



REPÚBLICA DE PANAMÁ
— GOBIERNO NACIONAL —

MINISTERIO DE
RELACIONES EXTERIORES
Embajada de Panamá en
Bélgica

JANUARY 2022

Panama Notes

EMBASSY OF PANAMA TO BELGIUM, LUXEMBOURG, SLOVENIA
AND MISSION TO THE EUROPEAN UNION

**PANAMA: BIODIVERSITY,
CONNECTIVITY AND MORE...**

HAPPY NEW YEAR

2022



MESSAGE FROM THE AMBASSADOR



HAPPY NEW YEAR 2022!

**Welcome to the January edition of the
Panama Notes!**

On behalf of the Panama Embassy and team in Brussels, we wish you a New Year and hope that you enjoyed the holidays.

Despite that 2021 has been a challenging year for everyone around the world due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we must stay positive that through international cooperation brighter days are ahead of us.

With this new year that begins, Panama holds the Pro Tempore Presidency of the Central American Integration System (SICA) and the Presidency of the Inter-American Council for Integral Development of the OAS with a vision of promoting regional cooperation and integration. As we remain committed in promoting sustainable practices that benefit the country and address the climate crisis.

HE Mrs Yavel Francis Lanuza



REPÚBLICA DE PANAMÁ
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Ing. Guadalupe González**



JANUARY, 2022

BICENTENNIAL OF PANAMA'S INDEPENDENCE



The EU-LAC Foundation and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Panama organised a seminar entitled "Past and Future: Panama in the historical reference of multilateralism", which took place virtually on 26 November 2021 in the framework of the commemoration of the Bicentennial of the Independence of Hispanic America.

The event was opened with remarks by the Executive Director of the EU-LAC International Foundation, **Dr Adrián Bonilla**, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Panama, **Ms Erika Mouynes**. **Minister Erika Mouynes** highlighted the strong and close link between Europe and Latin America, two regions that share a vocation for integration and partnership often amended in response to the liberating intention of preserving the peace that has been achieved.

Three renowned lecturers and experts on Latin Americanism, Natalia Sobrevilla from Peru, Salvador Sánchez from Panama and Joshua

Simon from the United States of America, joined a long-running debate on the constitutionalist initiatives of the 19th century, their influence on the formation of American nations and the historical role of Panama, a country determined socio-politically by its geographical location.

The event ended with the closing remarks made by the Ambassador of Panama in Brussels H.E. Yavel Francis Lanuza, who thanked the speakers for introduce the republican experiences and democratic processes of our nations, on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of independence.

The Ambassador took the opportunity to highlight that our region urges for a new paradigm of development and transformations. The strengthening of multilateral, regional and bilateral relations, are more necessary than ever, especially in the post-pandemic recovery process, to better build back together.

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ONE OF THE MOST CONNECTED COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD

Panama City's Tocumen International Airport jumped in the list of the world's top ten airports hubs, moving from 20th place in 2019 to seventh place in 2021. In this way, it continues as the Latin American airport with the highest proportion of international connections globally, according to Forward Keys data.

In 2019, Tocumen handled 1.2% of international connections. After a 2020 without ranking due to the impact of the pandemic, the 2021 data show that this figure became 3.5%, which explains the jump in the list and its inclusion in the top 10 worldwide.

Of all passengers passing through Tocumen, most of them (45%) come from South America. This is followed by North America with 32.1%,

Central America with 9.8%, the Caribbean with 8.5% and Europe with 4.6%, reported Bloomberg.

The airport moved almost 8 million passengers (7,967,142) between January and November 2021. Most of them made connections and did not have Panama as their final destination.

“Panama has recovered 85% of its pre-pandemic connectivity to North America and Europe, as well as its intra-regional traffic, surpassing countries that never closed their skies, such as the United States and Brazil,” said the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

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PRESIDENCY PRO TEMPORE OF SICA

The Republic of Panama assumed for the next six months, the Presidency Pro Tempore of the Central American Integration System (SICA), which has been promoting regional cooperation in an intersectoral manner for 30 years.

Upon receiving the mandate, on behalf of President Laurentino Cortizo Cohen, Foreign Minister of Panama - Erika Mouynes declared before the representatives of the Member States Panama's commitment to a robust and strengthened SICA that is up to the complexity of the times we live in.

