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**FOR  
INFORMATION**

**COUNCIL**

**Progress Report #10 on Installation of ALMA in Chile**

**PROGRESS REPORT #10 ON INSTALLATION OF ALMA IN CHILE****1. Overall Negotiations with the Chilean Government**

The negotiations with the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs are, in principle, concluded. The Director of the Ministry's Legal Department has indicated that the collaboration agreements with CONICYT and Region II should be established directly, and separately, with these entities. The drafts of the two agreements, agreed by Council in December 2002, are under discussion. The collaboration programmes are to be established within the framework mentioned in the letter from Undersecretary Barros (see Report # 8).

**2. Agreement ESO-Government of Chile****Status**

The ESO Agreement signed on 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2002, went through the Foreign Relations Commission of the Cámara de Diputados. The Members of the Commission voted unanimously in favour of the Agreement. Since the Commission is composed of MPs (13 in total) from all political parties, no difficulties are expected for the vote at the Cámara de Diputados, scheduled for this week.

Thereafter, the Agreement will go to the Senate's Commission of International Relations, before final ratification by the Senators. Information has been provided to, and contacts established with, the Senate's Commission in order to encourage a positive vote.

The final ratification could be ready by the end of the month.

**3. Land issue****Status**

The Concession and Purchase Decrees are under preparation, for the signature of the Minister of Bienes Nacionales. The right of way decree has been delayed for bureaucratic reasons, because Bienes Nacionales had to consult and seek approval from other entities. In addition, ALMA requested a rectification of the road's lay-out, in order to accommodate to the topography. The decree should be ready in a few weeks.

The land purchase will require Presidential approval, i.e., President Lagos will have to sign the Decree. Once this Decree is signed, it will have to be validated by the "General Controller". No difficulties are expected, but bureaucratic delays might occur. This issue is on the critical path for the project.

Should additional complications occur, Bienes Nacionales is willing to rent, at low cost and on a temporary basis, the OSF land to ALMA.

#### **4. Environmental Impact Study (EIS)**

##### **Status**

ALMA has initiated the fauna study, near the access road to Chajnantor. The intent is to have it ready before the Chilean winter.

#### **5. Radio frequency protection**

##### **Status**

Discussions are taking place with the Ministry of Telecommunications on a new arrangement for the radio frequency protection.