

## AIDE-MEMOIRE

Conversation with Ambassador Conrado Solari-Yrigoyen and Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee Bertel Haarder on September 3rd 2021.

- It was a surprise and great sorrow for Argentina to learn of this decision.
- The Argentine government was notified a few hours before the announcement and without any previous communication between Foreign Ministers.
- The announcement had a significant impact on Argentina. It was widely reported on the front page of the major newspapers, on radio, television and social networks.
- No clear reasons have been received beyond the mention of budgetary problems.
- This occurs when both countries are celebrating 180 years of bilateral relations (The agreement was signed on January 20, 1841, with the visit of the frigate Bellona, commanded by Captain Christian Wulff, who had precise instructions from King Christian VIII).
- Danish citizens arrived in Argentina from the middle of the 19th century until the first decades of the 20th century, creating a large and most important colony of Danish descendants in the world. These Danes are considered pioneers in the construction of our Nation. The Argentine society, forged with a significant migratory contribution, has a great recognition to this community.
- Argentina has had an embassy in Copenhagen since 1910 and has never closed it.
- Denmark closed its embassy in 2002 and reopened it in 2007. The reopening was attended by then Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen.
- Argentina and Denmark do not have any conflicting issues either bilaterally or multilaterally. On the contrary, it is a relationship based on great consensus.
- Argentina is very mindful of the recent state visit of H.M. Queen Margrethe in March 2019, an occasion on which she was accompanied by Crown Prince Frederik (Note: Crown Prince Frederik knows Argentina very well). On that occasion, a business delegation was present, and cooperation agreements were signed on water resources management and energy efficiency issues.
- Argentina has about 40 Danish companies, many internationally renowned companies (Novo Nordisk, Maersk, Vestas, Arla Foods, Coloplast, Danfoss, Grundfos, Novozymes, Ch. Hansen).
- It is to highlight the strong presence in recent years of Vestas. Their wind turbine (60% of the total number of turbines present in Argentina) has stood out. It is worth remembering that Argentina initiated a plan (Renov-Ar Plan) to increase renewable energies in its energy matrix, which only covers 8% of total power. The potential for renewable energies is a very significant one.
- We can also mention the installation of Arla Foods Ingredients, which produces whey and exports it from Argentina to dozens of countries.
- Argentina has the third-largest GDP in the region.

-Argentina is a country very rich in agriculture, food and natural resources. There is an essential basis for economic complementarity between Argentina and Denmark.

-Argentina is one of the primary sources of lithium. We were pleased to learn, for example, that on September 1, 2021, the Danish company SLSmidt announced the signing of a contract to provide Argentina engineering and sustainable equipment for the manufacture of batteries for electric cars. An excellent example of the kind of complementarity that can be achieved in the future.

-Covid-19 has had a strong impact in Argentina. So far, there have been 112,000 deaths for a population of 47 million inhabitants.

-The impact of covid-19, which triggered the need for a rigorous quarantine, unfortunately, had a substantial effect on the economy. It is an exceptional situation from which we are slowly beginning to emerge. This is the photograph of a unique and sad moment, not the movie.

-For Argentina, Denmark is the leading destination for its exports to Scandinavia and the Nordic countries.

-Argentina is the third largest destination for Danish export to Latin America, behind only Brazil and Mexico (Source: Danmarks Statistik, 2020)

-Bilateral trade still has a lot of potentials to increase. The conclusion of the Mercosur-EU Agreement (2019) will undoubtedly be an excellent opportunity for Denmark, once ratified in both regions.

-Argentina sincerely hopes that Denmark will be able to reverse its decision.

-We understand that there should be a creative solution to avoid this closure and keep alive this solid relationship that still has so much to grow.

(September 3, 2021)

With kind regards,

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