



EU-Chile Joint Parliamentary Committee

Joint Declaration

23rd Meeting of the European Parliament-National Congress of Chile Joint Parliamentary Committee

Thursday, 3 November 2016

Santiago, Chile

The delegations of the National Congress of Chile and the European Parliament, comprising the European Union-Chile Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC), headed by the Co-Chairs, Mr Pablo LORENZINI, Member of Congress, and Ms Constanze KREHL MEP, pursuant to the Rules of Procedure of the JPC and Article 9 of the EU-Chile Association Agreement, signed in 2002, at the conclusion of the work of the 23rd meeting of the JPC, hereby agree the following:

JOINT DECLARATION

1. The delegations of the National Congress of Chile and the European Parliament, who have so far held 23 joint meetings, express their satisfaction that two meetings of the Joint Parliamentary Committee were held this year. They therefore assert the contribution of the JPC as a forum for discussion and exchange of views on issues of mutual interest in order to strengthen the inter-parliamentary links between Chile and the European Union (EU);
2. Both delegations welcome the progress achieved in bilateral relations at all levels since the entry into force of the Association Agreement. They stress the political harmony between Chile and the EU in facing challenges on the global agenda of multilateral institutions, as well as the dynamism of mutually beneficial trade exchanges and the opportunities for cooperation that have arisen between the two Parties. They reiterate, once again, the pressing need to disseminate the contents of and opportunities resulting from the Association Agreement so that they can benefit all citizens as well as the entrepreneurs and SMEs that create many jobs in the EU and Chile;

3. Both parliamentary delegations welcome the new Head of the EU Delegation to Chile, Ambassador Stella Zervoudaki, and wish her every success in her functions which began in September. They also congratulate her predecessor, Ambassador Rafael Dochao Moreno, and Ambassador Carlos Appelgren, Ambassador of Chile to the EU for seven years, for their excellent work;
4. Both parliamentary delegations view positively the contribution of the 23rd meeting of the Association Committee and the recent first meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee. These are two important milestones in driving the process of modernising the Association Agreement;
5. The European and Chilean delegations express their great satisfaction that, more than 13 years after the entry into force of the Agreement, the Joint Consultative Committee has been formed. The Committee brings together economic and social organisations from both Parties and held its first meeting one month ago in Santiago de Chile. Undoubtedly, this body will promote dialogue and cooperation, encouraging citizen participation in monitoring the implementation and evaluation of the Association Agreement; Both Parties reaffirm their close cooperation for the future;
6. The members of both delegations reiterate their firm commitment to the process of modernising the Agreement under the mandate of the Sixth EU-Chile Association Council meeting held in April 2015. As established therein, the process should encompass all spheres in order to adapt them to the new realities of the bilateral relationship in a balanced way. They hope that the fourteenth meeting of the Association Committee, as well as the meetings of the special committees for trade negotiations, will result in progress that will facilitate the inclusion of new themes in the areas of trade and investment. They also stress the importance of European citizens having had an opportunity to participate in the Public Consultation on modernising the trade pillar which ended on 31 August 2016 and hope that the opinions expressed will be included in the impact assessment being prepared by the European Commission; However, the European and Chilean delegations stress the need to promote, in both Parties, greater transparency and greater dissemination of information regarding the Agreements in order to promote more inclusive participation throughout the process of designing, negotiating and evaluating the Agreements; They hope that negotiations will begin in the first quarter of 2017;
7. Both delegations also strongly encourage the establishment of a new cooperation framework between the partners focussed on areas of mutual interest and benefit. In particular, they reiterate their belief that this framework should include areas such as the environment, climate change, energy, science, SMEs, raw materials, space policy, technology and innovation, corporate social responsibility, gender perspective and human rights, among others. They also stress the need to continue cooperating within the framework of the regional programmes of the EU and to continue working jointly on triangular cooperation initiatives for the benefit of third countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. They urge the EU and Chile to continue making progress towards the development of a Roadmap and to conclude this process swiftly in order to give fresh impetus to cooperation between both parties;

