



**Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly  
Assemblée Parlementaire Euro-Latino Américaine  
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**EURO-LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**  
**Committee on Social Affairs, Human Exchanges, the Environment, Education  
and Culture**

**MINUTES**

Meeting of

Thursday 4 November 2010, from 16.00 to 19.00

Friday 5 November 2010, from 09.00 to 11.00

Cuenca, Republic of Ecuador

*The meeting opened at 16.00 on Thursday 4 November 2010, with Co-chair Carlos Baráibar (Parlatino) and Co-chair Edite Estrela (European Parliament) in the chair.*

**1. Adoption of draft agenda**

The draft agenda was adopted in the form shown in these minutes.

**2. Election of members of the Committee's Bureau**

No members were elected to the Bureau.

**3. Approval of minutes of meeting of 13 and 14 May 2010 (Seville)  
PV - AP100.698v01-00**

The minutes were approved.

**4. Co-chairs' announcements**

Co-chair Edite Estrela recalled that this was the second meeting of the Social Committee in 2010.

She said that the main purpose of the meeting was to present the new joint motion for a resolution on employment preservation and creation strategies, with special focus on women and young people, and hold an exchange of views on the topic.

The document would be submitted to the May 2011 part-session. The deadline for amendments would be 31 January 2011.

The co-rapporteurs for the topic would present their working documents, which would be considered at the next meeting of the Social Committee to be held before the plenary session in May 2011.

**5. Exchange of views with Mr Jorge Paladines, under-secretary for normative law at the Ecuadorian Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Worship, on crimes perpetrated against migrants**

Under-secretary Paladines recalled that the new Ecuadorian Constitution of 2008 established that no person could be considered illegal on the grounds of their migrant status. With respect to Ecuadorians, the Constitution declared migrants to be a 'vulnerable group'. Human mobility was therefore held to be one of the sectors most in need of protection. The Constitution also condemned the traffic and trade in people.

The Ecuadorian penal code had incorporated the concepts of 'traffic' and 'trade' since 2005. The traffic and trade in persons had an annual turnover of USD 40 million per year, making it a shadow economy. However, in the last three years there had only been 13 convictions in Ecuador for crimes relating to the traffic and trade in persons.

The Ecuadorian Constitution also recognised the concept of 'universal citizenship'. Ecuador hoped to see this concept enshrined as a catagoric imperative leading to the implementation and reorganisation of its infraconstitutional legislation (immigration law and aliens law).

The Constitution had eliminated the concept of 'foreign national', recognising human mobility throughout the national territory and safeguarding the material and actual equality of foreign citizens. Foreigners were entitled to the same working conditions as Ecuadorians, provided they complied with certain requirements, such as length of stay and terms of residence in Ecuador. He also pointed out that the movement of foreign nationals was often linked to the issue of drugs. Ecuador was in the process of preparing a reform of drugs-related legislation, based on two key aspects of the Constitution: the decriminalisation of drug use and the pardoning of drug-trafficking 'mules', who were the passive link in the drug-production chain, bearing in mind that 40% of prison inmates in Ecuador were serving sentences for drug-related crimes and 98% of these were people of limited resources. Foreign nationals accounted for 10% of prisoners in Ecuador, with the overwhelming majority serving sentences for drug-related crimes. It was therefore essential to reform the laws on drugs-related crimes to introduce the principle of proportionality (sentences for drugs-related crimes were currently more severe than those for homicide) and repatriation (to prevent disparities between the sentence handed down and the time actually served).

**Speakers:** John Attard-Montalto (S&D, MT), Bertila Espinoza (Parlacen), Lloyd Bushey (Parlacen)

**6. Exchange of views with Ms Sandra Charris, of the Secretariat of the Andean Community, on the CAN's Integrated Plan for Social Development**

The representative of the Andean Community, Sandra Charris, pointed out that the Cartagena Agreements included several social development goals. These included poverty reduction, strengthening of cultural identity, and popular participation, through the development of cooperation programmes in the field of education to raise the level of basic education and provide professional training. At the same time, there were plans within the Andean Community to move ahead in terms of recognising qualifications, in order to exchange trained professionals, as well as plans for the integration of women (including indigenous women) in the labour market.

At an institutional level, the Andean Council of Social Development Ministers had been entrusted with drafting recommendations to member countries on policies to foster subregional convergence in social policy. To this end, the Andean Community had adopted a decision (No 601 of 2004) establishing the main outlines of the integrated social development programme. Nevertheless, the Andean Community had no intention of supplanting member countries, which continued to be responsible for their own social development, but aimed to encourage common programmes in cases where better results could be achieved jointly than by each country individually.

Cooperation on social issues would also be gradually developed in stages, since the Andean Community preferred to take an integral approach to social development rather than a sectoral one. The main spheres addressed by regional cooperation included health, education, employment, training and empowerment.

At the fifth meeting of Social Development Ministers importance was placed on recognising social development in the national Constitutions of member countries (in the case of countries with new Constitutions), and on implementing new policies in this sphere, such as combating poverty, illiteracy and malnutrition and focusing on maternal and child care.

The Andean Community had a number of agreements with the EU, which included projects to support networks within civil society working in different areas of social development, as well as economic and social cohesion projects centred on frontier regions.

