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*EU-Chile Joint Parliamentary Committee*

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## **Joint declaration**

**XXVI<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the European Parliament-National Congress of Chile  
Joint Parliamentary Committee**

**Tuesday, 26 June 2018**

**Brussels**

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, Pablo **LORENZINI**, Member of the National Congress of Chile, and Constanze **KREHL**, Member of the European Parliament, on completion of the work of the 26th 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. The members of the National Congress of Chile and the European Parliament welcome the high degree of cooperation, cordiality and mutual respect which characterised the meetings of the JPC, established on the basis of frank dialogue, shared values and convergence of views on issues of regional and global interest, such as democracy and human rights, governance, trade relations, the environment, security and sustainable development;
2. The European Parliament representatives in the JPC congratulate Sebastián Piñera on his inauguration, on 11 March 2018, as the new President of the Republic of Chile; welcome the fact that this appointment crowned an impeccable

electoral process conducted in the framework of absolute democratic normality, which is already standard in Chilean political life and which is an example of respect for the rule of law and democratic principles;

3. The European Parliament representatives in the JPC wish President Piñera, his government and the members of both chambers of the Chilean Parliament every success in the performance of their duties, and hope that this will lead to faster and inclusive economic and social development in the country;

4. Both sides express their expectations of favourable developments in the economic situation in Chile and the European Union, and expect both partners to implement policies to promote sustainable and inclusive growth, paying particular attention to the full integration of women into the labour market and the fight against economic and social inequalities, as well as the development of the most vulnerable groups;

5. Express their deep concern at the return of some countries to a protectionist trade policy, as seen, for example, in the United States' imposition of high tariffs on certain exports by trade partners, and at the risk that maintaining such a policy may lead to a trade war;

6. Proclaim their commitment to free and fair trade based on equality between the parties, legal certainty and respect for WTO rules and internationally agreed labour and environmental standards; in this regard, welcome the trade agreements with third parties which both the European Union and Chile have recently concluded, as well as the negotiation processes that are taking place;

7. Welcome the progress made in the negotiations on modernising the Chile-EU Association Agreement, and in particular the results achieved in the third round on the trade and political pillars; call on the negotiating parties to maintain the negotiating momentum, with the aim of achieving a final agreement;

8. Recall the major contribution of the 2002 Association Agreement in strengthening relations between Chile and the European Union at all levels; stress the importance of modernising and extending the scope of the Agreement to reflect the deepening of relations between the European Union and Chile and to bring it into line with the current political, economic, financial and trade framework; stress also the need for the modernised Agreement to be in line with the objectives of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals and to contribute to their achievement;

9. Call for the modernised Association Agreement to be innovative, ambitious and balanced, so that the benefits are reaped not only by businesses of all sizes but also by citizens, as this will contribute significantly to its social acceptance;

10. Reiterate their recommendations set out in the Joint Declaration of 22 January 2018 on the institutional structure of the modernised Chile-EU Association Agreement. In particular, stress the need for the Co-Chairs of the EU-Chile JPC to be invited to participate as observers in future negotiating rounds and to express their position on the negotiations on the modernisation of the Agreement; reiterate also that provision should be made for an effective institutional structure for implementing and monitoring the Agreement in which the Association Parliamentary Committee is called upon to play a key role in ensuring the transparency and legitimacy of the Agreement; in this regard, reiterate the need for the Agreement to expressly provide for biannual meetings of the Association Parliamentary Committee for it to fully exercise its powers of political scrutiny, and for that body to enjoy a privileged dialogue with the Association Council and the Association Committee;

11. Consider also that the negotiation and implementation of the modernised Chile-EU Association Agreement should provide for proper representation and participation of the social partners and representatives of civil society, as an expression of the pluralism of societies in Chile and the European Union, and that for this purpose the Joint Consultative Committee set up less than two years ago should be strengthened;

12. State the need to give new impetus to the protection, promotion and effective exercise of women's rights, both in the European Union and in Chile, as well as in the rest of the world; call for the ratification without reservation and effective implementation of the principal international conventions on the protection of women's rights, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol, as well as the strategic objectives and measures for the advancement of women and the achievement of gender equality set out in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

