

Contributors

Guillermo Arbe, Head Economist, Peru
+51.1.211.6052 (Peru)
guillermo.arbe@scotiabank.com.pe

Sergio Olarte, Head Economist, Colombia
+57.1.745.6300 Ext. 9166 (Colombia)
sergio.olarte@scotiabankcolpatria.com

Jorge Selaive, Head Economist, Chile
+56.2.2619.5435 (Chile)
jorge.selaive@scotiabank.cl

Eduardo Suárez, VP, Latin America Economics
+52.55.9179.5174 (Mexico)
esuarezm@scotiabank.com.mx

Latam Daily: Peru's New Congressional Leadership

- **Peru: New congressional leadership—A mix between moderation and more of the same**

PERU: NEW CONGRESSIONAL LEADERSHIP—A MIX BETWEEN MODERATION AND MORE OF THE SAME

Peru's Congress has a new presiding Board. Lady Camones was elected with 73 votes out of 130 to preside over Congress for the next twelve months. Ms. Camones is a member of the Alianza Para El Progreso (APP) party, which has had a mixed record with respect to supporting the government. The other members of the four-member Board are Martha Moyano (Fuerza Popular), Digna Calle (Podemos), and Wilmar Elera (Somos Perú). This is a mixed group. Of the four presiding members, Martha Moyano, of the Fuerza Popular (Fujimorismo) party, has the strongest opposition credentials.

Camones made two statements upon being elected. The first was that her party is an opposition party. It is striking that she should feel the need to say that, which suggests that it was in doubt. The second statement was “we shall be unbending in fighting corruption”. This is how she likely views the role of the opposition, with a focus on corruption, rather than, say, economic policy. Ms. Camones, who is a lawyer, does not have a strong background in economics, and one should not expect a change in the somewhat populist bias that Congress has had in economic matters.

With the election of the new Board, the congressional agenda will continue to be mainly in the hands of the opposition. However, Congressperson Camones has a reputation of being more moderate and less antagonistic than the previous spokeswoman, María Alva. As such, she is not likely to resurrect controversial issues such as the Constitutional Assembly. It is less clear how likely she might be to put a Presidential impeachment on the congressional agenda. She has not shown an inclination in this direction, and would likely only do so if forced by circumstances.

—Guillermo Arbe

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