"Panama undertakes the commitment to respect the expression of will of what the Member States think and want, with the utmost desire that the interests of all are adequately represented and executed for the benefit of the entire Central American Integration System, following up on the work of regional cooperation, inclusion, gender equity, the Central American security strategy, among other issues, within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," said the head of Panamanian diplomacy during the change of command ceremony, which was held virtually.



SICA
Sistema de la Integración
Centroamericana

According to the Panamanian minister, President Cortizo's administration will continue with the implementation of Central American mandates on institutional strengthening, in order to contribute to the construction of a well-considered and consensual regional agenda that continues the analysis of the Institutional Universe to advance in the reorganization of SICA. In addition, during its presidency, Panama will coordinate the efforts of the SICA Council of Ministers to jointly support, at the national and regional levels, the fight against the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. From the Pro Tempore Presidency, Panama promotes regional integration from five priority pillars, namely: Social Integration, Democratic Security, Institutional Strengthening, Climate Change and Comprehensive Risk Management and Economic Integration.

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THE ALLIANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT IN DEMOCRACY



A dramatic rise in migrants, the crisis in Haiti, the pandemic's impact and democracy backsliding have united three countries in the Caribbean and Central America in the search for quick solutions. **An alliance between Panama, Costa Rica and the Dominican Republic to coordinate their foreign policy hopes to promote economic recovery, find multilateral solutions to the migration crisis and strengthen democratic institutions to counteract the decline of basic freedoms in the region, the Foreign Minister of Panama, Erika Mouynes, said in an interview with el Nuevo Herald and the Miami Herald. The Alliance for Development in Democracy, an initiative that took off on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly last year, was created in response to "recent regional developments, some of which are very worrying concerning democracy," Mouynes said.** The participant countries shared common ground on several foreign policies issues, she added.

The Alliance has held several meetings to coordinate a response to the situation in Haiti due to its impact on the migration crisis. The minister said that Panama had seen the number of irregular migrants arriving from Colombia en route to the United States jump from 8,000 in 2020 to more than 130,000 last year. Many come from Haiti, she added. "The migration problem is not going to be solved by any single country," she said. "You have to involve partners that have a marked interest such as Canada, the United States and Mexico," and the Alliance serves to "bring them to the table." President Joe Biden called the Alliance "inspiring" in his closing speech at the Summit for Democracy in December.

[Click here for more information](#)

COIBA NATIONAL PARK GAINS BLUE SPARK STATUS



During its 25th Anniversary Ocean Gala, the Marine Conservation Institute awarded Panama’s Coiba National Park Blue Spark status.

The title is given to governments, managers, and communities to recognize outstanding marine protected areas and incentivize effective conservation around the world. Panama has committed its Coiba park to reach the Blue Park standard, which is the Marine Conservation Institute’s highest level of protection.

“For Panama, it is an honor that Coiba National Park is now a Blue Spark, on the path to becoming a Blue Park, reaffirming Panama’s commitment to ensure the conservation of coastal marine resources,” said Shirley Binder, Director of Protected Areas and Biodiversity in Panama’s Ministry of Environment, during the gala.

“Coiba National Park is one of the largest and most important marine parks in Panama, with the largest island in the Mesoamerican Pacific, Coiba Island, with 38 other smaller islands and

islets, surrounded by high marine biodiversity,” she added.

As a nation bordered by the Atlantic and Pacific, Panama has always understood its unique responsibility to safeguard the waters along its borders. Its work to protect the Coiba National Park is just part of a larger effort to keep its marine ecosystems clean – Panama has designated five special marine-coastal resource management zones and more than 46 marine protected areas.

Panama’s leadership in this space extends beyond domestic actions – Panama was proud to partner with Ecuador, Colombia, and Costa Rica at COP26 to announce the protection of the Eastern Tropical Pacific Marine Corridor, combining national marine protected areas to create one of the world’s largest and most biodiverse protected marine areas.

[Click here for more information](#)

CHAMPION FOR DEMOCRACY & GOVERNANCE



The Adrienne Arsht Latin America Center launched a network of regional champions that have demonstrated exceptional leadership in Latin America and the Caribbean promoting solutions for the four main pillars of the Summit of the Americas: democracy and governance; pandemic and disaster preparedness; equitable and green economic recovery; and digitalization to grow the middle class. This distinguished cohort leads a campaign to promote prosperity, stability, and cooperation in the Americas, bringing greater recognition to the importance of the Summit of the Americas for all citizens. **Latin America Center appointed H.E Erika Mouynes, Panama’s Minister of Foreign Affairs as Champion for Democracy** thanks to her leadership in vaccine access, climate diplomacy, and environmental conservation. Panama continues to set an example for other countries in the region.

