



EUROPEAN UNION-CHILE JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

Joint Declaration

**24th Meeting of the European Union-National Congress of Chile Joint
Parliamentary Committee**

Thursday, 4 May 2017

Brussels, Belgium

At the conclusion of their work, the delegations of the European Parliament and the National Congress of Chile participating in the 24th meeting of the European Parliament-National Congress of Chile Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC), headed by their Co-Chairs, Constanze **KREHL**, MEP, and Isabel **ALLENDE**, 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 23 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.
2. Both delegations condemn in the strongest possible terms the series of terror attacks that has struck European cities in recent months: Berlin, 19 December 2016, which left 12 dead and another 56 injured; London, 22 March 2017 (6 dead and more than 50 injured); St Petersburg, 3 April 2017 (15 dead and 45 injured); Stockholm, 7 April 2017 (4 dead and at least 15 injured); Paris, 20 April 2017 (2 dead, 2 injured). They express their sincerest condolences and solidarity with the families of those who lost their lives and with those who were injured. 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 bolstering measures, mechanisms and bodies for global and regional cooperation, in accordance with international law and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, as part of efforts to defend our shared values of democracy, liberty, fundamental rights and human dignity.
4. The European delegation expresses its solidarity with the Chilean people following the natural disasters which Chile suffered at the start of the year: the devastating fires in January and then the flooding in February. Both delegations greatly value the support that the EU and its Member States provided in the fight against the forest fires, which was coordinated via the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. The EU team worked alongside teams from Chile and elsewhere in an effort to bring the situation under control and rectify it.
5. The Chilean delegation notes the Rome Declaration, signed by the leaders of the 27 Member States, of the European Council, of the European Parliament and of the European Commission in Rome on 25 March 2017, which marked the 60th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Rome. That treaty has enabled the bloc to move continually forward with the process of integration which has brought about peace between the Member States. It has also helped to develop and consolidate democratic values. Its members have enjoyed 60 years of prosperity and solidarity, and have also strengthened their ties with the rest of the world through the Union. In respect of development cooperation, the European Union is one of the biggest donors in the world, providing more than half of total official development assistance (ODA). The delegation reiterates that, despite the challenges that the EU is currently facing, it remains an example of a successful integration process.
6. The Chilean delegation notes the letter sent by the British Prime Minister to the European Council on 29 March 2017 pursuant to Article 50(2) of the Treaty of the European Union, in which she declared her intention to leave the EU. The Chilean and European delegations hope that under these conditions the European Union and the United Kingdom will establish a future relationship that is fair, as close as possible and balanced in terms of rights and obligations. They trust that, in order to ensure an orderly exit of the UK from the EU, the negotiations between the two parties will be conducted in good faith and full transparency.
7. The members of both delegations note the progress being made in the process to negotiate a new, modern and ambitious Association Agreement. They also note the outcome of the work of the political and trade subgroups and the agreement reached within the subgroups on the future with regard to policies and cooperation and the market reach of the modernised Agreement. They reiterate their unwavering support for the process of modernising the Agreement to reflect the new reality in bilateral relations by ensuring a high-level political dialogue and a future-oriented perspective. Similarly, new concepts developed in global trade and investment in recent years also need to be incorporated into the new instrument.
8. Both delegations welcome the forthcoming modernisation of the EU-Chile Association Agreement and express their concern at growing trends towards protectionism in

international relations. They note the decision of the US administration to withdraw from the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), signed on 4 February 2016 in New Zealand by Chile and 11 other countries. They point out that the countries that have developed the most in recent years are those that have successfully embedded themselves in global trade networks. However, all future 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, as the new generation of mega trade agreements demands more capacity and policy consultation and greater involvement from social stakeholders. Both delegations emphasise the need for closer cooperation between Chile and the EU, two partners with shared values at a time of new uncertainty in international relations.