**7. Joint motion for a resolution on: 'Employment preservation and creation strategies, with special focus on women and young people'**

**EP co-rapporteur** Izaskun Bilbao Barandica (EP, ALDE)

**LAC co-rapporteur** María de los Ángeles Moreno (EU-Mexico JPC, PRI)

The EP co-rapporteur, Izaskun Bilbao Barandica (EP, ALDE), introduced her joint motion for a resolution. The Latin American co-rapporteur, María Ángeles Moreno (EU-Mexico JPC), was absent.

**Speakers:** Edite Estrela (S&D, PT), John Attard-Montalto (S&D, MT), Hector Heli Rojas (Parlandino), Carlos Morales (Parlacen), Bertila Espinoza (Parlacen), Rosa Leon Flores (Parlandino), Carlos Baráibar (Parlatino), Lloyd Bushey (Parlacen)

*The meeting adjourned at 19.00 and resumed on Friday 5 November at 9.00 with Co-chair Carlos Baráibar (Parlatino) and Co-chair Edite Estrela (European Parliament) in the chair.*

## 8. Working document ‘Disaster prevention’

**EP co-rapporteur:** Edite Estrela (EP, S&D)

**LAC co-rapporteur:** Hector Heli Rojas (Parlandino)

The EP co-rapporteur, Edite Estrela (EP, S&D) and the LAC co-rapporteur, Hector Heli Rojas (Parlandino) presented their working documents.

**Speakers:** Santiago Fisas Ayxela (PPE, ES), Rosa Leon Flores (Parlandino), John Attard-Montalto (S&D, MT), Elsa Malpartida Jara (Parlandino), Lloyd Bushey (Parlacen), Bertila Espinoza (Parlacen), José Maria Zufiaur (CESE), Gustavo Borsari (Parlasur), **Senator Nelly Gray de Credán (Argentina)**

**Decision:** The Social Committee proposed that the next joint motion for a resolution should be on the prevention of natural disasters

## 9. Other business

Carlos Baráibar, co-Chair, gave a brief introduction to the COP 15 and the preparations for the COP 16. He went on to propose that the Social Committee follow up the COP 16 at its next meeting.

## 10. Date and place of next meeting

The Committee on Social Affairs, Human Exchanges, Environment, Education and Culture would meet from 18 to 20 May 2011 in Montevideo, Uruguay.

*The meeting closed at 11.00.*

**LISTA DE ASISTENCIA / RECORD OF ATTENDANCE / LISTE DE PRÉSENCE / LISTA DE PRESENÇAS**

<b>Miembros EuroLat / EuroLat Members / Membres EuroLat / Membros EuroLat</b>	
<b><u>PARLATINO:</u></b>	Carlos Baráibar (co-chair) (1,2), Ferdy Noel Berganza (1)
<b><u>PARLANDINO:</u></b>	Hector Heli Rojas (1,2), Rosa Leon Flores (1,2), Elsa Malpartida Jara (1,2), Rocío Valarezo (1), Ivonne A. Baki (1)
<b><u>PARLACEN:</u></b>	Lloyd Bushey (1,2), Bertila Espinoza (1,2), Octavio Huertas (1,2), Carlos Morales (1,2)
<b><u>PARLASUR:</u></b>	Gustavo Borsari (1,2), Mercedes Gonzalez Villalba (1,2), José Paulo Tóffano (1)
<b><u>CPM UE-MEXICO:</u></b>	
<b><u>CPM UE-CHILE:</u></b>	Claudia Nogueira Fernandez (1), Fulvio Rossi (1)
<b><u>PARLAMENTO EUROPEO:</u></b>	Edite Estrela (co-chair) (1,2), John Attard-Montalto, Izaskun Bilbao Barandica (1,2), Santiago Fisas Aixela (2), Andres Perello Rodriguez (1,2), Joanna Senyszyn (1,2), Joanna Katarzyna Skrzydlewska (1,2), Francisco Sosa Wagner (1,2), Luis Yáñez-Barnuevo García (1,2)

Presente el / Present on / Présent le / Presente em:

(1) 4.11.2010

(2) 5.11.2010

<b>Por invitación de los Co-Presidentes / At the invitation of the Co-Chairs / Sur l'invitation des co-présidents / A convite dos Co-Presidentes</b>	
Punto 5	Jorge Paladines, Under-secretary for normative law, Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Worship, Ecuador
Punto 6	Sandra Charris, Secretariat of the Andean Community
Punto 8	Nelly Gray de Cerdán, Senator, Argentina

<b>Secretaría de los Parlamentos Latinoamericanos / Latin-American Parliaments Secretariat</b>	
Parlatino	Humberto Peláez Orozco
Parlandino	Natascha Alvarez
Parlacen	
Parlasur	Agustina Rodriguez Sáa
Congreso México	Fabian Bravo López
Congreso Chile	

<b>Secretariado del Parlamento Europeo / European Parliament Secretariat</b>	
Co-Secretariado EuroLat	Radka Hejtmankova
DG Políticas Externas	
Asistente	Malin Lundberg

Secretaría de los Grupos Políticos del PE / EP Political Groups Secretariat	
PPE	Miriam Orsagova
S&D	Jean-François Vallin
ALDE	Itziar Munoa Salaverria
Verts/ALE	
ECR	
GUE/NGL	
EFD	
NI	

Otros participantes / Other participants	
Parlamento Europeo	
Cuerpo Diplomático	
Otros	José Maria Zufiaur, CES