he also stressed the importance of enhancing historical political and economic relations between both countries. Regarding the SPP, he highlighted cooperation in the fields of infrastructure, digitalization, education, gender, fisheries, and Antarctic activity.

Solá reiterated, in line with President Alberto Fernández previous comments, the gratitude for the Spanish Government's support in relation to the Argentine Republic's negotiations with private creditors as well as with the IMF and the Paris Club.

During the meeting, they also addressed possible joint actions in regional and multilateral fora, such as the 2021 UN Climate Change Conference (COP 26), the Generation Equality Forum, and the Meeting of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources.

Gallach Figueras was joined by the Spanish Ambassador, Javier Sandomingo, and the Spanish Embassy's Political Advisor, Carlos López.

Neme: “It is necessary to strengthen Mercosur and not consider individual solutions”

The Secretary for International Economic Relations, Jorge Neme, attended the “Mercosur. Present and Future” seminar, organized by LIDE Talks Internacional and attended by 500 business leaders and distinguished business representatives. “Mercosur is the major international integration platform for Argentina and the region. As a bloc, we have a different position and weight in the international context when negotiating with other regional blocs and third countries,” he stated.

Neme highlighted the work that the Argentine Foreign Ministry headed by Felipe Solá has been doing in connection with the Presidency Pro Tempore of Mercosur, as well as the main challenges that the bloc is currently facing, such as the discussion regarding the Common External Tariff (CET) and the foreign affairs agenda, matters which are fundamental for the future of the bloc.

“We have to think how to advance together towards the future, there is disagreement regarding the Common External Tariff, and we are trying to solve it. Argentina had a convergence proposal on 25% of the nomenclature, and finally, working together with the Ministries of Economy, Productive Development and Agriculture, we reached 75% tariff convergence, with 25% still to be discussed with our partners. Argentina has decided not to affect consumer goods and protect our industrial sector’s competitiveness so as to not affect the most vulnerable sectors. We believe that we can make progress in this context,” highlighted the Secretary.

Regarding the foreign affairs agenda, he said that

“Mercosur has to be consistent with article 1 of the Treaty of Asunción, which establishes that negotiations with third countries and regional blocs are conducted jointly. We do not share the position of each country initiating negotiations individually. Mercosur’s strength lies in joint international integration, which gives it better negotiation capacity, as part of which we can gain more advantages, and we are convinced that the economy can be enhanced in this way.”

“Protecting Mercosur is fundamental for the Argentine industry, whose main international destination is the bloc’s countries. From that point of view, we should consider that in order to rebuild the social and productive structure we must strengthen Mercosur and not consider individual solutions,” stated Neme. And he added: “The four countries are highly competitive in agrifood and commodities, and they have great international potential for their region’s agricultural sector. Sometimes, this makes us forget that, for the development and integration of our industry, increasing competitiveness and innovation of productive processes is key, in order to enhance the common market.”

In closing, he added that “Mercosur is a necessity for Argentina, it has been the most important foreign policy for the last 30 years. Now, we have to connect more intensively with the world, this connection is not an indiscriminate and innocent opening, but a reciprocal one, and it involves creative dialogue with all regions and countries. Mercosur is the perfect platform to achieve that. Argentina needs to intensify this.”



Argentina *unida*

Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores,
Comercio Internacional y Culto
República Argentina