

Brussels, 20 March 2018

Joint Declaration by the Chair of the Delegation to the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly, by the Chair of the Delegation for relations with the Federative Republic of Brazil, by the Chair of the Delegation for relations with Mercosur and the Chair of the EuroLat Women Forum of the European Parliament on the assassination of Marielle Franco, local council woman in Rio de Janeiro, the night of Wednesday, 14 March 2018.

On our behalf and on behalf of the Members of the Delegation to the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly, the Delegation for relations with the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Delegation for relations with Mercosur and the EuroLat Women Forum of the European Parliament, we strongly condemn the heinous assassination of Marielle Franco, local councilwoman in Rio de Janeiro, who was murdered the night of Wednesday, 14 March, together with her driver Mr. Anderson Pedro Gomes.

Our sincere sympathies go to the family and friends as well as the Brazilian people for their loss.

Marielle Franco was a social activist and human rights defender. The 38 year old sociologist originating from the Maré favelas was elected to the City Council of Rio de Janeiro in 2016 and presided over the women's commission. In her capacity, Ms. Franco has spoken against police brutality and grinding poverty as well as in support of victims of shoot-outs with drug gangs in the favelas. In February 2018 she was chosen to be a rapporteur of the commission overseeing the deployment of federal security forces in Rio's favelas.

We call upon the Brazilian authorities and the Brazilian justice to carry out an immediate, thorough and transparent investigation into the assassination of Ms. Marielle Franco in order to identify all those responsible, bring them before an independent tribunal, and punish them under the law.

We also call upon the authorities in Brazil to guarantee in all circumstances the physical and psychological integrity of human rights defenders in Brazil.

Ramón Jáuregui Atond, Chair of the Delegation to the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly (DLAT)

Fernando Ruas, Chair of the Delegation for relations with the Federative Republic of Brazil (D-BR)

Francisco Assis, Chair of the Delegation for relations with Mercosur (DMER)

Elisabetta Gardini, Chair of the EuroLat Women Forum