9. In this context, the European Parliament delegation welcomes the Chilean Government's initiative to organise the 'High-Level Dialogue on Integration Initiatives in the Asia-Pacific Region: Challenges and Opportunities' which took place on 14-15 March 2017 in Viña del Mar. That meeting brought together a total of 15 countries to reflect on the current international trade climate. Existing integration alternatives to boost free trade were analysed, taking into particular consideration the serious doubts that have recently been raised about global free trade. This multilateral dialogue, initiated by Chile on the basis that it holds the pro-tempore presidency of the Pacific Alliance, included Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, High Representatives of the Pacific Alliance Member States (Colombia, Mexico, Peru and Chile), High Representatives of the signatories of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, known as TPP (Australia, Brunei, Canada, USA, Malaysia, Japan, New Zealand, Singapore and Vietnam), and High Representatives of the People's Republic of China and from South Korea.
10. The EP delegation notes the agreement between the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Pacific Alliance and of Mercosur to develop a roadmap to step up inter-regional trade, which was concluded in Buenos Aires during the World Economic Forum on Latin America on 7 April 2017. It welcomes that the major economies of South America's Pacific and Atlantic, which includes Mexico, are coming together, an apt move in response to a world whose trade relations are increasingly changing owing to protectionist tendencies.
11. They stress that the agreement must be modernised in a manner reflecting these changes and should 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, trade defence and competition instruments. The same level of ambition should be shown in respect of targets on sustainable and inclusive development, particularly on labour rights, health and the environment, 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.
12. They insist on the importance of effectively incorporating parliamentary-level political dialogue through the JPC, and particularly its Co-Chairs, in the process of reflecting on

and participating in the modernisation of the Association Agreement to encourage debate and joint reflection by both parties' legislators. The flow of information between parliamentarians and executive authorities needs to be optimised in both Chile and the EU. They urge for negotiations to begin in the third quarter of 2017.

13. Both delegations call on the European Commission and the Chilean authorities to keep the EU-Chile JPC and JCC regularly informed of progress in the negotiations.
14. Both delegations were pleased with the outcome of the 14th meeting of the EU-Chile Association Committee, set up by way of the Association Agreement (2002) and which was held in Santiago on 31 January 2017. The representatives from Chile and the EU assessed the process of modernising the Association Agreement.
15. The European delegation notes the estimates made by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for economic growth in Chile, published on 18 April 2017. The IMF revised down Chile's growth forecasts to 1.7% for 2017, but predicted growth of 2.3% for 2018. This World Economic Outlook projection is lower than it was in January, when 2.1% growth was forecast for this year, and 2.7% for 2018. The drop is principally the result of the change in the price of raw materials.
16. The Chilean Congress delegation notes the European Commission's economic forecasts, which include GDP growth in the eurozone of 1.6% in 2017 and 1.8% in 2018. These forecasts are slightly higher than those made in autumn (2017: 1.5%, 2018: 1.7%), based on better results than expected in the second half of 2016 and a relatively strong start to 2017. GDP growth in the EU should follow a similar path. It is predicted to reach 1.8% this year and the next (autumn forecasts: 2017: 1.6%, 2018: 1.8 %). For the first time in almost a decade, it is predicted that the economies of all EU Member States will grow throughout the reference period (2016, 2017 and 2018). Both delegations note the importance of promoting inclusive economic growth and thereby creating opportunities for all sectors of the population.
17. Both delegations note the determination of Chile and the EU to continue stepping up their joint cooperation activities, which was reflected in the Memorandum of Understanding on International Cooperation signed by both parties in 2015 and in Chile's ongoing involvement in the EU's regional programmes, particularly the Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Programme, Euroclima+, a programme on citizen security and rule of law, and the third phase of the EUROsociAL+ programme. In that regard, the delegations expressed their satisfaction with the recent signing of the triangular projects, whose objectives are to hone employability skills, together with seven other Latin American countries, and to cooperate with Cuba on food security. They were also pleased with the upcoming triangular project in Central America on economic cooperation, which makes it clear that both parties are actively cooperating with each other.
18. Both delegations welcome the results of the 8th Joint Steering Committee Meeting of the Bilateral Agreement on Science and Technology between the EU and Chile, which was arranged by the European Commission and held in Brussels on 2 February 2017. The Joint Steering Committee meeting successfully explored what shape the renewed bilateral

cooperation in science and technology should take. In the light of this new impetus, both delegations welcomed the recent extension for the next five years of the bilateral agreement for scientific and technological cooperation. The European and Chilean delegations highlight the importance of relations between the two Parties in science and technology to promoting the excellence of their research, to increasing competitiveness in their industries and to tackling common and global social challenges.

