



EU-Chile Joint Parliamentary Committee

Joint Declaration

21st Meeting of the European Parliament-National Congress of Chile Joint Parliamentary Committee

Friday, 13 November 2015

Santiago, Chile

The members of the National Congress of Chile and the European Parliament participating in the European Union-Chile Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC), headed by the Co-Chairs, Senator Isabel **ALLENDE** and Constanze **KREHL**, MEP, on completion of the work of the 21st Meeting of the JPC and pursuant to its Rules of Procedure and Article 9 of the EU-Chile Association Agreement, signed in 2002, hereby agree the following:

JOINT DECLARATION

1. At their 21st joint meeting, the members of the National Congress of Chile and the European Parliament are pleased with the outcome achieved in this forum for discussion and exchanges of views on issues of mutual interest, contributing as it does to the strengthening and energising of links between the parliaments of Chile and the European Union, as evidenced by the fact that meetings are again being held on a regular, ongoing basis;
2. The parties welcome the benefits that the Association Agreement has brought since it entered into force over 12 years ago, considering that it continues to be the ideal framework in which to conduct political and economic relations in areas of cooperation, and express their commitment to continuing to strengthen the ties of mutual friendship between them by ensuring the effective implementation of the Agreement and forging ahead in the process of updating it;
3. The delegations stress the qualitative progress seen in all levels of the relationship since the Agreement entered into force. In this context, they emphasise the high degree of political

convergence between the positions taken by Chile and the European Union in multilateral fora on global issues such as the promotion of democracy, human rights, peace and sustainable development, as well as the impetus provided to bilateral trade, with unquestionable mutual benefits, given that the EU is Chile's third largest trade partner and the largest foreign investor in the country. Considering the future of trade relations not only as a tool for creating new jobs and a more inclusive growth, the parties repeat in this regard their recommendation to raise awareness of the content of the Association Agreement and strengthen dialogue with all stakeholders – particularly small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which are the main generators of employment in Chile and the European Union, and representatives of civil society – with a view to identifying the opportunities and assessing the impact of the Association Agreement, to the lasting and shared benefit of entrepreneurs and all citizens, with a particular emphasis on its benefits for SMEs;

4. The parties reiterate their firm commitment to the post-2015 development agenda, adopted by the United Nations in September 2015. They consider that the new framework for development must be grounded in the eradication of poverty and in sustainable development by addressing the multidimensional aspects of poverty and inequality, understood as going beyond a lack of income. They consider the creation of decent employment, universal access to education and health services, efficient use of resources, empowerment of women, mitigating climate change and peacebuilding to be essential prerequisites for the success of the post-2015 agenda;

5. The delegations welcome the establishment of the Joint Consultative Committee, in the purpose of assisting the Association Council in its efforts to promote dialogue and cooperation between the various civil society stakeholders in the EU and Chile, and hope that the its meeting van be held as soon as possible;

6. The parties stress the results achieved at the 6th EU-Chile Association Council, held in Brussels on 21 April 2015, in particular through the process of modernising the Association Agreement in its three pillars (political, economic and trade-related and cooperation), and the establishment of a Joint Working Group so as to ensure the process moves forward while striking the right balance. They call for the process to be as transparent and participatory as possible so that citizens, businesses and civil society can feel involved and see how their rights and interests are heard and accommodated;

7 The delegations welcome the impetus to cooperation between further education institutions on both sides lent by the 6th Association Council by fostering the academic mobility of students and teachers through initiatives such as Erasmus Mundus and the Marie Curie actions, as well as joint programmes. Similarly, they greatly appreciate the mutual will expressed within the Council to implement the Framework Agreement on scientific and technological cooperation between the EU and Chile, and the importance attached to initiatives to promote cooperation between the parties on research and innovation;

8. The parties take due note of the establishment of a new framework for cooperation and of progress made in setting out a roadmap to identify areas and forms of cooperation, including regional and thematic programmes and partnerships in areas of mutual interest such as triangular cooperation initiatives, which could help transfer the experience of Chile and the

EU to other countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, thus contributing to their economic and social development;

9. The Chilean delegation welcomes the persistent signs of economic recovery in Europe, as expressed in moderate growth that is estimated to increase from 0.9% to 1.5% over 2015, and reach 1.6% in 2016. The delegation stresses, furthermore, that the EU economy is showing signs of an uptick in inflation, thus dispelling any deflationary fears, despite the trend towards expectations of moderate inflationary pressures in the medium term, reflected in a gradual decrease in unemployment rates to around 9.5%. Against this backdrop, the delegation congratulates the European Union on reaching an agreement with Greece to address that country's debt problems, which could have the benefit of stabilising financial markets and underpinning the European Union's return to economic growth;

10. The European Parliament delegation, meanwhile, underlines that the Chilean economy, although going through a slowdown, has continued to grow this year, by around 2.2%, in a regional context that is considerably more depressed and marked by the sharp fall in commodity prices. The delegation recognises this as a tribute to the stability and solidity with which Chile has steered its economy in recent decades, as reflected in the good level of foreign investment maintained in the past year, the balanced labour market and the prudent management of public finances;

11. The delegation greatly appreciates the way in which the Chilean authorities are addressing the crisis of public trust in political institutions, by pursuing a reform agenda on probity and public funding of political activity, with the aim of strengthening the system of representative democracy. Similarly, it stresses the importance of the educational reforms undertaken to develop a system to ensure quality of education, inclusion and accessibility for all citizens as a fruit of the shared effort of, and the solidarity within, Chilean society, thus contributing to social cohesion. Lastly, it emphasises that these efforts are governed by the principles of gradual progress, both in their implementation and in the inclusive dialogue for laying down their general guidelines;

