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*EU-Chile Joint Parliamentary Committee*

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## **Joint declaration**

### **25th Meeting of the European Parliament-National Congress of Chile Joint Parliamentary Committee**

**Monday, 22 January 2018**

**Santiago, Chile**

The Members of the National Congress of Chile and the European Parliament participating in the EU-Chile Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) headed by the Co-Chairs, Senator Isabel **ALLENDE** and Constanze **KREHL** MEP, on completion of the work of the 25th JPC meeting 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 25th joint meeting, the Members of the National Congress of Chile and the European Parliament, expressing their satisfaction with the outcome achieved in this forum for discussion and exchanges of views on issues of mutual interest, contributing to the strengthening, vitalising and deepening of the interparliamentary links between Chile and the European Union, and highlighting the scheduling of such meetings on a regular and ongoing basis, hereby:
2. Welcome the benefits accruing from the Association Agreement for the more than 14 years it has been in existence, considering it to be the key tool for the development of political, economic and trade relations and

closer cooperation, and reiterate their commitment to consolidating the Agreement through this ongoing process of modernisation;

3. Underline the constructive approach and the spirit of fruitful dialogue that have prevailed during the initial rounds of negotiations on the modernisation of the Association Agreement, encompassing new topics in this type of agreement, such as investment, non-tariff barriers and intellectual property rights;
4. Stress that there is consensus on the need to include among the trade-related topics relating to the modernisation of the Agreement new subject areas such as environmental and labour issues, as well as the role of SMEs in trade, together with gender policy in the context of international trade,
5. Both delegations believe that a modernised trade pillar must seek to promote trade on the basis of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation (ATF), a greater exchange of information and best practices, clear rules of origin, better access to markets for goods, services and investment (including public procurement), a high level of protection for investment and intellectual property rights, greater economic integration, stronger competitiveness, the reduction and elimination of unnecessary non-tariff measures and barriers, transparency, regulatory cooperation (encompassing sanitary and plant health measures to protect consumer safety and public health) and better administrative practices to ensure more coherent regulatory provisions; it should also address matters of concern to all companies, such as mergers and the protection of competition, as well as measures to combat tax evasion, money laundering and corruption, facilitate the movement of goods and improve cooperation between customs authorities;
6. Take note of the results of the first round of negotiations on the trade provisions of the Santiago Agreement held on 15-17 January, which should be followed by rapid progress in the negotiations on political dialogue and cooperation on 1 and 2 February; urge the teams responsible for the introductory talks to set a rapid pace and work effectively with a view to concluding negotiations on the modernisation of the Agreement by next July at the latest; stress that this would facilitate swift ratification by the Congress of the Republic of Chile and the European Parliament, making the updated Association Agreement a model of trade liberalisation, of

which Chile and the European Union are two of the strongest advocates, against the current wave of trade protectionism and isolationism that is to the detriment of all;

7. Call for attention to be focused as soon as possible on what are potentially highly complex issues relating to matters such as public procurement and designations of origin, as well as the dispute settlement mechanism under the future Agreement, which should be clearly established as a public procedure taking place before the courts of the parties involved, so as to ensure full legal certainty in the interests of all concerned and compliance with their legal traditions;
8. Call on government negotiators to make proposals for modernisation the field of cooperation, leading to the creation of innovative mechanisms that make it possible to widen the scope of the triangular cooperation established by Chile and the European Union in Central America and the Caribbean;
9. Express their willingness to cooperate with those engaged in negotiations on political modernisation through effective support for multilateralism, free trade and the reaffirmation of shared values such as democracy, human rights and good governance set out in the UN Charter, thereby underpinning a privileged strategic partnership through ongoing dialogue and more effective interinstitutional cooperation;
10. Recognise the successful conclusion of the human rights dialogue between the European Union and Chile on 13 December 2017, with the participation of several bodies dealing with human rights policy from the executive branch of government, during which the progress made and the challenges arising in the different areas were reviewed and the possibilities of closer cooperation for the protection and promotion of human dignity in multilateral organisations were assessed; support the institutional strengthening of human rights, good practices and exchanges of experience regarding the rights of women and vulnerable groups;
11. Highlight the importance of the Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Chile with regard to sustainable development, which will allow for structured dialogue on a circular economy, green growth, climate change, sustainable production and consumption, waste management, environmental inspections and measures to promote recycling;

12. Take note of progress made in the ongoing initial negotiations on the UK's exit from the European Union and the willingness of both sides to strike a deal that will be of mutual benefit in institutional, judicial, economic and trade terms;
13. Welcome the conclusion of the impeccably conducted presidential and legislative elections that were held in Chile in November and December 2017, providing an example of respect for democratic practices and for the rule of law;
14. Agree that one of the key factors for achieving stronger and deeper ties between the European Union and Chile must be academic cooperation and mobility as a tool for fostering the modernisation, accessibility and internationalisation of education; therefore consider it desirable to foster academic dialogue in a bid to encourage pre-school education, through the organisation of exchange visits and the sharing of experiences and good practices, with high quality standards being set for basic, intermediate and higher education, vocational training, the acquisition of qualifications and lifelong learning; agree also to promote access for Chile to training and education programmes such as Erasmus, so as to promote vocational training, work experience and top-up training for the acquisition of skills in technical areas, engineering, teaching and associated fields, innovation and entrepreneurship;
15. Concur on the importance for bilateral relations of more in-depth cooperation in the field of energy, through bilateral agreements on the promotion of affordable, modern and sustainable energy to foster sustainable development and help to achieve the Agenda 2030 objectives;
16. Reaffirm their strong commitment to cooperation and the efficient exchange of information within the international bodies responsible to promote and follow up all judicial, political and administrative initiatives seeking to prevent and combat tax evasion, tax avoidance and tax fraud, focusing in particular on low tax jurisdictions;

### **Final considerations**

17. Agree to forward this declaration to the members of the Association Council, reiterating their request for the JPC Co-Chairs to be invited to

attend its future meetings as observers and be able to express their positions in discussions on modernising the Global Agreement and call for the JPC to be involved on a more regular basis in monitoring the implementation and modernisation of the Association Agreement;

18. Reiterate their call, in the interest of strengthened and inclusive parliamentary scrutiny, for the institutional framework of the renewed Global Agreement to specifically incorporate a six-monthly parliamentary dialogue, with particular reference to their interaction with the Joint Council and Joint Committee, with a view for the JPC to contribute effectively to implementing the EU-Chile Association Agreement following its modernisation;
19. Emphasise also that the legal framework for modernisation of the Global Agreement must include the establishment of an institutionalised mechanism for political dialogue with European and Chilean NGOs in order to monitor the Agreement;
20. Reaffirm the importance of including an appropriate mechanism in the form of a cooperation subcommittee to coordinate and monitor sustainable development cooperation between Chile and the European Union;
21. Ask the Government of the Republic of Chile and the European Commission to provide regular updates to the EU-Chile Joint Parliamentary Committee on the progress made in negotiations on the modernisation of the Association Agreement, which should be concluded no later than July this year;
22. Agree to hold the 26th JPC meeting in May 2018 in Brussels.

Signed at Santiago, Chile, on 22 January 2018.

Delegation of the European Parliament

Delegation of the National  
Congress of Chile

Constanze Krehl  
Co-Chair

Pablo Lorenzini Basso  
Co-Chair