



EUROPEAN UNION-CHILE JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

Joint Declaration

**Twenty-second meeting of the European Union-National Congress of Chile
Joint Parliamentary Committee**

Monday, 25 April and Tuesday, 26 April 2016

Brussels, Belgium

At the conclusion of their work, the delegations of the European Parliament and the National Congress of Chile participating in the twenty-second meeting of the European Union-Chile Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC), headed by the Co-Chairs, Constanze **KREHL**, MEP, and Pablo **LORENZINI**, Member of Congress, pursuant to the Rules of Procedure of the JPC and Article 9 of the EU-Chile Association Agreement, signed in 2002, hereby agree the following:

JOINT DECLARATION

1. The delegations of the European Parliament and the National Congress of Chile have so far held twenty-one joint meetings. They therefore stress the role of the JPC as an important forum for discussion and exchanges of views on issues of mutual interest. They nonetheless deplore the fact that the usual practice of holding two annual meetings, as was the intention when the JPC was established, was interrupted in 2013.
2. Both delegations condemn in the strongest possible terms the terrorist attacks that struck the Belgian capital and the heart of the European Union on 22 March 2016, killing 32 people and leaving over 300 wounded from 40 different countries, including victims from various Latin American States. They also express their sincerest condolences and show solidarity with the families of those killed and wounded, together with the Belgian authorities and people and the international community living in Brussels. They emphasise that the attacks in Brussels are an assault on our principles, values, lifestyle, freedom and fundamental rights, and stress the need to address the escalation of terrorism and extremist violence as a common threat to the entire world.

3. The delegations therefore call for the global fight against terrorism to be stepped up by strengthening measures, mechanisms and bodies for global and regional cooperation, in accordance with international law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. They stress that Chile's presidency of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) for the period 2016-2018 is an opportunity to strengthen channels for cooperation between Europe and Latin America in this field.
4. Both delegations deeply regret the death of the former President of the Republic of Chile, Patricio Aylwin Azócar, Chile's first democratically elected head of state after the dictatorship, and a great historical figure who led the country's successful transition to democracy. Throughout his life he consistently displayed great social awareness, promoting justice, human rights and ethical values in politics. During his time in office, Patricio Aylwin Azócar made a decisive contribution to strengthening ties between Chile and the European Union.
5. The European delegation notes the forecasts for economic growth of around 2% for Chile in 2016, owing to a diverse set of factors. It welcomes, however, the IMF's favourable assessment of the process of adjustment and fiscal consolidation undertaken by Chile and its flexible monetary policy. The IMF also takes a positive view of the country's sound policy frameworks, credible institutions, stable financial markets and favourable cost of foreign borrowing, as factors providing firm foundations for future economic growth. The delegation stresses the importance of inclusive and sustainable economic growth. It repeats its recommendation to raise awareness of the content of the Association Agreement and strengthen dialogue with other stakeholders – particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, which are the main generators of employment in Chile and the European Union – and representatives of civil society
6. The European delegation highlights Chile's recent reforms concerning its education system, the funding of political parties, the electoral law and the furthering of democracy, and welcomes the great strides it has made in ensuring transparency and combating corruption, which will increase levels of public trust in Chile's public institutions.
7. The members of the EP delegation emphasise the changes that have led to direct election of regional authorities and the bill recently passed by the Chamber of Deputies on voting by Chileans abroad in presidential elections and national referenda, as per the provisions of the 2014 constitutional reform.
8. The EP delegation notes the process of constitutional reform initiated by President Bachelet's government, whose first stage focuses on public information and awareness-raising in preparation for a process of citizen dialogue at various levels so as to gather proposals for a text on which to base a new Constitution reflecting public opinion.
9. It also takes a positive view of Chile's commitment to international humanitarian law and refugee protection in the new Humanitarian Assistance Programme, which aims to provide aid to help pay for basic public services such as water, electricity and gas, ensure access to housing and vocational training, recognise qualifications and boost entrepreneurship. It therefore warmly welcomes Chile's decision to accept 100 Syrian refugees and the plan for their rapid adaptation devised by the Chilean authorities, in cooperation with the Syrian community.

