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EMBASSY OF ARGENTINA, WASHINGTON, D.C.

ARGENTINA IN FOCUS

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Ambassador Jorge Argüello (Ctr.) with representatives of 25 member countries of the Alliance for the Generalized System of Preferences.

TWENTY FIVE COUNTRIES SEEK THE RENEWAL OF THE GENERALIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES

On February 16 the Argentine Ambassador to the United States, Jorge Argüello, hosted a working meeting with 25 member countries of the Alliance for the Generalized System of Preferences (SGP), a group of States that pursue efforts for the renewal and continuity of this special import regime in the United States. The ambassadors and diplomatic representatives met at the Argentine Embassy in Washington DC, and advocated for the continuity of the

system of preferences and signed a joint letter addressed to the United States Congress.

Ambassadors and diplomatic officials representing Algeria, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, Ecuador, Fiji, the Philippines, Georgia, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Paraguay, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tunisia, Ukraine



Once again, I share with you the latest edition of our Embassy Newsletter. This edition includes an article about the working meeting hosted by the Embassy with 25 member countries of the Alliance for the Generalized System of Preferences, which concluded with the signing of a joint letter to the U.S. Congress.

In this edition we also include an article on the meeting with the co-founders of the Jewish-Muslim Confraternity in Argentina, Miguel Steuermann and Imam Marwan Sarwar Gill, and with the Apostolic Nuncio Christophe Pierre.

Finally, an article on issues related to the presentation made by the Embassy on our country's main investment and trade opportunities at the Port of Wilmington headquarters.

Jorge Argüello
Ambassador to the United States

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and Yemen participated in this event. The Ambassador of Thailand, Tanee Sangrat, who presides over the “GSP Alliance”, was also present.

On behalf of the private sector and the importers affected by the expiration of the program, the event was attended by the Executive Director of the Coalition for GSP, Dan Anthony, who brought the voice of more than 350 U.S. companies interested in continuing to buy products from its international suppliers under the tariff benefits provided by the system.

In his opening remarks, Ambassador Argüello highlighted the importance of all affected countries acting in coordination to follow up on the process of renewing the program and highlighted the costs that its interruption generates in each of the economies of the beneficiary countries. “It is extremely meaningful for us to demonstrate together and make our point of view heard on behalf of our export sectors, our regional economies, our SMEs: the SPG is, at its core, a development program that benefits countless entrepreneurs who have grown and prospered by making efforts.”

During the event, those present highlighted the contribution that an adequate supply to the United States market can be made by the countries present under the GSP preferences in a context of interruptions in the supply chain and growing inflationary cycles.

The preference program, initiated in 1974 by the United States Government, eliminates tariffs on certain products from developing and less developed countries. It expired on December 31, 2020, the date after which exporters must pay MFN (most favored nation) tariffs until the US Congress rules on its renewal.

“The countries present here today are asking the legislators of the United States to assign the highest possible priority to the process of reestablishing the GSP, since behind the exports and tariffs, there are working families that today cannot market their products due to the loss of competitiveness generated by the lack of renewal of this system, when accessing the market vis-à-vis other competitors”, stated Ambassador Argüello.

The ambassadors and representatives of the Alliance countries reviewed the various difficulties, economic losses, unemployment and other consequences derived from the market loss after the program was interrupted.

At the end of the presentations and the exchange of ideas, the diplomats signed a letter addressed to the United States Congress, to be sent to the Chair of the Senate Finance Committee, Senator Ron Wyden, and the Chair of the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives, Jason Smith, requesting a high-level meeting with all the countries of the Alliance with the aim of renewing the import regime, and seeking a refund of taxes already paid. ■

INTERFAITH BREAKFAST AND MEETING WITH THE APOSTOLIC NUNCIO

Within the framework of the events organized during the “National Prayer Breakfast” that take place in Washington DC every year, the co-founders of the Jewish-Muslim Confraternity in Argentina (CONJM), Miguel Steuermann and Imam Sarwar Gill Marwan traveled to the capital.

On February 3, the Argentine Embassy in Washington welcomed them at an interfaith breakfast. In addition to the CONJM, members of the US Ajmadi community, representatives of the Anti-Defamation League, B'nai B'rith, and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops also participated.

During the meeting, which led to a meaningful exchange on the harmonious and peaceful coexistence between

different religions in contemporary societies, Ambassador Argüello read passages from Pope Francis’ prologue in the book “Fraternal Dialogues,” recently published by the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs, due to the importance of the encyclical “Fratelli Tutti”, signed before the tomb of Saint Francis of Assisi, which defines and enshrines fraternity as a human value.

Argentina has a rich history of intercultural and interfaith integration, and it has always been a land of open doors, where each community has had the freedom to settle, take root and develop. A plural and multi-faith identity was thus formed throughout the years, in which religious leaders have played the role of mediators in addressing social conflicts. Among them, the former Cardinal Bergoglio,

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(Fron L. to R.) Imam Marwan Sarwar Gill, Ambassador Jorge Argüello and Miguel Steuermann.



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today known as Pope Francis, always stood out as a permanent example of dialogue, respect and interaction between different religious communities.

In that regard, and on the occasion of the upcoming tenth anniversary of the pontificate of Pope Francis, Ambassador Argüello visited Apostolic Nuncio Christophe Pierre at the

Nunciature in Washington DC. They discussed what the Pope's leadership means in a complex and uncertain world.

These meetings are part of the ongoing efforts to continue deepening the path of integration, respect for diversity and the right to religious freedom, as an essential part of the dignity of human beings. ■





Port of Wilmington, Delaware. Photo Credit: portofwilmington.com.

PRESENTATION OF TRADE AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES TO THE DELAWARE BUSINESS COMMUNITY

Within the framework of a business event that brought together the authorities of the Delaware World Trade Center, the Philadelphia Department of Commerce, and representatives from the private sector, the Argentine Embassy in the United States made a presentation about our country's main investment and trade opportunities at the Port of Wilmington headquarters.

The head of the Economic and Commercial Section of the diplomatic representation, Juan Manuel Cortelletti, spoke about investment opportunities in strategic sectors such as mining, renewable energy and infrastructure, while also highlighting existing opportunities to deepen bilateral trade between both

countries, and later focused specifically on Delaware.

Within the framework of the bicentennial of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Argentina and the United States, the dialogue with the companies present at the event addressed specific activities that will be carried out in sectors such as the satellite industry, organic products, viticulture, fishing and various verticals of knowledge-based solutions.

These activities included presentations and exchanges with the CEO of the Port of Wilmington, Joseph Cruise; the Director of the US Commercial Service, Department of Commerce in Philadelphia,

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SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES.

Tony Ceballos; and the President of the Delaware World Trade Center, Carla Stone.

The port of Wilmington holds promise to continue routing Argentine exports to the East Coast of the United States, especially in the case of fresh fruits and juice concentrates. ■