



दि प्लास्टिक एक्स्पोर्ट प्रमोशन कौन्सिल
(भारत सरकार, वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्रालय, वाणिज्य विभाग द्वारा प्रायोजित)

THE PLASTICS EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL
(Sponsored By The Ministry Of Commerce & Industry, Deptt. Of Commerce, Government Of India)

Plexconcil circular dated 22.07.2020

To,

All the Members of Plexconcil

Dear Sir/ Madam,

We wish to inform you that the Department of Commerce is seeking relevant inputs with reference to The 2nd Meeting of the India-Ecuador Joint committee on Economic and Commercial Co-operation (JETCO) which will be held in New Delhi soon, in this regard the members are requested to kindly provide their inputs on possible areas of co-operation with Ecuador along with a brief background by 25.07.2020 at bharti@plexconcil.org

Please find attached the Minutes of 1st Meeting of India-Ecuador JETCO for your reference.

Best regards

Plexconcil Team

**MINUTE OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AND
COMMERCIAL COOPERATION (JETCO) ECUADOR – INDIA**

The First Meeting of the Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO) between the Governments of the Republic of Ecuador and the Republic of India was held on 17 May 2017 in Ecuador.

The Delegation of the Republic of Ecuador was chaired by the Vice Minister of Trade, Integration and Trade Remedies, Ambassador Humberto Jiménez,

The Delegation of the Republic of India was chaired by the Secretary of Commerce, Mrs. Rita Teotia.

During the opening ceremony of the meeting, the Ecuadorian delegation expressed its interest in strengthening and boosting economic and trade relations between the two countries. For this purpose, it will be necessary to transform the Joint Economic and Trade Cooperation Committee (JETCO) in a problem-solving tool, while allowing to set up an efficient agenda between the Parties.

The Indian delegation expressed its appreciation for the interest shown by Ecuador in boosting economic and trade relations with India and mentioned that India was equally interested in cooperation with Ecuador in all possible areas.

The agenda of the First Meeting of the Joint Committee on Economic and Trade Cooperation (JETCO) included the following main topics:

1. Exchange of views on the global and bilateral economic scenario
2. Discussion on the possibility of a Bilateral Trade Agreement.
3. Market Access issues and roadmaps for follow-up.
4. Bilateral investment opportunities.
5. Cooperation in trade matters.

Both Parties decided to adopt the agenda as proposed.

1. Exchange of views on the global and bilateral economic scenario

Both delegations exchanged views on the international economic scenario, marked by pessimist growth forecasts. Global gross product growth is expected to remain at a low level in 2017, owing to the weak productive investment generated by economic and political uncertainties. Both sides expressed hope that the current year would see a turnaround in the economic scenario as exports had started picking-up in the last quarter.

Both countries exchanged their bilateral trade scenario and noted that there is an immense potential for enhancement of bilateral trade and investment.

In this regard, both Ecuador and India agreed to take actions to boost their bilateral relations in order to promote a growing and balanced trade, for which they agreed to work during the second half of 2017 in identifying potential sectors of bilateral export interest.



2. Discussion on the possibility of a Commercial Agreement

The Ecuadorian delegation conveyed its interest in initiating a process of negotiations of a Trade Preferential Agreement in order to strengthen the bilateral relationship for mutual benefit, taking into account the asymmetries and sensitivities existing between the two economies. To that end, it requested the delegation of India to consider programming meetings during the second half of 2017 to move forward with the process.

The Indian side agreed to consider this proposal and informed that the usual practice is to conduct a joint study for examining the feasibility of a proposal of this nature. It would therefore be appropriate to get a study done by both sides and thereafter seek internal approvals based on the findings of the study.

This was agreed to by the Ecuadorian side, pointing out that the study may be finalized during the current year, which will be considered by the delegation of India.

