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EMBASSY OF ARGENTINA, WASHINGTON, D.C.

ARGENTINA IN FOCUS

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(From L. to R.) Pablo Quirno, Luis Caputo, President Javier Milei, Santiago Bausili and Vladimir Werning.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS: FIRST QUARTER WITH A NET FISCAL SURPLUS SINCE 2008

In a televised address to the Argentine population on April 22, President Javier Milei celebrated the result of public accounts in this year's first quarter, which recorded a net surplus of 0.2% of GDP. Public accounts had not recorded a quarterly surplus in Argentina since 2008.

Throughout his speech, the President highlighted the importance he gives to solvency and fiscal balance: "the surplus is the cornerstone from which we will build the new era of prosperity in Argentina" and "zero deficit is a commandment".

Likewise, President Milei highlighted that the bulk of the fiscal correction carried out by his administration in just over four months in office -4.6% of a total of 5% of GDP- is explained by expenditure cuts, while only 0.4 percentage points of GDP are the result of depreciation due to inflation.

In particular, Milei highlighted a 76% reduction in discretionary transfers to the provinces; 87% reduction in public works (he pointed out that "works will be financed by the private sector"); elimination of half of political positions in the administration, and of advertising budget. On the other hand, as a contrast he highlighted a 311% increase in the school aid allowance and doubling of the universal child allowance.

In another noteworthy segment of his speech, the President pointed out that for his administration "The only duty of the state is to protect the life, freedom and property of the Argentine people, so that each one may be the architect of his own destiny". He added, the responsibility of the state is also to provide a stable economy with unregulated prices; that is "the basic conditions for society and private property to flourish".

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In the final part of his address, the President envisioned a growth path in three stages: i) the first stage, driven by the expansion of sectors encouraged by the correction of relative prices, such as mining, gas, oil and food; ii) opportunities created in other sectors of the economy by the high return on investments in undercapitalized sectors; iii) a gradual return to the private sector of 15 percentage points of the GDP from an oversized state, which will allow a genuine finance investment and economic growth.

In the President's words: “the way out is through private sector investment and credit financed by savings, because that is the only genuine way to grow”; and “the era of the so-called present state is over”. ■

MINISTER OF JUSTICE MARIANO CÚNEO LIBARONA MET WITH ATTORNEY GENERAL MERRICK GARLAND AT THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

Minister of Justice Mariano Cúneo Libarona participated in a working meeting with Attorney General Merrick Garland, along with their respective teams, at the Department of Justice in Washington DC, last Friday, April 19.

The conversation focused on the progress and plans for the total migration of the Argentine federal justice system from the inquisitorial to the accusatory system, and their dialogue included both countries' experiences in this area.

Minister Cúneo Libarona pointed out that the inquisitorial system is characterized by generating processes that are excessively bureaucratic and slow, while only a fraction of

the cases (the most serious ones strictly speaking), end up with an oral trial. In contrast, the experience in the country's districts where the accusatory system has already been implemented indicates that procedural times are shorter and judicial services are more transparent and efficient.

As the United States accusatory system places it among the best practices when compared internationally, this system was evaluated during the technical meeting held by Minister Cúneo Libarona and his team with the Deputy Assistant Attorney General and Counselor for international Affairs at the Department of Justice, Bruce Swartz, and later in a meeting at the Department of State with the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Western Hemisphere Affairs, Kevin

Attorney General Merrick Garland and Minister of Justice Mariano Cúneo Libarona.



DURING THE MEETINGS
DIFFERENT OPTIONS TO DEEPEN
TECHNICAL COOPERATION
BETWEEN BOTH COUNTRIES
WITH A SPECIFIC FOCUS ON
TRAINING WERE DISCUSSED.

The inclusion of Dr. Yacobucci in the delegation responds to the relevance that the national government gives to the UIF and the strengthening of its capacity for action under the Ministry of Justice, given the importance of its competence in matters related to the analysis, processing and transmission of information to prevent and deter money laundering, the financing of terrorism and of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, among other areas. ■

Sullivan, to discuss different options to deepen technical cooperation between both countries with a specific focus on training.

The Minister traveled to Washington accompanied by the President of the Financial Information Unit (UIF), Ignacio Yacobucci, and his advisors Marcelo Ruiz and Juan Ignacio Petra, on the occasion of the FATF Ministerial meeting held at the International Monetary Fund on April 18th.

Minister of Justice Mariano Cúneo Libarona and Attorney General Merrick Garland, along with their respective teams





Masterclass provided by Wines of Argentina at the Embassy of Argentina.

14TH EDITION OF MALBEC WORLD DAY AT THE ARGENTINE EMBASSY

Last Friday, April 19, World Malbec Day was celebrated at the Embassy. This is a global initiative created by Wines of Argentina (WofA) that seeks to position Argentine Malbec throughout the world and celebrate the success of the national wine industry.

Held for the first time on April 17, 2011, MWD managed to position itself as a historic event in the global promotion of wine and is now included in the calendar of international celebrations. Year after year, Wines of Argentina plans a full agenda of activities in the main markets, which are added to events organized by the Argentine representations abroad and independent initiatives that position Malbec at the center of a global toast.

The celebration at the Embassy was divided into two activities: a Master Class led by Veronica Kathuria, WofA

representative in the North American market, who gave a presentation of the different wine regions of Argentina to approximately 20 trade representatives from the Washington DC region: importers, distributors, as well as hotel and gastronomic entrepreneurs. Those presented tasted three labels during this segment of the event: Salentein Numina Gran Corte, Virgen Red Blend, and Trivento Eolo.

Next, a walk-around tasting was held, in which 13 Argentine wineries exhibited a total of 52 different labels and diverse varieties (not only Malbec, but also Cabernet Sauvignon, Chardonnay, sparkling wines, among others). The participating wineries were Antigal, Alonso Guerrero, Algodón, Araujo, La Íride, Mendel, Domaine Bousquet, Familia Zuccardi, Salentein, Tenonda, Tapiz, Zolo and Trivento.

THE UNITED STATES IS POSITIONED AT THE MAIL MARKET FOR MALBEC EXPORTS, WITH \$116.4 MILLION IN 2023.

The Malbec strain arrived in Argentina in 1853, when Michel Aimé Pouget, a French agronomist was hired by journalist, politician and statesman Domingo Faustino Sarmiento to run the Quinta Agronómica de Mendoza.

With 46,941 hectares planted in Argentina, Malbec is the most widely cultivated variety, after increasing its surface area by 195% since 2010. In terms of distribution by province, Mendoza heads the ranking with the largest surface area of the varietal, with 84.4% (39,635 hectares), followed by San Juan with 6.19% (2,905 ha), and Salta with 3.82% (1,793 ha).

In terms of exports, 2023 closed with 1,212,645 hl of Malbec sold abroad, for \$410.5 million. In the fractionated wine category, the United States is positioned at the forefront of Malbec exports, with \$116.4 million exported in 2023. ■