

# Cabinet Newsletter

*Newsletter no. 51, 14 June 2011*

Dear Reader,

This week's important event is Vice-President Tajani's trip to South America. The Vice-President planned on visiting Chile, Argentina and Brazil from June 9 to 13 but unfortunately, due to the Chilean volcanic ash, he could only accomplish his mission in Chile. The goal of the mission was to strengthen economic and industrial ties with the continent and particularly to promote further cooperation on industrial and innovation policy in order to boost economic integration, SMEs' access to finance, raw materials, space policy and tourism.



Antonio Preto  
Head of Cabinet

Over the last years, Latin America has emerged as a strategic and dynamic economic player. To better understand the crucial role played by the region for the Union, one only has to think that the EU is the number one trading partner of Chile and of Mercosur and the second trading partner of Latin America after the United States. The 530 millions people market of South American was growing at over 5% a year before the economic crisis and is returning to similar levels today.

Vice-President Tajani met with Chilean business representatives and the tourism sector and attended bilateral meetings with the Chilean President and Government representatives. During his speeches he presented the initiatives that he intends to promote in the country.

For Vice-President Tajani a very important step is first of all strengthening the cooperation for raw material, as Chile is one of the major exporters of borates and lithium and Latin America is in general the primary exporter of products such as mining, fuels or agricultural, to the EU.



Another field of the industrial policy's portfolio that is very dear to Vice President-Tajani is tourism: in the framework of the brilliant cultural and historical heritage and the wonderful landscapes, in the words of the Vice-President himself, Chile "counts on all landscapes that one could ever dream of", a perfect tourist destination. Thus Vice-President Tajani insisted on the importance of cooperation in the sector, promoting the pilot initiative "50,000 tourists" launched on 1 June and starting in 2012.

In the field of space policy, establishing an industrial cooperation for Galileo and GEOSS and develop a space dialogue would open up the way to a sustainable development in order to better exploit natural resources.



As to the SMEs, Vice-President Tajani recalled the efforts that the Commission is undertaking through the SBA to support this kind of enterprises in Europe for what concerns innovation, competitiveness and access to credit, as well as growth and internationalisation. In particular, one of the most relevant European strategies in the field is the development of SMEs' activities outside of the European territory and to this regard, more coordinated efforts in Latin American could open up efficient synergies for both regions.

Last but not least, Vice-President Tajani also focused on the importance of promoting standardisation at the international level. The European system of standardisation had contributed substantially to the development of the internal market and the Vice-President has called upon the Chilean "Instituto Nacional de Normalización", the national authority responsible for standardisation, to strengthen the cooperation with European authorities, in order to reach more efficiently and in a timely fashion the goals set forth.