

Science

PRESIDENT JAVIER
MILEI JOINS AN
IAEA SCIENTIFIC
MISSION IN
ANTARCTICA

Economy

ARGENTINA AND
IMF ANNOUNCED
A STAFF-LEVEL
AGREEMENT
UNDER THE
SEVENTH REVIEW
OF THE EXTENDED
FUND FACILITY
ARRANGEMENT

Commerce

THE MARKETING
OF GENETICALLY
MODIFIED
YEAST FOR THE
PRODUCTION OF
BIOETHANOL WAS
APPROVED IN
ARGENTINA

EMBASSY OF ARGENTINA, WASHINGTON, D.C.

ARGENTINA IN FOCUS

JANUARY 2024 // NEWSLETTER 180



President Javier Milei (center) arriving at Marambio Base, Antarctica (Photo: TELAM).

PRESIDENT JAVIER MILEI JOINS AN IAEA SCIENTIFIC MISSION IN ANTARCTICA

On January 6, President Javier Milei, together with Foreign Minister Diana Mondino, the Director of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Rafael Grossi, and other officials, visited the Marambio and Esperanza bases, two of the 13 bases where Argentina maintains operations in Antarctica.

After landing at Marambio Base, President Milei and the delegation were received by the station chief, Deputy Commodore Damián Ariel Rizzo; the scientific head of the first stage of the summer Antarctic campaign, Sergio Santillana; and an official from the National Meteorological Service in Marambio, Noemí Troche.

There, President Milei formally launched the IAEA's first scientific research expedition on the Antarctic continent, launching a program to fight microplastics pollution in Antarctica. This program is part of the cooperation

agreement between the Argentine Republic and the IAEA on cooperation in the field of nuclear technology to fight plastic pollution with nuclear technologies. The "NUTEC Plastics" initiative was approved by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Cult, and included in the Antarctic Annual Plan 2023-2024.

In the words of President Milei, "thanks to this program, Argentina will begin a new chapter in its long and distinguished trajectory in Antarctic science. Through international cooperation agreements we seek to enhance our ability to provide high-quality scientific information for decision-making within the framework of the Antarctic Treaty," adding that "the exercise of science, cooperation and the preservation of the Antarctic environment are priorities in our Antarctic foreign policy".

In this way, "Argentina renews its commitment to the

"THE EXERCISE OF SCIENCE,
COOPERATION AND THE
PRESERVATION OF THE
ANTARCTIC ENVIRONMENT ARE
PRIORITIES IN OUR ANTARCTIC
FOREIGN POLICY."

international community, making its contribution to our common good and that of future generations."

The implementation of this agreement is coordinated by the Argentine Antarctic Program through the National Antarctic Directorate (DNA), under the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and in accordance with the Antarctic Treaty System. ■

President Milei at Marambio Base (Photo: TELAM).



ARGENTINA AND IMF ANNOUNCED A STAFF-LEVEL AGREEMENT UNDER THE SEVENTH REVIEW OF THE EXTENDED FUND FACILITY ARRANGEMENT

In a press briefing on Wednesday, January 10, the Minister of Economy, Luis Caputo and the President of the BCRA, Santiago Bausili, announced the terms of a technical agreement with the IMF mission that traveled to Buenos Aires to carry out the seventh review of the Extended Fund Facility Arrangement from 2022.

Minister Caputo pointed out that this technical agreement, subject to approval by the IMF Executive Board in the coming weeks, would allow the rephrasing of the Extended Fund Facility Arrangement, which had lapsed due to missing program targets and policy setbacks by the previous administration, particularly in the last two quarters of 2023. Likewise, once approved by the IMF Board of Directors, it will allow a disbursement of US\$ 4.7

billion that does not represent new debt, as it will be used to pay maturities with the multilateral organization itself.

Likewise, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) team, led by Luis Cubeddu, Deputy Director of the Western Hemisphere Department and Ashvin Ahuja, Mission Chief for Argentina, issued the following statement in Buenos Aires following the conclusion of discussions on the seventh review of the program:

"IMF staff and the Argentine authorities reached understandings on a set of economic policies that can restore macroeconomic stability in Argentina and bring the current program back on track. This agreement, subject to continued and durable policy implementation, will be

(From left to right) Santiago Bausili and Minister Luis Caputo (Photo: TELAM).



“IMF STAFF AND THE ARGENTINE
AUTHORITIES REACHED
UNDERSTANDINGS ON A SET
OF ECONOMIC POLICIES THAT
CAN RESTORE MACROECONOMIC
STABILITY IN ARGENTINA AND
BRING THE CURRENT PROGRAM
BACK ON TRACK.”

brought forward for approval by the IMF Executive Board, over the coming weeks. Upon completion of the review, Argentina would have access to about US\$ 4.7 billion (or SDR 3.5 billion), consistent with some rephrasing within the envelope of the program.”

“The proposed disbursement is intended to support the new authorities’ strong policy efforts to restore macroeconomic stability and help Argentina meet its balance of payments needs.” ■



THE MARKETING OF GENETICALLY MODIFIED YEAST FOR THE PRODUCTION OF BIOETHANOL WAS APPROVED IN ARGENTINA

The Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries Secretariat of the Ministry of Economy authorized the marketing of the yeast *Saccharomyce cerevisiae* with the aim of improving bioethanol production from the fermentation of grains.

The Bioeconomy Secretary, Fernando Vilella, highlighted that this measure —approved in Resolutions 3/2023 and 6/2024— “has the potential to transform our future significantly.” At the same time, he highlighted Argentina’s positioning “in a new stage focused on bioeconomy, where biotechnology and bio inputs are combined to promote the production of bioenergy, an environmentally friendly source.”

For his part, Under Secretary Pablo Nardone stated that the measure represents “a new chapter in the history

of Argentina, in which innovation and sustainability are protagonists.” Likewise, he stressed that the use of these microorganisms will allow added value to be enhanced at origin, improve the performance of bioethanol production, reduce costs by transporting products with greater added

THE MEASURE REPRESENTS
“A NEW CHAPTER IN THE
HISTORY OF ARGENTINA,
IN WHICH INNOVATION
AND SUSTAINABILITY ARE
PROTAGONISTS.”

value than the grains that originated them, reduce carbon emissions, and the worsening of the transportation infrastructure.

"It is essential to highlight the key role as advisors of the National Agri-Food Health and Quality Service (SENASA), the National Advisory Commission on Agricultural Biotechnology (CONABIA), and the Under Secretariat of Agricultural Markets. These institutions play an important part, as they carry out an ongoing and effective supervision of these projects," said Nardone. ■