



**Declaration of the Co-Presidents of
the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly (EuroLat) on
‘A just, inclusive and peaceful economic recovery’**

The Co-Presidents of the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly (EuroLat), Óscar Darío Pérez, Member of the Colombian House of Representatives and Andean Parliament, and Javi López, Member of the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 18 of the Assembly’s Rules of Procedure and on the occasion of the Fourteenth Ordinary Plenary Session held on 11-14 April 2022 in Buenos Aires, Argentina, hereby:

1. Welcome the virtual meeting held on 2 December 2021 between the leaders of the European Union (EU) and Latin America and the Caribbean under the slogan ‘Joining forces for a sustainable post-COVID recovery’, which has given renewed impetus to revitalising and strengthening dialogue and cooperation between the two regions. Emphasise support for the production and distribution of vaccines in Latin America and the Caribbean, the mobilisation of funding to support a long-term recovery and designation of the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss as an absolute priority for both regions.
2. Insist that this should be a step towards a full resumption of top-level political dialogue between the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean. Accordingly reiterate their call for an EU-CELAC bi-regional summit to be organised as soon as circumstances allow, setting out the objectives, priorities and a strategy to tackle common challenges, accompanied by a specific action plan.
3. Recognise the significant progress made in coronavirus vaccination and efforts to move forward on the path of economic recovery and recall that strengthening bi-regional cooperation is crucial when it comes to adopting a joint approach to the challenges arising in a climate of international uncertainty and the effects of the measures taken to tackle the pandemic, especially in the face of fiscal shocks and rising public debt, which are restricting the ability of many countries to pursue policies designed to stimulate an inclusive recovery.
4. Emphasise that the pandemic has exacerbated the problems of poverty and extreme poverty, having the greatest impact on women and children and on indigenous peoples and communities, with many lasting effects that may hamper sustainable economic and social development in the longer term. Insist, therefore, that it is essential to ensure

comprehensive post-pandemic economic and social recovery, making progress towards achieving the conditions for a social transition, ensuring a fair and inclusive green and digital transition, accompanied by a level of prosperity that also helps to reduce inequality and eradicate poverty in all its forms, ensuring higher levels of social inclusion and cohesion, increasing well-being, security, equality before the law, encouraging job creation and seeking to overcome unemployment and employment informality. Call for special emphasis to be placed on access to education for children, which has been disrupted during the pandemic and has particularly affected those who have not had access to the Internet. Likewise, urge the governments of both regions to push for the exceptional and temporary lifting of patents for vaccines and medicines to treat COVID-19.

5. Call for policies designed to achieve recovery through strategies to boost productivity, economic growth, competitiveness, international trade, entrepreneurship and the business activity, investments, quality employment and sustainability, which promote and strengthen universal social protection systems, foster the formalisation of the economy and seek to consolidate sound and sustainable public finance with effective redistribution and collection capacity.
6. Stress the need to strengthen bi-regional cooperation and design new bi-regional cooperation programmes under the EU Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument - Global Europe, working on the new EU-LAC regional programmes, building on the existing cooperation and dialogue framework to contribute to social cohesion. These programmes must be focused on the reduction of inequalities and a fair approach to addressing transitions, through inclusive public policies and the strengthening of institutional capacities and the rule of law, guaranteeing access to high quality and caring education (relationship and commitment of the teacher with the student), digital transformation and universal health care infrastructures and achievement of other key targets in the reduction of poverty and inequalities and the strengthening of social cohesion.
7. Underline the fact that the pandemic has exacerbated the problems of gender violence and that it is necessary to promote structural measures to achieve greater inclusion for women and girls, defending and promoting their rights and encouraging gender equality, as central elements of economic and social recovery policies. Call on the governments of both regions to implement measures that promote women's economic security, including measures to give them a firmer foothold on the labour market, reducing the gender pay gap and recognising the value of domestic work. Similarly, call for access to justice for victims of gender-based violence and femicide to be ensured, stepping up efforts and resources to prevent this scourge. Urge that action also be taken to promote the equal participation of women in political decision-making institutions and processes, at local, national and international level. In order to achieve these objectives, it is necessary that international, multilateral and bilateral credit bodies, as well as the States with which the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have foreign debt, consider establishing policies to exchange or replace all or part of this debt with development and social investment projects.

8. Stress that recovery must help boost the transition to renewable energy sources, creating new investment and employment opportunities in line with the situation on the ground in each country, while ensuring the availability of resources, energy security and the conditions for overcoming energy poverty. To this end, call for the conclusion of a Euro-Latin American Green Deal as a framework for bi-regional cooperation, with the broad participation of various sectors, to promote and facilitate a fair transition to renewable energy, energy security and efficiency, biodiversity protection, the fight against deforestation and other actions to reduce CO2 emissions and greenhouse gases, including cooperation to facilitate European investments and technology transfers. Similarly, urge that comprehensive prevention and protection measures be encouraged to support environmental defenders who combat the effects of climate change.
9. Highlight the need to work for the strengthening of democracy in both regions, and emphasise the relevance and usefulness of electoral observation mechanisms.
10. Condemn in the strongest terms the illegal, unprovoked and unjustified military aggression perpetrated by the Russian Federation against Ukraine and its invasion of that country in clear violation of the UN Charter. Note that this has resulted in the outbreak of the greatest war in Europe since World War II, which has led to a humanitarian emergency with thousands of deaths and injuries and millions of refugees crossing the borders of neighbouring EU countries, an unprecedented phenomenon in contemporary Europe, dramatically increasing uncertainties about economic developments and prospects for the post-pandemic recovery. In this context, call for increased efforts in response to the consequences of the war on global food security and international food and commodity prices, seeking to strengthen food supply chains and food security, including the protection of production and marketing activities necessary to meet domestic and global demand, and stepping up the search for new alternative food suppliers.
11. Call on the States, organisms and institutions that are part of the International System to establish the necessary corridors and humanitarian aid to protect the civilian population in Ukraine, as well as to contribute to the definitive cessation of the war, including through all diplomatic channels, under the terms established by the Charter of the United Nations.
12. On the occasion of the XIV EuroLat Assembly held in Buenos Aires, we wish to call for a peaceful, just and lasting solution to be sought for the sovereignty dispute regarding the Falkland Islands (Malvinas), in the framework of the relevant resolutions adopted by the United Nations (including Resolution 2065 (XX)) and registered with the Special Committee on Decolonisation of the United Nations General Assembly, and in line with the statements of the EuroLat Assembly in 2013 and 2018.
13. Urge that full use be made of the wide network of cooperation, association and trade agreements between the two regions in order to contribute to the necessary revitalisation and strengthening of dialogue and cooperation between Latin America and the Caribbean,

stimulate the post-pandemic recovery, job creation, business and investment opportunities and, more generally, seek to achieve the overall objective of sustainable and inclusive development. Accordingly reiterate the hope that the Mercosur-EU Association Agreement, the updated Mexico-EU 'Global Agreement' and the renewed Chile-EU agreement can be finalised and enter into force in the near future.