



ARGENTINE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

*"It was a G20 of
written achievements"*

PETRONAS STRENGTHENS ITS PRESENCE IN ARGENTINA

On December 11th, the Ambassador Manuel Balaguer Salas greeted the new team of the Malaysian company PETRONAS who will be moving to Argentina to take charge of the operations that the company has been developing together with the Argentine oil company YPF in Vaca Muerta, Neuquén province, since 2015.

The projects developed by both companies in Argentina comprise a total investment of more than USD 8 billion. Furthermore, it is expected an increase in crude oil production in the area called "La Amarga Chica" from the initial 10,000 barrels per day to 75,000 in the next 20 years.

In December 2018 the Malaysian company opened offices in Buenos Aires and Neuquén, transferring a group of 18 Malaysian engineers, who, together with their families, settled in Argentina.



"Argentina obtained important results in the last G20 Leaders' Summit," said the Argentine Minister of Foreign Affairs Felipe Solá. "The document underlined the importance that credit institutions and international organizations support emerging, developing and low-income countries," he said in December.

"It was not a G20 of photos. It was a G20 of written achievements," said the Minister and indicated: "In foreign policy, there is a direct relationship between sovereignty and development, because the greater the sovereignty, the greater the growth of sovereign capacity and autonomy to decide the paths towards development."





THE EMBASSY HONORS THE “OUTSTANDING ARGENTINE CITIZEN OF 2020”

On December 21st, a ceremony was held at the Aman Club in Kuala Lumpur during which Ambassador Manuel Balaguer Salas presented the Argentine citizen Pablo Pozzuto with a diploma in recognition of his contributions to the promotion of the image and values of Argentina, as well as for the development and strengthening of the ties between members of the Argentine community abroad.

Pablo Pozzuto has been living with his family in Malaysia for the past 26 years. A former professional soccer player, he retired in this country, where he continued his activity, first as a coach and then as founder and director of the Kuala Lumpur Youth Soccer (KLYS) academy, which brings together more than 300 boys and girls who practice this sport.

The event was held following the health protocols set by the Malaysian government and was attended by members of the Argentine community, representatives of the soccer scene (coaches, leaders, players) and special guests of the honoree.



MERCOSUR SUPPORTS ARGENTINA IN THE MALVINAS DISPUTE AND THE DEFENSE OF THE SURROUNDING NATURAL RESOURCES

On December 16th, the presidents of the Member countries of the South Common Market union (MERCOSUR) and its associated States expressed their strong support to Argentina's sovereignty claim over the Malvinas Islands. In addition to this, they recognized the country's right to “take legal action” against “the unauthorized activities” emerging from the exploitation of natural resources in the archipelago area. The statement was made during 57th Summit of Heads of State in which Uruguay handed over the Pro Tempore Presidency of the group to Argentina.

In this regard, the States highlighted that the adoption of unilateral measures, including the exploitation of natural, renewable and non-renewable resources in the area in dispute, is not compatible with what was agreed within the United Nations, reaffirming the interest of the region to see a lasting solution to the prolonged sovereignty dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom, in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations and the declarations of the Organization of American States, MERCOSUR and other regional and multilateral forums”.





MERCOSUR: MAIN GUIDELINES OF THE ARGENTINE PRO TEMPORE PRESIDENCY

On December 16th, Argentina was handed over the Pro Tempore Presidency (PPT) of the South Common Market union (MERCOSUR) after the end of Uruguayan PPT. In this framework, the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs will be working on several objectives, such as:

