

## Presentation on the Pacific Alliance Meeting

Ambassador of Chile

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On behalf of the Government of Chile, I wish to give a warm welcome to Greece as an Observer Country of the Pacific Alliance and, at the same time, to thank the Greek Government for the interest shown in this initiative, that seeks to boost trade, not only at a regional level among the members of the Pacific Alliance, but also invite other countries to join this dynamic effort, through partnerships, to face the opportunities presented by the new mega markets of the Asia-Pacific Region, like China, India, South Korea, Japan and other Asian countries.

In this context, may I underline the fact that the countries of the Pacific Alliance and Greece share a high priority given to countries such as China, Japan and the Far East, a common element, which certainly has many projections for the future.

In order to get its objectives, the Pacific Alliance has an institutional structure comprising the following elements:

Presidential Summits; a Council of Ministers composed by Foreign Affairs and Economic Ministers, a High Level Group consisting on Deputy Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Commerce and Trade; Technical Groups; and a Pro Tempore Presidency that rotates annually and currently occupied by Peru.

In order to address the key issues for the good performance of the project, the Technical Groups include the following areas:

Movement of Business People and transit facilitation, Migrations, Trade and Integration, Services and Capital, Technical Cooperation, External

Relations, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs), Communication Strategy, Public Purchasing, Government Procurement, Regulatory Coherence, Tourism, Fiscal Transparency committed on the fight against tax evasion incorporating high standard tax information exchange policies, and Institutional Affairs focusing on conflict resolution through the design of a mechanism for dispute settlement.

In turn, various technical and expert committees on the following topics have been created, such as: Trade and Tariff Liberalization, Rules of Origin, Trade Facilitation and Customs Cooperation, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, Technical Barriers to Trade, Regulatory Improvement and Intellectual Property.

In this context, I wish to highlight the work of the Technical Group on Small and Medium Size Enterprises (SMEs), given their importance as engines of economic growth and creating jobs. This Group seeks to insert them in the global value chains, through specific support programs and incentives, taking into account that their main problems are access to capital and global markets, the development of entrepreneurial skills and the incorporation of technology in their productive processes.

We also have a project of shared embassies and mutual consular assistance in countries where we do not have diplomatic or consular representation. By having joint embassies, we can strengthen our presence around the world and reduce the operation costs of these missions. As part of these agreements, joint embassies are now in operation in Ghana with the presence of the four countries.

The spirit of cooperation between trade promotion agencies of the four countries, has allowed us to implement two offices of joint trade promotion, one located in Istanbul, Turkey, and the other in Casablanca, Morocco.

Also, the Pacific Alliance has a chapter called Business Council, which is composed of representatives of trade organizations from the private sector companies of the four member countries.

All this has allowed us to perform 80 activities to promote trade and investment, joint seminars promoting business in 16 countries, 3 macro rounds of Business, 2 macro rounds of Tourism, 2 Business Forums and 2 Forums focused on Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

Similarly, I would like to emphasize the creation of the Latin American Integrated Market, which is the platform for the integration of stock markets in Colombia, Chile, Peru and Mexico, which has become the largest stock market in our Region by number of issuers and market capitalization and second in turnover.

Finally, I extend the most comprehensive and cordial invitation to Greece, to participate in the Group of external relations which seeks to enhance dialogue and cooperation with the 42 observer states of the Pacific Alliance, through the identification of areas of common interest, beginning a fruitful approach that will deepen our cooperation in order to promote economic development with social inclusion in our countries.