3. Aspects of market access and definition of roadmaps

a. Basmati rice:

Regarding the interest transmitted by India to export basmati rice, Ecuador pointed out that the phytosanitary requirements were already published by Agrocalidad, which means that access to Ecuador for that product from India is open. In recent months imports of basmati rice from India have already been recorded in Ecuador. The Indian side welcomed this development and requested that Ecuador may consider reduction in the high tariff applicable as this would hamper import of basmati rice. The Ecuadorian Vice Minister agreed to transmit this request for the consideration of the competent body.

b. Dragon fruit:

The Ecuadorian authorities indicated that the work plan to enable Ecuadorian exports of dragon fruit was transmitted to the Indian phytosanitary authorities on May 4, 2017. This document contemplates the measures taken by Ecuador in the production, protection, certification of export and shipment of that fruit.

The Indian authorities stated that the matter will be taken up with the competent phytosanitary authorities in order to receive a response to the work plan.

c. Preserved flowers:

The Ecuadorian authorities indicated that in January 2017 they submitted information necessary for the Indian authorities to grant a treatment different from the one currently granted for that product, that is to say to allow the imports of preserved roses originating in Ecuador to enter India with the presentation of a simple phytosanitary certificate (as it is the practice in other countries) and without the requirement of quarantine measures.

The Indian authorities stated that the matter will be taken up with the competent phytosanitary authorities in order to receive a response.



d. Cacao beans:

The authorities of both countries agreed to continue the bilateral cooperation to ensure compliance with the phytosanitary requirements established for exports of Ecuadorian cocoa beans to India.

e. Quinoa:

The Ecuadorian authorities indicated that on April 11, 2017, the respective information was sent to its counterpart in India to enable the elaboration of the protocol for the entry of Ecuadorian quinoa into India.

The Indian authorities reported that their phytosanitary authority is in the process of drafting the respective protocol and committed to deal with the competent phytosanitary authorities in order for the protocol to be finalized and notified to the World Trade Organization.

f. Flowers (calla lily):

The Ecuadorian authorities expressed their appreciation to the Indian authorities for the publication of the requirements for the import of flowers (calla lily), which will allow the export of these products to India.

g. Product certification:

Indian side raised its concern about the certification requirements notified for 300 products by Ecuador. India requested to enter into mutual recognition agreement (MRA) for Certification Bodies of both the countries.

The Ecuadorian delegation indicated that Ecuador do not negotiate mutual recognition agreements from several years ago, and will convey the concern of India to the competent Ecuadorian authorities in order to identify the relevant actions.

4. Investment Opportunities in Ecuador and India

Both delegations made presentations on the investment opportunities that could interest their public and private stakeholders. As a result, they agreed on the importance of encouraging and stimulating bilateral investment as a means to support their development objectives.

In that sense, they agreed to deepen the cooperation between their respective investment promotion agencies, in order, inter alia, to promote a greater exchange of information on investment and business opportunities in both countries, particularly in the sectors of services, infrastructure, mining, fresh and semi-processed food, wood, fisheries, textiles, automotive, pharmaceuticals, telecommunications, energy and others that show potential benefits for India and Ecuador.

5. Cooperation in commercial matters.

The delegation of India indicated the interest in deepening the bilateral relationship in the



areas of textiles, engineering, transport and automobiles, pharmaceuticals, AYUSH (traditional medicine and yoga), information technology, telecommunications and renewable energy.

The Ecuadorian delegation received with interest the information given by India, committing to transmit the information to the respective sectors in Ecuador. It also indicated the interest in receiving information on the methodologies used by India to measure and record trade in services, as well as on India's cooperation options in software and audiovisual production development and commercialization.

Both delegations agreed to hold a video conference as soon as possible to advance discussions on the areas dealt with in this meeting.

During the closing ceremony, the Delegations of Ecuador and India reaffirmed their determination to continue deepening the excellent relations of friendship and cooperation between the two countries, and expressed their satisfaction at the successful holding of the First Meeting of the Joint Economic and Trade Committee (JETCO).

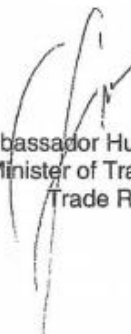
Given in Ecuador, on May 17, 2017, in two copies of identical content and value, in the English and Spanish languages.

For the
Republic of India



Mrs. Rita Teotia
Secretary of Commerce

For the
Republic of Ecuador



Ambassador Humberto Jimenez
Vice Minister of Trade, Integration and
Trade Remedies