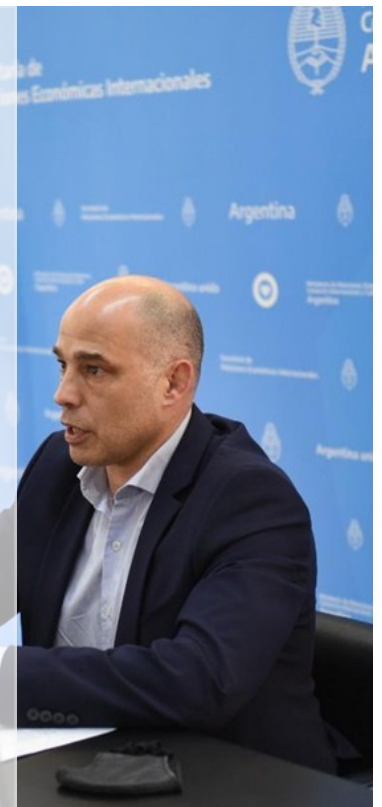
- The incorporation of Bolivia as a full Member of the union.
- The organization of the Business Forum, which will focus on two main areas: Agroindustry and Digital Services.
- The negotiation of trade agreements: 1) Conclusion of the negotiations MERCOSUR-Lebanon and deepening of the MERCOSUR-Israel Agreement; 2) Launch of talks with Central American countries and the Dominican Republic; 3) Continuing the negotiations with Canada, Korea and Singapore, which are coordinated by Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay, respectively; 4) Launching of intra-MERCOSUR talks to develop a strategy to approach Africa.
- The strengthening the South American Council for Infrastructure and Planning (COSIPLAN). COSIPLAN's objectives are related to transportation, energy and communications, and they aim at promoting regional connectivity and contributing to the social development of South America through national, bi-national and multinational projects.

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRESENTS THE "INDUSTRIAL MARKETS" REPORT TO THE ARGENTINE EXPORT SECTOR

On December 10th, the Argentine Ministry of Foreign Affairs presented the "Industrial Market Demand Survey 2020" prepared by the Diplomatic Missions of our country within the framework of the trade promotion strategy that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is carrying out.

During the online presentation, of which more than 200 businessmen participated, the Undersecretary of Trade and Investment Promotion of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Pablo Sívori, stated that “Argentina needs to increase the presence of its industrial production in its export basket. The export industry is a key area for the creation of jobs, the generation of higher wages and the promotion of the development of our country.”.

In the report, different markets and trade opportunities for the Argentine industrial sector were identified, mainly in the American region (31%), Europe (29%) and Asia (21%). The opportunities detected in the African markets accounted for 14% and those in the Middle East for 5%. In terms of the industrial products that Argentina has strong trade opportunities in, the survey identified chemicals and related products (33%), including organic and inorganic products, pharmaceutical and drug chemicals, fertilizers and agrochemicals, among others. Agricultural machinery held 14% of the total, while medical equipment and devices came in third place and accounted for almost 9%. Other sectors with significant trade opportunities are tannery (8%); automotive industry products (8%) and products for the metalworking industry (7%).



ARGENTINA TO BOOST EXPORTS OF THE CULTURAL INDUSTRY



DECEMBER 11: INTERNATIONAL TANGO DAY

On December 11th, as every year, the International Tango Day was celebrated around the world. The day was established with the aim of highlighting the importance of tango for Argentine culture and to honor the date of birth of the great tango singer and composer Carlos Gardel (1890) and of the orchestra conductor Julio de Caro (1899).

“Argentina must specialize in exporting high value products. In this regard, cultural contents have two main virtues: in many cases their selling prices are higher than the sum of their costs and they also have something fundamental for a country, which is to show its identity,” said the Argentine Minister of Foreign Affairs Felipe Solá, during his participation in the virtual conference “Exporting culture: inspiring experiences of the cultural industry”, coordinated by the Argentine Agency for Investments and International Trade (AAICI).

The Argentine Minister of Culture, Tristán Bauer, in turn, highlighted the joint work between his Ministry and the Foreign Ministry to promote the Argentine cultural industry abroad. “We know the extraordinary production capabilities that our country has: the quality of our movies and the different audiovisual industries or the video game production, for example. The opportunities the world offers to us are immense”, he assured.



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