



European Parliament delegation to the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary
Assembly (Eurolat)

**Message from Ramón Jáuregui Atondo,
President of the European Parliament
Delegation to the Assembly, to the Second
CELAC-EU Summit
Brussels
10 and 11 June 2015**

5 June 2015 – Brussels (Belgium)

The Co-President of the European component of the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly (EuroLat), the parliamentary institution of the Bi-Regional Strategic Partnership between the European Union (EU) and the Latin American and Caribbean States (LAC), hereby submits, at the end of its Eighth Ordinary Plenary Session held in Brussels from 3 to 5 June 2015, the following recommendations and proposals to the Second CELAC-EU Summit with a view to strengthening the Bi-Regional Strategic Partnership adopted by the majority of the component:

MESSAGE TO THE BRUSSELS SUMMIT

‘Shaping our common future: working for prosperous, cohesive and sustainable societies for our citizens’

As regards the *principles and priorities of the Bi-Regional Strategic Partnership*:

1. Make the **exercise of human rights and full compliance with them** the cornerstone of the Bi-Regional Strategic Partnership; express concern at the fact that the **principles and commitments, and the set of shared values and interests**, have not been sufficiently developed in practice as required. Note that not enough progress has been made as regards the framework of political and economic relations between our two regions, which furthermore is not in line with common interests and values and the challenges we face as a result of globalisation;
2. Reaffirm its **support for the various regional integration processes** in Latin America and Europe as a basic principle of the Bi-Regional Strategic Partnership, and therefore:
 - speed up the entry into force of the **EU-Ecuador Trade Agreement** so as to add to the new momentum created by the Trade Agreements in force in the context of the Bi-Regional Strategic Partnership;

- complete the ratification of the **EU-Central America Association Agreement** by the national parliaments of the EU Member States as soon as possible;
 - seize the opportunity afforded by the Second CELAC-EU Summit to **conclude the signing of the visa waiver agreements with Colombia and Peru**, in order that they may enter into force as soon as possible;
 - make swift progress in **modernising and updating the Association Agreements with Mexico and Chile**, with a view to ensuring that both agreements are up to date, complete and balanced, and that they chime with the times and with the ambition and potential of the parties;
 - as regards the negotiations on the **EU-Mercosur Association Agreement, exchange negotiation offers between the two sides as soon as possible**, with a view to concluding a **comprehensive, balanced and ambitious Association Agreement**;
3. Reiterate the need for the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean to establish a **Comprehensive International Partnership** in the areas of politics, the economy, society, culture and the environment, with the aim of ensuring sustainable development for both regions and fostering dialogue based on democratic values, respect for the rule of law and the pursuit of social cohesion, enabling us to come together in supranational fora and institutions and address the major challenges that humanity faces: peace in the world, the spread of democracy and human rights, overcoming hunger and poverty, combating climate change and global warming, regulating financial markets, tax coordination and the removal of tax havens and secrecy jurisdictions that cause problems for the public finances of democratic countries;
 4. Point out that, under the 1968 Treaty of Tlatelolco, Latin America is the only region in the world that is free of nuclear weapons; bearing this precedent in mind, adopt the **Euro-Latin American Charter for Peace and Security** which the Assembly proposed in 2008 and which, on the basis of the United Nations Charter, will enable the adoption of joint political, strategic, security and peace proposals;

5. Promote cooperation between the European Union and Latin America in the area of **combating terrorism and its financing, drug trafficking, people trafficking, organised crime and illegal arms trafficking, and combating tax evasion and corruption;**
6. Call for the **public profile of the Strategic Partnership** to be raised in Europe and Latin America by promoting joint projects, including the development of the concept of Euro-Latin American citizenship;
7. Promote the creation of public policies on positive and affirmative action for indigenous peoples, with the aim of contributing to interculturality on the basis of equal opportunities;
8. Stress the importance of adopting policies designed to guarantee **gender equality** and combat violence **against women**, and young girls and adolescents in particular, and to combat and eliminate **femicide**, in line with the EU-CELAC Action Plan 2013-2015, implementing measures to guarantee due diligence with regard to preventing, investigating and punishing all acts of violence perpetrated against women and offering suitable redress to the victims thereof;

As regards the Alliance for Sustainable Development: Promoting Investment of Social and Environmental Quality

9. **Increase funding for innovation and drive forward and promote investment, cooperation projects and technology transfer** in the fields of research and development, technological innovation, infrastructure, energy, education and social cohesion;
10. Guarantee that the national legislative powers and subregional and regional parliaments have a consultative voice on development cooperation, in both bilateral and bi-regional negotiations.
11. Bring forward policies **on employment and sustainable growth**, prioritising policies on youth employment and the eradication of child

labour, as well as on equal pay, the establishment of social protection networks and access to decent work;