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Panama is committed to the UN Sustainable Development Goals





“GRETA THUNBERG”, THE NEW SPECIES OF FROG DISCOVERED IN PANAMA

An international team led by biologists from Panama and Swiss discovered a new species of frog in a Panamanian cloud forest that was named “Greta Thunberg”, in honor of the young Swedish activist and her efforts in the face of the climate crisis.

The frog of Greta Thunberg (*Pristimantis gretathunbergae* sp. Nov.) Belongs to the group of rain frogs (rainfrogs) of the genus *Pristimantis*, Family Strabomantidae, said the biologist and director of the ADOPTA Bosque Association, Guido Berguido.

The article in which the new species is described and officially named It was published in Pensoft’s scientific journal ZooKeys. The specimen was discovered by an international team of biologists led by doctors Abel Batista, from Panama, and

Konrad Mebert (Switzerland) at Cerro Chucantí, a private reserve located in the Darien province and managed by **ADOPT Forest**.

The new species of frog “is endemic to Panama, it is only reported in the Republic of Panama and it only lives in the high mountains of Darien and in the Center of Panama. In other words, it has a very restricted habitat and therefore is vulnerable to extinction”, explained Berguido.

The amphibian has black eyes, a unique trait among Central American rain frogs, and its closest relatives inhabit northwestern Colombia. Ministry of the Environment of Panama and the Association ADOPT Forest.

[Click here for more information](#)

DIPLOMACY IN ACTION



Her Excellency Yavel Francis Lanuza, Ambassador of Panama and Head of Mission to the European Union, participated on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Panama in the V Ordinary Meeting of the Board of Directors of the EU-LAC International Foundation held on November 24, 2021, held in Hamburg, Germany in November 2021.



Mid November, the PPT of the Central American Integration System (SICA) coordinated a working visit of the Central American Ambassadors to the Flanders Marine Institute (VLIZ) in Oostende, Flanders. The purpose of this visit was to learn by first-hand, the activities of this center and the possibilities for cooperation that it offers. This visit was part of a series of visits that have been carried out in coordination with the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Flemish Region.

EVENTS IN PANAMA

2022 Panama Jazz Festival

The Panama Jazz Festival, now in its 19th year under the leadership of the Panamanian pianist, Grammy winner, UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, UNESCO Artist for Peace, and Cultural Ambassador of Panama - Danilo Pérez, took place from January 10-15, 2022, both virtually and in various venues around Panama City. The Panama Jazz Festival has become a major Panamanian cultural event and tourist attraction, improving the human experience through music in both on-stage performances and in classrooms. To see all the virtual and streaming events that took place at the Panama Jazz Festival, visit its [website](#).



EXPOCOMER and EXPOLOGÍSTICA PANAMA 2022

The Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture of Panama organize the thirty-eighth version of EXPOCOMER, a multisectoral trade exhibition, which is focuses on three main categories: Food, Beverage and Agricultural Products; Textile, Clothes and Accessories; Technology and Electronics. At the same time, EXPOLOGÍSTICA PANAMA 2022, a unique exhibition and networking opportunity for the logistics sectors, will also take place in the Panama Convention Center. To register and consult further information of the exhibitions, please visit the event website at www.expocomer.com.



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- Sea, air and land transport
- Technology and equipment manufacturers
- Storage warehouse
- Ports
- Airports
- Cargo movement
- Freight agents
- Universities.

OUR GUEST OF THE MONTH

WE ARE PROUD to have as guest of the month:

Guadalupe González



The Panamanian, **Guadalupe González**, inaugurated a new chapter in Latin America in the field of professional participation of women by becoming **the first Engineer to assume a position in the World Directory of the Power and Energy Society of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE PES)**, highlights a press release from this organization.

The appointment of González, current **Director of Electricity of the National Secretariat of Energy of Panama**, was produced as a member at Large of the Diversity and Inclusion Program of the IEEE PES Board of Directors. **The IEEE PES is the world's largest forum for Engineers with nearly 40,000 members on 5 continents.** In addition, it is the oldest company on the planet in the field of Electrical and Electronic Engineering focused on promoting scientific knowledge of this discipline.

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