



D-CL\_PV(2019)1111\_1

# MINUTES

**of the meeting of 11 November 2019, 16.30-18.00**

**Brussels**

The meeting opened at 16.35 on Monday, 11 November 2019, with Inmaculada Rodríguez-Piñero (Chair) presiding.

## **1. Adoption of draft agenda (PE595.097v01-00)**

The draft agenda was adopted as shown in these minutes.

## **2. Approval of minutes of meeting of 9 October 2019 (PE595.099v01-00)**

The minutes of this meeting were approved.

## **3. Chair's announcements**

The Chair reported that the 27th meeting of the EU-Chile Joint Parliamentary Committee, scheduled to take place in Santiago de Chile from 28 to 30 October, had, given the situation in the country, been postponed at the request of the Chilean component. She had written to the Conference of Presidents to inform it of this fact and that, after consultation with the Chilean component, a further request for authorisation to hold the meeting would be sent when the situation on the ground enabled this.

A statement by the High Representative of the Union / Vice-President of the Commission, followed by a debate, on the situation in Chile had been placed on the agenda of Parliament's part-session on 13 November.

#### **4. Exchange of views on the political situation in Chile**

H.E. Patricio Torres stated that the current crisis was unprecedented in the country's 30 years of democracy. It was attributable to factors such as social inequality, deficiencies in basic services such as education and health care, low salaries and pensions and the rising cost of living.

The country was paying a high price for the riots: dozens of people had died, hundreds had been wounded, and the economic cost was also substantial (public goods had been destroyed, looting had taken place and the economy had taken a hit). The damage to the country's image had been considerable, with Chile having to give up its role as host of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum and the COP25 summits.

The ambassador stated that President Piñera was attempting trying to steer society's demands in a constructive direction. To that end, he had reshuffled his government, approved a package of wage, labour-related, social and tax measures, was passing legislation facilitating dialogue with political movements and civil society with a view to a way out of the crisis and was willing to embark on a process to reform the 1980 Chilean Constitution, with the participation of the public. The ambassador believed that if these measures proved successful, the crisis could serve as a turning point to construct a fairer and more inclusive society.

He alluded to allegations of human rights violations by the security forces and the army during the riots, which were being investigated by the National Institute of Human Rights, Chile's public prosecutor's office and a team from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Government of Chile was offering its full cooperation with these bodies in their efforts.

Lastly, the ambassador proposed that the 27th meeting of the EU-Chile Joint Parliamentary Committee should be held as soon as circumstances permitted.

Stefan Tressing of the European External Action Service (EEAS) stated that Chile was a valuable partner of the European Union and stressed the importance and largely peaceful nature of the demonstrations in Chile. He added that the EEAS was following the situation closely, and remained in contact with political stakeholders and civil society. The EEAS appreciated the Chilean Government's commitment to investigate allegations of human rights violations during the riots. He also expressed the EU's readiness to support Chile on its path towards more sustainable, equitable and inclusive development and recalled that on 30 October the spokesperson for the High Representative / Vice-President of the Commission had issued a statement on recent developments in Chile.

*Speakers:* Leopoldo LÓPEZ GIL, Manu PINEDA, Inmaculada RODRÍGUEZ-PIÑERO

#### **5. Debate on the political priorities of the EP delegation to the EU-Chile Joint Parliamentary Committee for 2020**

The Chair asked the members of the Delegation to send their proposals to the Secretariat.

## **6. Any other business**

None.

## **7. Date and place of next meeting**

The Secretariat announced that the date and place of the next Delegation meeting would be announced in due course.

The meeting closed at 17.22.