12. Build a genuine '**EU-CELAC knowledge, innovation and entrepreneurship area**' underpinned by academic cooperation programmes; in the same vein, facilitate European involvement in the initiative of the **24th Ibero-American Conference on Education** to set up a **university-level academic mobility grants scheme**, as agreed at the **24th Ibero-American Summit of Heads of State and Government in Veracruz**;
13. Work on the **gradual validation of university studies and diplomas in the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean**, with a view to mutual recognition and equivalence between academic qualifications, to ensure that university exchanges and mobility for skilled workers are developed to a greater extent;
14. With the active participation of all interested parties, draw up and implement policies designed to **combat school dropout** and to **improve the quality of, and facilitate universal access to, education, vocational training and lifelong learning, and new technologies**;
15. Step up cooperation and the exchange of information and best practice on **reducing the risk of natural disasters and food security crisis**; demand and facilitate, in this respect, the extension of insurance systems promoted by international cooperation;
16. Establish **legal and financial mechanism to facilitate participation by firms from both regions in respective public procurement procedures relating to infrastructure projects**, and foster policies and programmes to support the presence of small and medium-sized enterprises in both regions and facilitate mechanisms to establish productive links that will make full use of the potential offered by the COSME Programme (Programme for the Competitiveness of Enterprises and Small and Medium-sized Enterprises) and the Enterprise Europe Network sponsored by the European Commission, aiming to implement procedures to help

them adapt to the environmental, social and labour rules of the countries in which they operate;

17. We, the countries of the CELAC and EU must continue to cooperate closely with our productive sectors to harness the potential benefits afforded by the various aspects and the complementary nature of our respective economies through **joint actions to increase and facilitate our trade relations**, expand and diversify the markets we are able to reach through more competitive goods and services, and promote global value chains so as to strengthen and deepen integration between the two regions;
18. Encourage a culture of **corporate social responsibility and public and private alliances**, with the aim of generating measures to ensure respect for social, employment and environmental rights, as well as best practice and sustainability; support the efforts being made by the United Nations to create a binding legal framework for businesses to apply the principles set out in the Ruggie report: 'Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations Protect, Respect and Remedy Framework';
19. Work hand in hand to create a **framework for employment that fully respects decent work, based on the fundamental ILO principles**, aiming to eliminate the worst forms of work, harassment at work and social dumping in all countries, guaranteeing respect for social and labour rights;

Combating drug trafficking, organised crime and corruption

20. Encourage **greater cooperation and exchange of information** between the EU and LAC countries so that the challenges posed by drug trafficking may be tackled from a broad multidimensional angle;
21. **Address the social repercussions of drug trafficking and illicit arms trafficking**, and their links to related crimes;

22. Step up the fight against drug trafficking **including its financial ramifications** (tax havens, money laundering, tax evasion and corruption);
23. Promote a **paradigm shift** in the fight against illicit drugs, distinguishing between users and sellers, taking account of the United Nations report which recognises that current anti-drug policies have failed, and bearing in mind too the results of experiments with not banning (or legalising) use in America and the European Union;

Migration

24. Reiterate that migration policies and practices in the EU-CELAC area must ensure that the **fundamental rights of all migrants** are upheld and that the management of migration flows is orderly, informed and safe, based on the **principle of shared responsibility, and without criminalising people because they are migrants**;
25. Urge that all migration policies pursued by countries in the Partnership should guarantee that particular attention is paid to boys, girls and adolescents, ensuring that principles of family reunification, the non-detention of minors and non-deportation are applied;
26. Step up the High-Level Structured and Comprehensive Dialogue on Migration between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean launched in June 2009, with the Assembly being formally involved and seeing migration as a positive contribution to development in its social, economic, intercultural, educational and scientific aspects;
27. Stress that Association Agreements in the EU-CELAC area must include provisions on migration, such as clauses on non-discrimination, integration, and the transfer of pension rights and other social entitlements;

Democracy and States: contending with globalisation and the financial crisis

28. Call on LAC-EU countries to promote the coordination of economic and fiscal policies, and to undertake to dismantle tax havens on their territory and work at international level with a view to their eradication, taking all the necessary measures, including sanctions against tax havens themselves and against undertakings and private individuals taking advantage of their services;
29. Promote the regulation of international capital markets by fostering an **international regulatory framework for sovereign debt restructuring processes**;
30. Urge the EU-LAC countries to establish economic policies in the fiscal and monetary field, in line with specific national conditions and characteristics, that will guarantee economic growth, job creation, inclusion, and economic and social cohesion;
31. Call on those countries to adopt measures aimed at ensuring the **efficient use of public funds**, and to redirect their resources towards investment that generates growth and jobs, whilst making sure that such **rationalisation is compatible with the provision of high-quality public services**; place special emphasis on human resources training as a key driver of growth, and on the **strategic importance of the fundamental right to education as a generator of equal opportunities and wealth for countries**;

Climate change, energy and sources of renewable energy

32. Stress that the **fight against global warming and climate change** must be a priority on the political agenda between the EU and the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, and that agreement on common positions is required in the various forums for dialogue on this topic, in order to **reach a unanimous agreement that will make it possible to limit global warming to no more than 2°C at the Paris Climate Conference (COP21) in December 2015**, based on the shared responsibility of States but at the same time taking a differentiated approach to emissions reduction;