8. Both delegations emphasise the importance of having modern and internationally connected higher education systems and affirm the importance of ensuring that these systems are accessible and inclusive in order to have highly qualified human capital in the context of the requirements of the information and knowledge society. With this in mind, they urge the competent authorities to continue on the path established by the Sixth Association Council by promoting cooperation between the higher education institutes of both Parties, encouraging academic mobility of students, lecturers and researchers through initiatives such as Erasmus + in its international extracommunity dimension and the Marie-Sklodowska Curie actions, among others, as well as by developing joint programmes through Erasmus Mundus Masters Courses and Erasmus + capacity-building projects;
9. The delegations recognise the cooperation opportunities provided by the “Open to the World” Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. The Parties emphasise the importance of fully implementing the EU-Chile Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement as a mechanism for continuing the wide-reaching collaboration between the Parties in various science, technology and innovation initiatives which is reflected in for example, the growing participation of Chilean researchers in European Framework Programmes. The Parties view with interest the holding of the eighth meeting of the Steering Committee on Scientific and Technical Cooperation which will take place on 2 February 2017 in Brussels. Both Parties also reiterate their commitment to strengthen regional cooperation in the context of the Joint Initiative on Research and Innovation and through the EU-CELAC Common Research Area;
10. The European and Chilean delegations reaffirm their commitment to effective equality between women and men in all areas of economic, political and social life, alongside an equitable distribution of domestic responsibilities. This necessarily requires, among other measures, promoting active policies to improve the employability of women and providing accessible public support services for caring for dependents. They urge the respective authorities to continue making legislative and political advances, such as those mentioned in this sphere, while bearing in mind the need to conduct education campaigns to contribute to the profound cultural changes required to achieve gender equality. With this in mind, both delegations reiterate their commitment to promote the inclusion of the gender perspective in all areas of the Association Agreement;
11. The European Parliament delegation notes that the growth estimates for the Chilean economy, while having been lowered, continue to exceed the regional average in Latin America. In this context, it welcomes the fact that Chile will achieve growth of 1.7 % in 2016, at a time when regional GDP is contracting and the global situation regarding the price of raw materials remains unfavourable. It recognises that a robust economic policy, a level of indebtedness which remains reasonable and prudent macroeconomic management are assets which augur well for solid and sustainable economic growth, in the short, medium and long term; This growth must create well-being for all and foster employment as a basis for creating wealth in society;
12. The European delegation also welcomes the reforms adopted by Chile in the areas of education, probity and public funding of political activity, electoral legislation and the launching of a process of participatory reflection on constitutional reform. It believes that these are initiatives which will contribute to the development of a democratic and connected

society, especially if channels for broad and inclusive dialogue in defining their general orientation are strengthened. It stresses the importance of continuing efforts in this regard;

13. The Chilean delegation takes note of the result of the referendum on 23 June in which the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union - commonly known as 'Brexit'. It also takes note of the comments by the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, Theresa May, to the effect that the process to negotiate 'Brexit' will begin in March 2017 with a view to leaving the EU around 2019. However, it notes with concern that the consequences of this decision will be long term and uncertain since they will affect trade and financial flows between the United Kingdom and the European Union, and will probably have an impact on economic growth more immediately. It expresses its concern at the way in which the negotiated exit of the United Kingdom will take place and what the framework for institutional and trade agreements between the UK and the EU will be since this will also affect the relationship between Chile and the United Kingdom, currently framed by the Association Agreement with the EU;
14. The Chilean delegation welcomes the fact that, in a complex economic environment subject to much uncertainty, such as that resulting from the UK referendum, the European economy continues to recover. Indeed, recent projections are slightly more optimistic as they estimate that growth will reach 1.7 % in 2016. It is hoped that this can contribute to a gradual reduction in the levels of unemployment and inequality reached in the wake of the crisis;
15. Both delegations condemn in the strongest possible terms the terrorist attacks which have taken place frequently in recent months in various European cities and express their solidarity with the victims, relatives and countries affected. They reiterate that these acts are a real threat to the shared values of liberty, fundamental rights and human dignity. Both delegations are in favour of strengthening cooperation, between both Parties and globally, in the fight against terrorism and violence resulting from all forms of extremism;
16. The Chilean and European delegations remain vigilant after the No vote in the referendum on the peace process in Colombia. They hope all Parties involved will come together and find a path to a lasting peace and peaceful and fair democratic co-existence for all Colombians. They urge Chile and the EU to continue offering collaboration and robust support to the peace process in Colombia as a further manifestation of their common commitment to resolving conflict by peaceful means;
17. Both delegations take note of the holding of the 10th EU-CELAC High-Level Meeting, under the theme: 'Towards Migration Governance', in Santiago de Chile and, in this context, reiterate their commitment to deepening bi-regional cooperation in this area. They agree on the need for a pluri-dimensional approach and increased consistency in policies to foster the positive contribution of migration to the economic, social and cultural development of societies of origin and destination and to the overall well-being of people. This involves considering policies in various areas such as social inclusion, employment, health and education; strengthening migration management on the basis of shared responsibility with strict respect for human rights and the principle of non-criminalisation of migrants; developing education and awareness-raising programmes to foster pluralism and social tolerance and paying particular attention to children and the most vulnerable who are at risk of poverty and exclusion;

