



REGERINGSKANSLIET
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

The Pacific Alliance and the Opportunities for Observer Countries

Program

9.15-9.30 Registration and coffee

9.30-9.35 Welcome

Teppo Tauriainen, Head of the Department of the Americas

9.35-10.00 The Pacific Alliance from a regional perspective

Andrés Rivarola Puntigliano, Director of the Institute of Latin American Studies, Stockholm University

10.00-10.15 Sweden and the Pacific Alliance

Oscar Stenström, State Secretary to the Minister for EU Affairs and Trade

10.15-10.45 Presentation of the book "Emerging markets: the Pacific Alliance, perspectives and opportunities for Latin America"

Mario Torres Jarrín and Jonathan Violante Pica (editor), European Institute of International Studies

10.45-11.45 Panel discussion: the benefits of the Pacific Alliance for its members and opportunities for Sweden as an observer

Sonia Durán Smela, Ambassador of Colombia

José Goñi, Ambassador of Chile

Agustín Gasca Pliego, Ambassador of Mexico

José Beraún Aranibar, Ambassador of Peru

Moderator: Karin Olofsdotter, Director-General for Trade Issues

11.45 Conclusion

Teppo Tauriainen, Head of the Department of the Americas

Introduction to the Pacific Alliance

The Pacific Alliance is a regional organisation established in 2011 between Colombia, Mexico, Chile and Peru. It works, through participation and consensus, to create an area of deep integration to gradually move towards free movement for goods, services, resources and people. The goal is prosperity, reduced social inequalities and more inclusive growth. The Alliance is a platform for political dialogue, and economic and commercial integration. A major aim of the Alliance is to increase trade between member countries, within the region and with other regions.

Because of the similarities that Sweden has with the member countries of the Alliance – in areas such as free trade, democracy and human rights – Sweden has been an observer to the Pacific Alliance for one year now. It is a role it shares with 48 other countries. As an observer, Sweden has the ambition to expand economic and other ties with the Alliance members. The Alliance wishes to cooperate with the observer countries mainly through four focus areas: 1) the internationalisation of small and medium-sized enterprises; 2) education, in order to achieve human development; 3) innovation, research and technology as the engines of development; and 4) trade facilitation.

With about 220 million inhabitants, the Pacific Alliance occupies fifth place in the world in terms of population. The countries' combined economies occupy eighth place. The Alliance's overall economic growth rate in 2015 was 2.4 per cent. However, trade exchange between the countries is low; for Mexico, the Pacific Alliance accounts for only 2 per cent of its total exports. For Chile the figure is 6 per cent, Peru 7 per cent and Colombia 8 per cent. The Additional Protocol to the Pacific Alliance Framework Agreement, which entered into force on 1 May, stipulates the duty exemption of 92 per cent of all trade in goods between the countries. Sugar and certain agricultural products are the exception to the goal of full duty exemption. Several countries in the region have expressed an interest in becoming members of the Alliance. Costa Rica is expected to become a member shortly.

The Pacific Alliance now has working groups in 20 areas. There is a working group on environment and green growth. The working group for equality will promote gender equality in all the Alliance's activities. The working group for consumer law will develop a platform for handling complaints. Initiatives have been implemented in joint management, including roadshows of the four countries' trade ministers to promote 'solidity, security, stability and transparency'.

At the last high-level meeting in Puerto Varas in Chile, the Alliance stressed the need to strengthen international investment outside the region, combat tax evasion and work for greater transparency. In Puerto Varas, the business community called for increased financial integration and harmonisation of tax regulations, pension funds and regulations in telecommunications.

Participants

Teppo Tauriainen – Head of the Department of the Americas

Mr Tauriainen is the Head of the Americas Department at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs. He previously held several posts within the Ministry, including Ambassador of Sweden to Canada, Singapore and Brunei, and Head of the Department for International Trade Policy. He has also worked at the Embassy of Sweden in Chile.

Andrés Rivarola – Director of the Institute of Latin American Studies, Stockholm University

Mr Rivarola is Director of the Institute of Latin American Studies and conducts research on international relations, economic history, Latin American studies and geopolitics. He has published a number of books, articles and journals. He teaches courses in Latin American studies and supervises graduate, post-graduate and PhD students.

Oscar Stenström – State Secretary to the Minister for EU Affairs and Trade

Mr Stenström's areas of responsibility include foreign trade and trade policy; the promotion of Sweden, Swedish trade and investment; and the EU single market. He was previously State Secretary to the Minister for Enterprise and Innovation, and has been foreign policy adviser and principal secretary for the Swedish Social Democratic Party. He has conducted studies in Chile.

Mario Torres Jarrín – Director of the European Institute of International Studies

Mr Torres Jarrín is the Director of the European Institute of International Studies (EIIS) and associate lecturer and researcher at Stockholm University. He is also Director of the Inter-Regional Dialogue and Global Governance Research Group and executive secretary of the IBERO-EURO-AMERICA Consortium. He has a PhD in history from the University of Salamanca, Spain.

Jonathan Violante Pica – Head of Multilateral Affairs and Protocol, EIIS

Mr Violante Pica is Head of Multilateral Affairs and Protocol at the European Institute for International Studies. He has worked at the Embassy of Mexico in Sweden and has also worked in aeronautics, mining and the energy sector. He is actively involved in promoting inclusive, sustainable economic growth.

Karin Olofsdotter – Director-General for Trade

Ms Olofsdotter has been Director-General for Trade since 1 September 2016. Prior to this she was Deputy Director-General and Head of the Department for Promotion of Sweden, Trade and CSR. She has served as Sweden's Ambassador to Hungary, Deputy Chief of Mission at the Swedish Embassy in Washington DC, and as Director of the Ministers Office in Stockholm. She has also worked at the Swedish EU Representation in Brussels, Belgium.

Agustín Gasca Pliego – Mexico’s Ambassador to Sweden

Mr Gasca Pliego is currently Mexico’s Ambassador to Sweden. Prior to this, he served in the Mexican Federal Congress. He was administrative and ecological secretary of the State of Mexico. He has also held the post as General Director of Civil Protection of the Secretariat of the Interior (SEGOB) and the General Director of Mexico’s State Institute of Culture. In the academic sector, he has been Rector of the Autonomous University of the State of Mexico.

José Beraún Aranibar – Peru’s Ambassador to Sweden

Mr Beraún Aranibar has been Ambassador to Sweden since 2013. Prior to this, he served as the Deputy Foreign Minister of Peru. His various positions include Ambassador at the Embassy of Peru in Algeria, Tunisia and Libya. He served as Chargé d’affaires of Peru in Yugoslavia and Denmark. Mr Beraún Aranibar was also head of the legal section of the UN Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Peru.

José Goñi – Chile’s Ambassador to Sweden

Mr Goñi is serving his second term as Chile’s Ambassador to Sweden. Prior to this, he was the Minister of Defence of Chile. He has been Chile’s Ambassador to the United States, Mexico and Italy, and has represented Chile at the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO). He has also been Head of the General Direction of Economic International Relations’ European Unit and coordinator for Chile in its association agreement with the EU.

Sonia Durán Smela – Colombia’s Ambassador to Sweden

Ms Durán Smela has extensive experience in public administration and international cooperation. In 1992, she was the Mayor of Bogotá. She has held the post of presidential adviser in Bogotá and as presidential adviser for communications. She has been project coordinator for decentralisation and poverty reduction in the UNDP and has also served as UN regional adviser for Latin America and the Caribbean in Panama.