33. Support greater cooperation on **clean and renewable energy sources**, to push for a **firm and ambitious stance in the fight against global warming and climate change, achieving more effective bi-regional cooperation** in order to design and implement policies on prevention, with a special focus on protecting the areas and groups of people most at risk;
34. Emphasise that **energy security and supply have to be one of the basic priorities of the partnership**, implying a need to enhance energy efficiency and diversify energy suppliers and sources; reiterating the need for free transfers of technology from Europe to Latin America as compensation for historical carbon emissions;
35. Include **energy cooperation** in the Association Agreements between the EU and the various parts of Latin America, with **particular reference to renewable energy sources** such as solar, wind and water power, biomass and sustainably produced biofuels, ensuring that the consultation mechanisms and the lands of indigenous peoples are fully respected;

Discussions on the Post-2015 Development Agenda

36. Encourage dialogue to **promote active collaboration on finding common positions for negotiations at the major summits** which will, in upcoming months, establish the new framework for financing for development in Addis Ababa; a new paradigm on sustainable development goals in New York; tackle climate change in Paris; and establish in Turkey the new framework for humanitarian aid work;
37. Stress the need for **continued collaboration on combating inequality and poverty through development cooperation and other instruments**, bearing in mind that tens of millions of people in various parts of the region, and in Central America in particular, are affected by the persistence of these problems;
38. Recognise the progress made by countries in Latin America and the Caribbean as regards **combating inequality and poverty**, and the role the

European Union's official development aid has played in achieving that progress;

39. Recognise, furthermore, that there is still much to be done and call for the drawing-up of a Post-2015 Development Agenda specifically geared towards preventing a situation in which countries that have recently acquired the status of middle-income countries are effectively trapped by this status; to that end, encourage the setting-up of **effective mechanisms for the transfer of technology and know-how that make it possible to complete the economic development process, improve welfare and consolidate the formation of middle classes that sustain economic and social cohesion**;

Other matters of bi-regional interest

40. The European component of the Assembly is deeply concerned about the assessment made of the political and social situation in **Venezuela**; considers it vital to make the normalization of relations dependent first and foremost on the release of political prisoners and the organisation and holding of elections in accordance with current schedules and framework provisions, guaranteeing under all circumstances the freedom of the press and the participation of all legalised political parties and their respective leaders and candidates, ensuring full respect for their rights and freedoms; calls also on the Venezuelan institutions, political parties and all leaders of the country to comply fully with democratic rules in the exercise of their respective responsibilities; recalls that the free democratic process is incompatible with the existence of political prisoners and requires unrestricted enjoyment of all freedoms under the rule of law by all political and civic representatives of Venezuelan society, provided that these freedoms are exercised peacefully and within the limits laid down by law; believes it to be of paramount importance for the international community, including the European Union and especially the countries in the region, to promote dialogue with the Venezuelan institutions to ensure that the future of the country is shaped solely by the will of the people freely expressed in a fully functioning democracy;

41. Express its concern at the **extremely serious humanitarian crisis affecting immigrants in the Mediterranean**. The armed conflicts in a number of countries in the region require the international community, the United Nations and the European Union to act urgently and on the basis of solidarity to tackle this appalling situation that is afflicting thousands of people; an integrated EU policy on immigration is essential, and the behaviour of Member States and the international community in general must be guided by the application of international refugee and asylum law;
42. With regard to the **conflict between Russia and Ukraine**, condemn the illegal annexation of the Crimean peninsula, which has shown that the fundamental principles of territorial integrity and sovereignty within internationally recognised borders cannot be regarded as guaranteed on the European continent of the 21st century; be determined in its support for all efforts undertaken to lessen the intensity of the military conflict and to find a peaceful political solution that respects Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity;
43. Agree that the EU-Cuba talks which started over a year ago need to move forward in order for a bilateral Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement to be reached, thereby normalising relations between the European Union and Cuba; in the same vein, welcome the talks underway between the governments of the **United States and Cuba** with a view to political and diplomatic relations between the two sides being resumed, something that will certainly entail the embargo being lifted and extraterritorial laws becoming inapplicable;
44. Express its support for the process of dialogues on **ending the internal conflict between the Colombian Government and FARC**. Encourage both sides to persist with this peace process and move beyond the tensions that have occurred in recent months; express too its desire to see this dialogue widened to include the ELN, so that peace can be achieved through dialogue with all parties concerned; support this dialogue so that the victims of the conflict and their redress may be taken into consideration and a fair way out of the conflict resulting in stable and lasting peace may be facilitated, in accordance with international

humanitarian law; call on armed groups operating outside the law to cease their violent acts against the civilian population;

44. Call for the swift adoption of the measures needed to ensure that the **EU-LAC Foundation** functions effectively; call explicitly for the Foundation to establish joint channels of work and lines of cooperation with all the parliaments and legislative powers that make up the EuroLat Assembly, and in particular with the regional integration parliaments (PARLANDINO, PARLATINO, PARLASUR and PARLACEN).