19. Both delegations recognise the major developments in research and innovation (R&I) policies and programmes since the last Joint Steering Committee meeting. For the EU, being open to the world is at the centre of its R&I policies. In Chile, plans to set up a Science and Technology Ministry provide more reasons to further strengthen the country's scientific capabilities. International cooperation support policies will enable the experience of the EU and other CELAC countries to be brought to bear to consolidate national R&I policies and systems, and should therefore be implemented to support this initiative. The European delegation encourages Chile's involvement in the Innovation Mission as a strategic area for cooperation regarding R&I for renewable energies.
20. On climate change, the delegations reaffirm their strong commitment to the Paris Climate Agreement signed by 195 countries in December 2015 and which 143 countries, including the USA, have already ratified or accepted. They welcome the entry into force of the agreement of 4 November 2016, 30 days after the date on which at least 55 parties to the Convention accounting in total for at least an estimated 55% of global greenhouse gas emissions deposited their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession. The delegations are pleased with the EU's ratification of the climate agreement on 5 October 2016 and Chile's ratification on 10 February 2017. They call for all signatories to uphold this legally binding agreement which paves the way for a transition to a low-carbon economy and is intended to reduce global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. Both delegations fully support the Marrakech Action Proclamation, signed on 17 November 2016 at the 22nd session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP22). The Proclamation reaffirms the global commitment to combat climate change and to help cope with the impact of climate change. They call on the EU, its Member States and Chile to step up cooperation in the relevant international forums with a view to establishing an ambitious climate programme, particularly in the transport sector.
21. Both delegations emphasise the importance of ambitiously implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, unanimously adopted by the UN's 193 Member States on 25 September 2015. Over the next 15 years, the countries will take measures to end all forms of inequality and to tackle climate change, whilst ensuring that nobody is left behind. The delegations call for the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to be included in policies at all levels of government: national, regional and local. They call for close cooperation between Chile, the EU and its Member States as they decide how to implement the SDGs by means of exchanging best practices and peer review. National and regional government, civil society, the private sector, the academic world and citizens must take part in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. The both reiterate the commitments made as part of UN Resolution 64/292, particularly the obligation to provide safe, clean, accessible and affordable drinking water and for all, and acknowledge that failure to do so could give rise to social and environmental conflicts.

22. Both delegations note the 7th EU-Chile Human Rights Dialogue, which took place in Santiago on 12 December 2016. The meeting was an opportunity for discussions on the progress made and the challenges that face both Chile and Europe, and good practices and future areas of work to be carried out by both parties were also identified. It provided further proof of the excellent cooperation on human rights between the Chilean Government and the EU, bilaterally, multilaterally, globally and regionally. In the context of the promotion and defence of human rights, cooperation of that kind constitutes a key instrument for the efficient and successful implementation of the SDGs. Both delegations also reaffirm their commitment to upholding the principles underlying freedom of thought and stress that they are crucial to democratic societies.
23. Both delegations reaffirm their commitment to true gender equality in all areas of economic, social and political life. In this regard, they welcome the opening of a ‘Gender Dialogue’ and the EU’s decision to run a training programme in the first quarter of 2017, as part of the EuroSocial programme, for civil servants with a view to promoting the implementation of public policies on gender.
24. Both delegations welcome the outcome of the 10th EU- CELAC High-Level Meeting on Migration, which took place in Santiago on 10-11 November 2016. The main topic of the meeting was the analysis and development of the different aspects of migration between both regions, which will lead to the creation of a roadmap, and the elements on migration included in the EU-CELAC Action Plan. The delegations recognised what had been achieved, especially taking into consideration that it was the first meeting of its kind in Latin America.
25. The European and Chilean delegations reaffirmed their commitment to taking a holistic view of international migration with a human rights focus, a view which rejects the criminalisation of irregular migration, and all forms of racism, xenophobia and discrimination towards migrants. They also recognise the contribution made by migrants to countries of origin and destination and reaffirm their commitment to promoting orderly, regular and safe migration.
26. The members of the EP delegation are pleased that, on 2 July and 19 November 2017, Chileans resident abroad will, for the first time in the country’s history, be able to vote in presidential elections, as a result of a law passed by the Chamber of Deputies which regulates the votes of Chileans abroad for presidential elections and national referendums, in accordance with the 2014 constitutional reform.
27. 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 and 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.

28. Both delegations reiterate their wish to revise the Joint Parliamentary Committee's Rules of Procedure with a view to holding two annual joint meetings, as it has been doing since its creation. 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. They also hope that the modernised Association Agreement will take this need into consideration.
29. The delegations agree to hold their next meeting in Chile, in the first half of 2018.

Signed in Brussels, on 4 May 2017.

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

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

**Constanze Krehl
Chair**

**Isabel Allende
Chair**