18. Both delegations reaffirm their commitment to cooperation in international fora to promote legal and political initiatives that can help prevent tax avoidance, tax evasion and tax fraud, including by those who use the permissive legislation of certain tax jurisdictions ('tax havens');
19. The Chilean and European delegations stress the importance of the criteria for cooperation established by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, agreed by the Member States of the United Nations, and reiterate the need to update the elements used by the World Bank and the OECD to measure development so that they are adapted to this Agenda. They also welcome the initiative of the government of Chile to establish the National Council for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda to coordinate the various governmental agencies, the private sector and civil society in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals as well as the initiative to craft its International Development Cooperation Policy and Strategy with the objective of meeting the challenges of the 2030 Agenda; Particular attention must be devoted to migration flows;
20. The delegations note with satisfaction that the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, the first legally binding agreement setting forth commitments by developed and developing states, has been signed by 190 states, including Chile and the European Union. They also welcome the fact that the Agreement will enter into force imminently since 77 ratifications, including that of the EU, have been received, and these countries account for a percentage of global greenhouse gas emissions which is on the verge of exceeding the 55 % required. Both delegations trust that the Agreement will enter into force before the COP 22 which will take place in Marrakesh (Morocco) in November 2016 and hope that countries which have not yet ratified the Agreement, including Chile, can complete the process as soon as possible. They urge the EU and Chile to strengthen their cooperation in international fora on the basis of respect for the principle of common responsibilities in particular during the COP 22. Lastly, the entry into force will not in itself result in the transformation needed. The Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) must translate into direct policies and measures in all sectors of the economy through swift action by legislative and executive authorities;
21. In this context, both delegations reiterate their belief that there are significant opportunities for cooperation in implementing the Nationally Determined Contributions reported by the Parties for mutual benefit in the area of energy, helping to ensure a stable energy supply, which is reasonably priced and environmentally sustainable. To this end, they are committed to exploring joint initiatives which will foster exchange of good practices as well as the transfer of technology and know-how for the development of non-conventional renewable energy and to improve energy efficiency in Chile and the EU;
22. The delegation of the European Parliament recognises Chile's performance in the global concert of nations, in particular in various international fora and its contribution to stability, peace and respect for International Law. It also emphasises the convergence of the positions of Chile and the EU in promoting effective multilateralism, respect for human rights and the peaceful resolution of conflicts. In this regard, it highly values the contribution of Chilean troops to the success of the EUFOR ALTHEA operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the contribution which Chile can make through sending civilian components to EU crisis

management operations under the Framework Agreement on Participation in Crisis Management which has been adopted by both partners; Both Parties view with concern the deterioration of respect for human rights in Europe;

23. Both Parties call on 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;
24. 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;
25. The delegations 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 of the Association Agreement on a more regular basis;
26. The delegations agree that the 24th meeting of the JPC will be held in Brussels in the first half of 2017, on 24 and 25 April 2017.

Signed at Santiago, Chile, on 3 November 2016.

European Parliament Delegation to the
EU-Chile Joint Parliamentary
Committee

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

Constanze Krehl
Chair

Pablo Lorenzini
Chair