

President Opens Special Meeting of EFSUR

(Published in União on 05/28/2009)

President Ubiratan Aguiar opened yesterday the Special Meeting of the Organization of SAIs from Mercosur and associate SAIs (EFSUR), with the participation of representatives from the Brazilian Court of Audit (TCU) (currently the head office of the EFSUR Executive Secretariat) and SAIs from Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Venezuela (the Organization's current Chair). The executive secretary of the Organization for the Superior Audit Institutions of Central America and the Caribbean (OCCEFS), Roberto Galvez, from Honduras, also took part as an observer.

Minister Ubiratan Aguiar, in his welcoming speech, emphasized the importance of the meeting to the attainment of the current EFSUR objectives, which intends to provide a greater contribution to the group of countries within the block when accomplishing the mission of auditing Mercosur's community funds. Minister Augusto Nardes, the executive secretary of the organization, ratified the President's speech and expressed his gratitude to the contribution provided by each participant to the common objectives of the organization. The opening session had also the participation of Ministers Valmir Campelo, Benjamin Zymler and Aroldo Cedraz, auditor Augusto Sherman Cavalcanti and attorney-general Lucas Rocha Furtado.

Last November, in Asuncion, EFSUR approved its strategic plan. During the current TCU meeting, the plan is being unfolded in greater details into a plan of action, with stages, sub-stages, person responsible and deadlines corresponding to the previously approved strategic objectives and initiatives. The actions planned by EFSUR converge to the broader objective of making EFSUR the superior organization for auditing Mercosur. Considering such objective, the organization will work on the improvement of its identity and image, jointly with Parlasul, respective parliaments and chancelleries of each country, as well as in the capacity building of the technicians from the member institutions.

In addition to preparing the EFSUR 2009-2010 Plan of Action, other topics will be discussed: the assessment that the Organization will carry out on the Fund for Structural Convergence and Institutional Strengthening of MERCOSUR (FOCEM), the changes in progress in the EFSUR portal and the need for modifications to its statute.

The meeting of the EFSUR's Technical Coordination Group composed of auditors from the member entities, was held yesterday and proceeds until today. The group is discussing the aforementioned themes and preparing deliberation proposals to be submitted to the Organization's Mixed Commission, comprising head-officials from the entities. The Mixed Commission will convene tomorrow, closing the special meeting of EFSUR. At the closing session, Minister Augusto Nardes, the Argentine auditor-general Vilma Castillo, the Chilean controller-general Ramiro Mendoza, the Paraguayan controller-general Octavio Airaldi, and the Venezuelan controller-general Clodosbaldo Russián will be present, in addition to the CCCEFS observer Roberto Galvez Bueno, who came to contribute with the experience gained by that organization as the auditing body of the Central American Integration System (SICA) community funds.