13. Recall that in Latin America, poverty and violence affect women disproportionately and have a negative impact on other rights, such as access to health services and education, employment and ownership;

14. Undertake, therefore, to cooperate towards the achievement of the United Nations Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality through internal and external policies which take into account the gender

dimension, facilitate women's full and effective participation and equality of leadership opportunities in the political, educational, economic and public spheres and help to end all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls;

15. Welcome, in this context, the recent adoption of measures in the European Union and Chile in favour of gender equality, such as Chile's accession to the UNDP regional initiative to adopt the 'Gender Equality Seal', which aims to achieve equality in enterprises, or the implementation of the European Union Gender Action Plan 2016-2020 (Action Plan II) and the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative;

16. Express also their satisfaction at the inclusion in the modernised Association Agreement of a specific chapter dedicated to trade, gender equality and women's empowerment and hope that this will help women fully benefit from the positive effects of the Association Agreement;

17. Note with interest the emergence and growing use of virtual currencies and their great potential to transform current financial and trading practices; note also both the capacity of virtual currencies to contribute positively to citizens' well-being and economic development, in particular through faster, more efficient and simpler procedures and reduced costs, and the risks that their use may entail owing to insufficient legal protection for users, as well as their volatility and possible use for speculative or criminal purposes;

18. Highlight the lack of harmonised standards at international level to regulate the use of virtual currencies; call on the monetary authorities and central banks to monitor the development of these currencies in order to better understand their impact on the economy and society and to propose principles of good practice or a robust legal framework in this area if necessary; consider that any regulation of virtual currencies should be sufficiently balanced so as to anticipate and avoid risks without impeding innovation;

19. Call for guidelines to be developed to provide precise, clear and complete information to users of virtual currencies, as consumer information and transparency are essential for building confidence in the use of virtual currencies; call also for due attention to be paid to respect for individual privacy in the handling of virtual currencies while preventing such privacy from encouraging their use for money laundering, fraud and corruption or any other criminal activity;

20. Stress the development in the business sector of new technologies such as blockchain, which are emerging alongside the development of virtual currencies

and which, like virtual currencies, have a great potential to transform the real economy in the long term without necessarily having the same risks or advantages as virtual currencies;

21. Note the planned withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union on 29 March 2019; highlight the uncertainties which still surround the withdrawal and the potential negative effect that these uncertainties can have both for the bilateral relationship between the United Kingdom and the European Union as well as for the relationship between the United Kingdom and Chile; want the European Union and the United Kingdom to reach a withdrawal agreement as soon as possible that clearly and precisely regulates the future framework of relations between the two blocs;

22. Welcome the entry into force in the European Union of the Data Protection Regulation, in particular in the light of recent scandals concerning the trafficking of personal data, and consider that the Regulation can be a reference for other countries and regions; reaffirm the right of individuals to have control over their personal data and consider that, except in cases expressly excluded by law, the entities which collect, process and transfer personal data must do so with the express, prior and informed consent of the data subject and in accordance with the criteria of transparency, proportionality, protection of data confidentiality and accountability;

23. Welcome the organisation of joint EU-Chile activities on data protection, such as the meeting of national and international data protection experts on 25 May in Santiago de Chile to analyse the current situation and outstanding data protection challenges in Latin America; hope that this collaboration will continue and intensify in the future;

24. Stress the contribution of the JPC to the consolidation and deepening of inter-parliamentary ties between Chile and the European Union and the need to maintain the continuity and frequency of its meetings; agree, therefore, to organise the 27th meeting of the EU-Chile Joint Parliamentary Committee in the first quarter of 2019 in Brussels.

Signed in Brussels, 26 June 2018.

European Parliament Delegation to  
the EU-Chile Joint Parliamentary  
Committee

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

Constanze Krehl,  
Co-Chair

Pablo Lorenzini Basso,  
Co-Chair