12. The European Parliament delegation expresses solidarity with the Chilean people, particularly all victims of the 8.4-strength earthquake and subsequent tsunami that hit the country's Centre-North area on 16 September 2015. At the same time, it applauds the swift, orderly and effective reaction to the emergency, which kept human and material losses as a result of this natural disaster to a minimum, despite its intensity;

13. The parties reiterate their commitment to continue working towards more intensive bi-regional cooperation in the area of migration – and value the input of the EU-CELAC High Level Meeting on Migration – with a view to managing this phenomenon more effectively and ensuring that it becomes an effective tool contributing to the socio-economic development of the societies in countries of origin and destination. To that end, they consider it vital to take a multidimensional approach, which integrates policies in various fields, such as social inclusion, employment, health and education, and to boost the quality of migration on the basis of shared responsibility and the principle of non-criminalisation of migrants;

14. The delegations express concern at the refugee crisis caused by the armed conflict in the Middle East, particularly in Syria, which has spread to neighbouring countries and

reached the European Union, becoming both a human tragedy and the most serious displacement crisis since the Second World War. The Chilean delegation is keeping a close watch on the humanitarian situation of the thousands of people fleeing war, destruction and violence to seek protection and a better future, and calls on the European authorities and the EU Member States to continue to search for a comprehensive, coherent, fair and solidarity-based management system;

15. The European delegation, in turn, welcomes the announcement by the Government of Chile that it is seeking to put in place arrangements to accept a certain number of Syrian refugees, thus helping to tackle this world-wide problem, and emphasises in this connection that this commitment is simply official confirmation of the contribution that Chile has been making to international efforts to protect refugees, by running various humanitarian programmes to resettle groups of refugees from conflict zones;

16. Both parties reaffirm their strong commitment to the adoption, at COP 21 in Paris in December 2015, of a new climate agreement to replace the Kyoto Protocol, on the basis of a comprehensive, coherent framework that is binding for all parties. They note in this regard the commitments to reduce emissions made by Chile (by 30% on 2007 levels) and the EU (by 40% compared to 1990) as well as the fact that more than 50 countries have submitted their proposals, two months ahead of the Conference. They point out that the new climate agreement must respect the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, take account of countries' respective capabilities given their different national circumstances and the changing global economic and geopolitical context and promote low-greenhouse-gas sustainable development to combat climate change, while providing for a robust mechanism to fund measures to mitigate climate change and adapt to its effects in the least developed countries;

17. The delegations welcome the inclusion of corporate social responsibility (CSR) in the outcome documents of the second EU-CELAC summit, held in Brussels on 10 and 11 June 2015, as one of the areas to be emphasised by European, Latin American and Caribbean countries, thus opening a new field for bilateral dialogue and cooperation between the EU and Chile. They reiterate the need to continue work both in Chile and in the EU to translate the internationally recognised principles of CSR into national policies, plans and programmes so as to encourage their adoption as part of good corporate practice, thus contributing to sustainable, socially inclusive and environmentally friendly development, grounded in respect for human rights;

18. The parties express their willingness to continue to work to strengthen effective gender equality in all areas of society, including equal pay for equal work, facilitating the participation of women in public, political and business life while ensuring the equitable sharing of domestic responsibilities. The European delegation thus congratulates Chile on the progress it has made in this area, as reflected in the establishment of a Ministry of Women and Gender Equality and in the inclusion of affirmative action measures in the reform of electoral legislation, among other initiatives;

Both parties agree to promote gender mainstreaming in all areas of mutual cooperation (political, economic/trade and cooperation);

19. The European Parliament delegation recognises the role played by Chile as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council, providing a substantial contribution to the international system, respect for international treaties the stability of borders and territorial integrity. The Parliament delegation sees the case brought by Bolivia before the International Court of Justice concerning its maritime aspirations as 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 therefore welcomes the recent unanimous adoption by the Chilean Senate of the Framework Agreement on Participation in Crisis Management Missions, which will facilitate Chilean participation in EU peacekeeping missions, and bears testimony to the shared commitment to contribute to international peace and security. 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 mission;

20. The parties call on both the European Commission and the Chilean authorities to keep the EU-Chile JPC regularly informed on any draft legislation that may affect the Association Agreement;

21. The delegations thank the ministers and officials of the Chilean Government and the representatives of the European Commission and the European External Action Service for their support and provision of information at the Meeting;

22. The parties undertake to forward this Declaration to the members of the Association Council and reiterate their wish for the two co-Chairs of the EU-Chile JPC to attend future meetings of that Council and for the JPC to be involved in monitoring the implementation and updating of the Association Agreement on a more regular basis;

23. The delegations consider it essential that the institutional provisions of the future agreement explicitly step up the Joint Parliamentary Committee's activities to oversee and exercise parliamentary scrutiny over the Agreement. To that end, they agree on the need to deepen the Committee's work to enable it to take a more active role in updating the Association Agreement, using all the technical means at the Committee's disposal and ensuring that it meets at least twice per year. They therefore agree to hold the 12th meeting of the JPC in Brussels in the last week of April 2016.

Signed at Santiago, Chile, on 13 November 2015.

Delegation of the European Parliament
to the EU-Chile Joint Parliamentary Committee

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

Constanze Krehl
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