10. The members of the European delegation stress the legal amendments made with a view to establishing specific institutions for indigenous peoples in Chile – the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples, the National Council of Indigenous Peoples, the Interministerial Indigenous Council and the councils for each of the country’s nine indigenous peoples – that will act as mechanisms for implementing new cross-cutting public policies catering to the requirements of these groups. They also note the proposal recently submitted to the Government to put an end to the so-called ‘Mapuche conflict’ which entails, in addition to setting up these institutions, creating a public register for land offers, given that property is one of the main reasons for conflict in areas in which the Mapuche people live, in addition to compensation for victims of violence in these areas. They reiterate the importance of the struggle for social inclusion and equal opportunities for all citizens.
11. The EP delegation notes with satisfaction that the bill on immigration, which seeks to replace legislation from 1975, is currently under discussion in the Congress of Chile. The bill provides for a new system for entry visas into Chile, including tools to ensure that those granted visas are not limited to an exclusive sphere of activity, such as by an employment contract. Its purpose is to provide Chile with the tools with which to manage migration flows effectively and efficiently and thus maximise its potential, on the basis of updated information on foreign residents and their impact on the various aspects of economic development.
12. The delegation also notes that, on 4 February in New Zealand, Chile and another 11 countries – together representing 40% of world GDP, a third of world trade and some 800 million people – signed the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). This shows that the countries that have developed the most in recent years are those that successfully embedded themselves into global trade networks. In this regard, it hopes that the TPP will serve to consolidate the markets of the partner countries and, in turn, create more high-quality jobs and improve people’s quality of life. To that end, this agreement opens access to the markets of the partner countries for at least 1 600 Chilean products that had previously been excluded from them or placed at a disadvantage, and will enable cumulation of origin, which will make it easier for these countries to participate in value chains.
13. In respect of the TPP, such agreements should be deepened, and political agreements or additional protocols should be proposed to address unwanted side-effects or adjustments which leave social stakeholders and productive actors less well protected, since the new generation of mega trade agreements demands more capacity and policy consultation and greater involvement from social stakeholders.
14. The Chilean delegation stresses that the EU is entering its fourth consecutive year of economic recovery, expressed in moderate growth, and in particular rising domestic demand. According to European Commission estimates from February 2016, the EU’s economy will grow by 1.9% overall this year, a rate that will rise to 2% next year. A gradual fall in unemployment is also expected, from 10.5% in 2015 to 10.5% in 2016 and 10.2% in 2017, in the EU as a whole.
15. The Chilean delegation notes the agreement of 20 February between the EU and Britain concerning a new settlement for the United Kingdom within the EU. On 23 June 2016

this agreement will be put the British people as part of a referendum on whether the UK should remain in the EU, since if the country elects to leave it will cease to be valid. The agreement is based on four main points: greater protection for EU Member States outside the eurozone, temporary restrictions on benefits to citizens of other EU Member States working in the UK, an exemption for Britain from ever closer political union between the Member States and measures to improve competitiveness in the European market. The delegation trusts that the agreement provides sufficient guarantees to convince Britain's voters to remain in the European Union.

16. The Chilean delegation notes the recent agreement between the EU and Turkey in response to the crisis caused by the influx of refugees and claims for asylum in Europe, particularly Greece, in recent months. The agreement stipulates that, as of 20 March 2016, irregular migrants arriving in the Greek islands from Turkey will be returned to Turkey if their claim for asylum is rejected. The EU Member States agree to resettle as many Syrian refugees in Turkey as they send failed refugee to Turkey from the Greek islands, with due regard for the UN vulnerability criteria. It was also agreed that the procedure for phasing out visa requirements for Turkish nationals would be accelerated with a view to ensuring them visa-free travel by June 2016 at the latest. The EU will also expedite the disbursement of EUR 3 billion allocated under the Refugee Facility for Turkey. This sum had been pledged as additional funding, to be paid if both parties fulfilled the commitments they had made.
17. The members of both delegations reiterate their unwavering support for the process of modernising the EU-Chile Agreement Association to reflect the new reality in bilateral relations by ensuring a high-level political dialogue and a future-orientated perspective. Similarly, new concepts developed in global trade and investment in recent years also need to be incorporated into the new instrument. They stress that this process should reflect these changes and encompass areas such as tariff liberalisation, public procurement, trade in services, investment, strengthening the protection of geographical indications, defining rules on product origin, eliminating technical barriers to trade, as well as trade defence and competition instruments. The same level of ambition should be shown in respect of targets on sustainable development particularly on labour rights and health, and mainstreaming gender equality into international trade and the fight against corruption, ensuring the inclusion of the private sector, particularly SMEs, trade union representatives and other sectors of civil society at all stages of the process, from developing the Agreement to monitoring its implementation and assessing it.
18. The European and Chilean delegations advocate the establishment of a new model of cooperation between partners, with an equal footing for all, focusing on areas of joint interest and shared benefit, in particular the environment, climate change, energy, agriculture, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), corporate social responsibility, the EU's COPERNICUS programme, gender, human rights, democracy and civil society. They encourage both parties to continue to cooperate under the aegis of EU regional programmes and to work together to develop possible projects for the benefit of third countries in areas of common interest. They urge both parties to continue to exchange experiences as part in the five new sectoral dialogues set up at the sixth EU-Chile Association Council in April 2015, particularly in the area of energy, education, gender, small and medium enterprises, corporate social responsibility, security and defence. They

welcome the progress made in designing the roadmap for cooperation between the EU and Chile, and trust that it can be finalised and implemented as soon as possible.

