



Asamblea Parlamentaria Euro-Latinoamericana  
Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly  
Assemblée Parlementaire Euro-Latino Américaine  
Assembleia Parlamentar Euro-Latino-Americana  
Parlamentarische Versammlung Europa-Lateinamerika

**COMMUNIQUÉ BY THE CO-PRESIDENCY OF THE EURO-LATIN  
AMERICAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (EUROLAT) ON ITS  
PARTICIPATION IN THE INFORMAL MEETING OF THE FOREIGN  
MINISTERS OF EU-27 AND LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN  
(LAC)**

**14 DECEMBER 2020**

On the occasion of our participation as observers in the informal meeting of the Foreign Affairs Ministers of the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), organised physically and virtually in Berlin on 14 December by the EU High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy and the German Presidency of the Council, we hereby state the following:

The Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly (EuroLat) Co-Presidents endorse the conclusions of the deliberations of the Foreign Affairs Ministers of the EU-27 and LAC, which call for post-COVID-19 relations between our regions to take the form of a reinforced, innovative partnership based on common interests and values to pave the way for a sustainable and inclusive economic recovery, bringing digital technologies to bear for the benefit of all, and with a view to meeting the challenges of climate change.

We applaud and endorse the call from the High Representative and the CELAC Presidency to hold a bi-regional EU-CELAC Summit during 2021 to bring fresh impetus to the high-level dialogue which has been suspended since 2015, and for this dialogue to be fleshed out with meaningful content. We also welcome the recognition of our Partnership's parliamentary dimension, particularly the EuroLat Parliamentary Assembly and its work.

We are convinced that the post-COVID-19 reconstruction of our societies and economies must entail a true green transition that will create jobs, encourage circular economy models and facilitate the process of decarbonising our economies. We are pleased to have heard at today's meeting a strong commitment by to the Paris Agreement by Ministers and a willingness to find avenues for cooperation between the two regions to lend mutual support with a view to achieving our objectives more swiftly.

We consider the future strategic digital partnerships between the EU and LAC, which have been discussed at this meeting, to be a major step towards a common and coordinated international response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to offer new opportunities for our societies to promote more effective economic integration and a digital economy that benefits all citizens. We also believe it essential for the partnerships to be grounded in clear competition rules and standards that apply to other sectors, for them to enable the most to be made of the digital transition's opportunities for citizens, businesses and public services, and for them to safeguard fundamental rights and freedoms. A digital environment conducive to free competition between companies is the best way to ensure the inclusion of all citizens.

We also hope that strengthening the digital dimension will have benefits for the health-care sector by helping improve health equipment and, thereby, making medical services more efficient.

We underline the importance of improving education and ensuring effective and universal access to it, representing as it does the driving force for social progress and the basis for effecting the necessary digital and green transitions that our continents must address.

We stress the need to promote financial stability and access to finance with a view to avoiding an escalation or worsening of the economic crisis caused by the pandemic. Similarly, the serious problem of debt needs to be addressed so that all countries have the necessary resources to combat COVID-19. It will be essential that access to financial assistance is not determined by the sole yardstick of per capita income. The economic crisis is having devastating effects across the board, and all countries will need assistance in recovering from the social setback the crisis has caused.

We reiterate that rebuilding and responding to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic requires a strategy and close multilateral coordination and cooperation between the entire international community. We believe that supplying the COVID-19 vaccine is a priority, we welcome the fact that some countries have begun distributing it, we call for an accessible, universal and free vaccine to be guaranteed for every human being and we stress the importance of devising vaccination strategies, with due consideration for the challenges and vulnerabilities of both regions, especially the poorest parts of Latin America and the Caribbean.