

Commerce

GSP DAY AT
THE ARGENTINE
EMBASSY IN
WASHINGTON

Bilateral Relations

STRENGTHENING
LINKS AND
DIALOGUE WITH
CONGRESS
REPRESENTATIVES
FROM CALIFORNIA

Culture

PARTNERSHIP WITH
TRANSFORMER
IN A PROJECT
THAT BROUGHT
BOTH COUNTRIES
TOGETHER

EMBASSY OF ARGENTINA, WASHINGTON, D.C.

ARGENTINA IN FOCUS

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Ambassadors María Luisa Ribeiro Viotti (Brazil) and Jorge Argüello, and Minister Supawadee Yamgamol, chair of the Alliance of GSP Countries.

GSP DAY AT THE ARGENTINE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON

On October 18, a trade promotion event took place at the Argentine Embassy in Washington DC attended by ambassadors, legislators, officials and more than 70 American importers. Its objective was to highlight the importance of reinstating and continuing the Generalized System of Preferences - a program through which products from Argentina and other countries entered the local market without paying tariffs - and to promote national products that used to arrive under that system, as wine, olive oil, frozen strawberries, sweets, cheeses, and others.

The event was co-chaired by the Argentine ambassador, Jorge Argüello, the Brazilian Ambassador, María Luisa Ribeiro Viotti, and the Minister (Commercial Affairs) of the Royal Thai Embassy, Supawadee Yamgamol. Thailand is the chair of the Alliance of GSP Countries. In their presentations, the diplomats discussed the importance of the reinstating the Generalized System of Preferences in trade and development, and explained the negative effect caused by the delay in their restitution in the relevant economies.



Once again, I share with you the latest edition of our Embassy Newsletter. This edition includes an article about the trade promotion event with ambassadors, legislators, officials and more than 70 U.S. importers to reaffirm the importance of the reestablishment and continuity of the Generalized System of Preferences.

In this edition we also include an article on the meetings with California Democratic Representatives Sydney Kamlager-Dove and Eric Swalwell, in order to discuss various aspects of the bilateral relationship between our country and the United States.

Finally, an article on the reception in celebration of the partnership with Transformer in a project that brought US and Argentine communities together in supporting artist from both countries.

Jorge Argüello
Ambassador to the United States

THE PROGRAM'S SUSPENSION
IMPACTS BOTH COMPANIES
AND IMPORTERS, AS THE
PLANNING PROCESS OF THEIR
OPERATIONS IS CARRIED
OUT IN AN ENVIRONMENT OF
UNCERTAINTY.

In this regard, the presence of Representative Eric Swalwell, ambassadors from member countries of the Alliance of GSP Countries, officials from several federal agencies, and the Executive Director of the Coalition for GSP, Dan Anthony.

Argüello stressed that this event represents the greatest action carried out to date to promote the reinstatement

of the GSP, after summoning importers throughout the United States who came to Washington DC to hold discussions with congress members and to highlight the importance of this program, both for exporting countries as well as Argentina and US consumers.

During the event, those present highlighted the importance of the provision of products under GSP preferences in terms of diversity and quality, especially with the global background of uncertainty in supply chains dynamics.

On this occasion, importers were able to taste Argentine products that entered the market under the GSP and that currently are still being exported, but under Most-favored nation (MFN) tariffs. This trade preference program, initiated in 1974 by the United States government, eliminates tariffs for certain products that are coming from developing and less developed countries.

The system expired on December 31, 2020, after which

More than 70 American importers attended to the GSP Day.



DURING THE EVENT, THE VALUE
TO THE UNITED STATES OF
PROVIDING PRODUCTS UNDER
GSP PREFERENCES IN TERMS OF
DIVERSITY AND QUALITY WAS
HIGHLIGHTED.

exporters must continue to pay tariffs until the US Congress approves its renewal.

At the Argentine embassy, the importance of conveying that our country used to export more than \$300 million under the GSP, especially from regional economies which must be strengthened. The program's suspension impacts both companies and importers, as the planning process of their operations is carried out in an environment of uncertainty.

This Diplomatic Mission has undertaken diverse actions to promote the reinstatement of the GSP. In February of this year, it coordinated a working breakfast with 23 member countries of the Alliance for the Generalized System of Preferences, and the ambassadors sent a letter to the U.S. Congress (addressed 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 the restitution of the import regime retroactively, regarding the taxes already paid. ■

STRENGTHENING LINKS AND DIALOGUE WITH CONGRESS REPRESENTATIVES FROM CALIFORNIA

On October 18 in the afternoon, Ambassador Jorge Argüello held a fruitful working meeting with the Representative from California, Sydney Kamlager-Dove, at her offices in the Longworth Building next to the Capitol, where they talked about several aspects of the bilateral relationship between the Argentine Republic and the United States. Hours later, the Democratic representative from California's 14th District, Eric Swalwell, visited our embassy for a reception (described in another article of this edition of the newsletter), aimed at raising awareness about the importance of the GSP in the regional economies of the countries that are beneficiaries of this program, as well of its reinstatement.