19. Within this framework, both delegations believe that the time is ripe for discussions on the possible updating of development metrics used by the World Bank and the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) so as to incorporate sustainable and inclusive development factors, as the United Nations did with its 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which reflects new needs and dynamics.
20. The European Parliament delegation recognises the role played by Chile on the global stage, providing a substantial contribution to the international system and respect for international treaties, including in ensuring the stability of borders and territorial integrity. The delegation considers the case brought by Bolivia before the International Court of Justice concerning its maritime aspirations to be a strictly bilateral issue. It also stresses Chile's constant work to promote the principles of effective multilateralism, respect for international law, the sovereign equality of states, respect for human rights, democracy and the advocacy of and quest for peace. It also highlights the contribution of Chilean troops to ensuring the success of the EUFOR Althea operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the contribution Chile could make, notably by sending civilian components to EU crisis management missions.
21. Both delegations undertake to cooperate in all international fora to support any initiatives liable to give rise to policies and legislation to combat tax avoidance and tax fraud, which are tolerated under the permissive laws of certain territories.
22. They welcome the results achieved by the AL-Invest IV programme in Chile, in contributing to the global expansion and consolidation of more than 6 000 micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, focusing in particular on improving their competitiveness, helping them enter the European market and strengthening their structure and operations to enable them to become local development hubs. They trust that that the AL-Invest V programme, launched on 10 March 2016, will continue to promote business partnerships as a tool to help Chilean companies become more firmly embedded in international value chains.
23. They are also pleased to see the results of the EUROsociAL II programme, which provided substantive support within the framework of the reforms recently undertaken in Chile, particularly in the areas of education, social protection, immigration policy, integrating women and young people into the labour market, and childhood policy and welcome Chile's participation in the South-South cooperation programmes, with a view to passing on experience and know-how on in such fields as public finances, transparency and health to other Latin American and Caribbean countries, namely Colombia, Uruguay, Peru and El Salvador.
24. Both delegations reaffirm their commitment to genuine equality between women and men in all areas of economic, social and political life. They therefore endorse the condemnation made by Chile's National Women's Service of Chile on 11 March of all forms of violence against women and denounce the repression of the legitimate grievances raised by organisations defending the human rights of women. The European delegation emphasises Chile's efforts to ensure increased participation by women in decision-making bodies within political parties and in international trade, its education

and awareness-raising campaigns to combat violence against women and the shelters it has built for victims of gender violence.

25. The parties reiterate their commitment to promoting the effective exercise of corporate social responsibility (CSR) in national, foreign and multinational companies based or operating on their territory. They stress in this context that compliance by companies with the principles of CSR, combined with an impact assessment of such compliance, would be a major step forward in achieving sustainable development grounded in environmental sustainability, economic growth and social equity, and would also be an opportunity for companies to increase their profits by improving their image with consumers and investors while strengthening their brand. The EP Delegation welcomes the Action Plan 2015-2018 adopted by the Chile's Council on Social Responsibility for Sustainable Development, which lays down concrete steps to contribute towards, inter alia, implementing the OECD's recommendations, developing a baseline for public action to promote CSR, establishing a monitoring system and mainstreaming CSR in Chile's trade relations with third countries.
26. In the area of climate change, the delegations strongly welcome the signing, by 195 countries, of the first legally binding agreement in which both developed and developing countries undertake to manage the transition to a low carbon economy, at the COP 21 Conference in December 2015 in Paris. They are particularly pleased to see the commitment of these countries to limiting the rise in temperature to 1.5°C above levels in the pre-industrial era, to setting national targets for greenhouse gas reduction every five years and to report on their emissions levels and their efforts to reduce them. They call on both parties to step up cooperation in the relevant international fora in order to achieve an ambitious climate agenda, particularly in the transport sector.
27. The delegations reiterate their willingness to review the JPC rules of procedure with a view to holding two joint meetings per year, as has been the case since the establishment of the JPC. They take the view that holding two meetings a year would enable the JPC to make a full and active contribution to the work of the other association bodies, including the Association Committee and Association Council.
28. The delegations agree to hold their next meeting in Chile in the second half of 2016.

Signed in Brussels on 26 April 2016.

**European Parliament delegation to the
EU-Chile Joint Parliamentary
Committee**

**Delegation of the National Congress of Chile
to the EU-Chile Joint Parliamentary
Committee**

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Chair**

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