The meeting on Capitol Hill provided an excellent

opportunity for the Californian legislator and Ambassador Argüello to exchange their views on various issues related to the political and trade ties between both nations, since the congresswoman is not only a member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, but also of the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, which focuses on the relations of the United States with the different countries of our region.

On the other hand, it should be recalled that Ms. Kamlager-Dove represents the 37th district of her state, located in the immediate vicinity of the city of Los Angeles and that congressman Swalwell represents the 14th district, which covers significant portions of the Alameda and Contra Costa counties, districts of significant importance for our

Ambassador Jorge Argüello with Democratic Representatives Sydney Kamlager-Dov (Left) and with Eric Swalwell (Right), from California.



DURING THESE MEETINGS,
AMBASSADOR ARGÜELLO
REVIEWED THE STATUS OF THE
BILATERAL AGENDA, WHILE
EMPHASIZING ITS SPECIAL
RELEVANCE THIS YEAR.

from the Argentine northwest, and the opportunities to encourage US investments in this strategic sector. ■

country due to the large number of Argentines that reside in that area, as well as its economic relevance. Argentina has a General Consulate and Trade Promotion Center based in that huge city in California.

During these meetings, Ambassador Argüello reviewed the status of the bilateral agenda, while emphasizing its special relevance this year, given that 2023 not only marked the bicentennial of diplomatic relations between Buenos Aires and Washington, but, that this year President Alberto Fernández visited the capital of the United States, and the Argentine president and President Joe Biden held a high-level bilateral meeting at the White House with senior officials of both governments.

During the dialogues with the abovementioned legislators, the Ambassador stressed that in Buenos Aires the process of an eventual renewal by Congress of the Generalized System of Preferences is being closely followed. It has not been renewed since December of 2020, and is considered very important for its trade benefits and in terms of creating jobs, as the exports achieved through this program help numerous regional economies in our country, especially as regards small and medium producers, as well as its importing counterparts in the United States.

Finally, Ambassador Argüello spoke about Argentina's role as one of the largest lithium suppliers to the United States, and made reference to the objective of guaranteeing and increasing the exports of this mineral, found mainly



"Between Heaven and Earth" by Marcelo Toledo exhibited at the Embassy of Argentina.

PARTNERSHIP WITH TRANSFORMER IN A PROJECT THAT BROUGHT BOTH COUNTRIES TOGETHER

Last October 12, the Embassy of Argentina, as Diplomatic Chair of Transformer's 19th Annual Benefit Auction & Exhibition, *The Invincible Visible*, hosted a reception in celebration of the partnership with Transformer in a project that brought US and Argentine communities together in supporting artist from both countries.

In the heart of Logan Circle, the Transformer Art Gallery has become, over the past 20 years, one of the focal points of Washington DC's art scene. Since its inception, Transformer has driven the innovative cultural production of exceptionally talented artists who continue to challenge and influence evolving cultural and social systems. The development of innovative and multi-faceted exhibition and programmatic platforms has been throughout this time Transformer's trademark.

The exhibition "*The Invincible Visible*", which will be open to the public from November 4 to 18 at the Katzen Arts Center of American University, will bring together about works by 20 Argentine artists and a total of 150 pieces by emerging and established creators of different nationalities. The exhibition will culminate with a Benefit Gala reception on November 18.

The Argentine artists included in this exhibition are Alexandra Arata, María Bouquet, Lorena Cabrera, Adriana Carambia, Claire Dunn, Claudio Debenedetti, Lao Gabrielli, Christina Ghetti, Carolina Gutierrez, Silvia Levenson, Susana Mendaro, Victoria Muniagurria, Gladys Nistor, Fernando Poggio, Ana Rendich, Anahí Roitman, Marina Soria, Claudia Tordini and Special Guest Marcelo Toledo. In addition, a work by Argentinean artist Julio Le Parc will

“THE INVINCIBLE VISIBLE”, WHICH WILL BE OPEN FROM NOVEMBER 4 TO 18 AT THE KATZEN ARTS CENTER OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITY, WILL BRING TOGETHER WORKS BY 20 ARGENTINE ARTISTS.

These Argentine artists were selected by Transformer among those who have exhibited at our headquarters in the last five years, and the winners of the Call for Entry for the 2023/2024 season. Some of their work was on view throughout the Embassy during the reception. Among the guests that had the opportunity to discover them were the members of Transformer’s executive board and collectors, museum curators and personalities of DC’s art scene. Guests also were able to learn about the new Digital Catalog of Art Galleries launched as part of the “ExportArte” Argentine program, a new tool for promoting Argentina’s cultural and art industries. ■

be specially auctioned at the November 18th gala.

Victoria Reis (Left) from Transformer and Ambassador Jorge Argüello (Right) welcome the guest at the reception on October 12.

