

# EURO-LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY



## **URGENT RESOLUTION:**

### **on the Europe-Latin America position on issues related to climate and climate change in the context of the Summit of 2015 in Paris (COP 21)**

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with the support of the European component (European Parliament) of the EuroLat  
Parliamentary Assembly (Article 8(3) of the Rules of Procedure)

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## **Resolution by the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly on "The Europe-Latin America position on issues related to climate and climate change in the context of the Summit of 2015 in Paris (COP 21)"**

*The Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly,*

1. Recognises that the upcoming COP21 will be crucial in achieving an ambitious, transparent and legally-binding global climate agreement applicable to all Parties by 2020, in accordance with scientific climate evidence, the international human rights obligations, and the principles of the UNFCCC, in particular the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities in light of different national circumstances as well as the evolving global economic and geopolitical circumstances;
2. Taking into account that the level of international collective effort is still well below what is required to achieve a below 2 degree outcome, the common interest of both regions to urgently achieve this outcome, and the consensus efforts made within CELAC towards a unified position in the UNFCCC process, as well as the great potential the rich diversity of bi-regional views provides to better advance an ambitious agenda, asks governments of both regions and EU institutions to strengthen a mutual alliance towards a fair and ambitious global climate agreement;
3. Underlines the crucial role played by the parliamentarians in relation to climate change, and the central role they could play in a bi-regional alliance to address climate change, with the participatory and democratic support of all citizens and non-state actors, including cities and national and local authorities; recalls that Europe has committed itself to a leading role in the fight against climate change and to drive progress towards establishing a low-carbon economy, based on a long-term target of 80-95 per cent reduction of greenhouse gas until 2050, as well as on the 2020 objectives for greenhouse gas reductions, renewable energies and energy efficiency; calls on the European Commission to present initiatives in order to set an ambitious climate and energy framework for 2030 as EU contribution for the conclusion of a global climate agreement ahead of the UNFCCC summit in Paris;
4. Strongly encourages the countries to create and implement realistic and measurable strategies, legislation and measures that will lead to a transition towards resilient low carbon economies by 2050, coherent with a global carbon budget in accordance with the objective of limiting the rise in global average temperature to below 2°C; stresses the need for governments and institutions at international level to create mechanisms and organisations for environmental policy management, including the formulation, implementation and evaluation of public policies in this field;
5. Underlines the importance of the search for a new paradigm of human well-being that reconciles the twin challenges of fighting climate change and enhancing equality and social cohesion; encourages governments to strengthen bi-regional exchange using concepts such as "Buen Vivir" and themes concerned with managing the transition towards resilient low-carbon societies; considers that the global transition to low emissions can provide significant opportunities to revitalise economies in Europe, Latin America and globally. Action to tackle climate change also brings significant benefits in

terms of public well-being. Delaying this transition will, however, raise overall costs and narrow the options for effectively reducing emissions and preparing for the impacts of climate change;

6. Assumes, within the framework of the Bi-regional Strategic Partnership, the responsibility for safeguarding the effective implementation of the 2015-2017 EU-CELAC Action Plan, and efficiently implementing and further improving the EUROCLIMA programme;
7. Urges Heads of State and the Governments in both regions to strengthen their determination to contribute to significant reductions in greenhouse gas emissions by taking domestic action and by supporting innovative and appropriate mechanisms and initiatives that foster bi-regional cooperation to address climate change in a spirit of mutual support and collaboration;
8. Calls on governments from both regions to achieve greater coherence and consistency between declarations regarding climate change at the international level and inter and intra regional and national economic and trade policies;
9. Urges States to ensure timely submission of their intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) to enable their assessment under the UNFCCC in advance of Paris and deliver ambitious and fair commitments that keep the 2 degree goal within reach; asks that the INDCs respect the convention principles, are measurable, equitable and verifiable, and that their design and implementation includes the participation of parliaments and civil society actors;
10. Asks governments for an adequate, well-balanced treatment of adaptation and mitigation, within the framework of the 2015 agreement, as both regions strive to achieve the below 2 degree outcome, while facing mounting climate impacts, and given that adaptation to mounting climate impacts is an issue of crucial importance to LAC;
11. Calls for robust rules in the Paris agreement that contain sound guarantees for an effective limit of temperature levels to 2 degrees at a maximum, that are applicable to all and help track progress; calls on negotiating parties to ensure that technical support will be provided concerning how Monitoring, Reporting and Verification of Greenhouse Gas Inventories will be managed for developing nations;
12. Encourages governments to finalise the effective, predictable and sustainable financing of the GCF, by agreeing on a roadmap to allocate and leverage adequate resources in order to deliver on the long-term climate finance commitment of 100,000 million USD by 2020, to be delivered annually in the form of public and private financing to the GCF, with disbursement arrangements by the GCF that are fair, transparent, and non-discriminatory and benefit developing countries and especially vulnerable population groups and communities;
13. Urges the systematic integration of gender equality as a crosscutting issue in the negotiations of the UNFCCC and the anchoring of gender equality as an operational principle in the new climate agreement, as well as, mainstreaming gender equality considerations into the operating and organisational guidelines of the GCF, by taking into account the rights, needs, capacities, and knowledge of women;

14. Urges European institutions and governments from both regions to urgently address the losses and damages associated with the impacts of climate change in especially vulnerable developing countries, including those in the Central American region; asks the governments from both regions to contribute to the implementation of the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage;
15. Calls for the development of comprehensive and interinstitutional prevention strategies to deal with climate change and other environmental problems underpinned by public education policies comprising an 'ancestral knowledge' component ensuring a harmonious relationship with nature and environmental protection, as well as a culture of prevention and containment fostered from within the education system;
16. Emphasises the importance of avoiding deforestation, and in particular further destruction of tropical rainforests, and that LAC countries receive assistance through programmes and mechanisms aimed at the protection of these ecosystems, including the protection of the traditional knowledge of indigenous peoples, the guarantee of the benefits for the biodiversity and the life of indigenous and local communities, and the exchange of knowledge through education;
17. Recognises the special role that Latin American nations play in Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+) and urges all participants to help come to an equitable agreement on mechanisms for the protection of forested areas in Latin America that fully implements environmental and social safeguards.
18. Urges EU and LAC governments to reinforce existing associations relating to climate change and to establish new ones that are consistent with the Geneva Pledge on Human Rights and Climate Change, allocating greater financial support to the development and transfer of technologies and knowledge;
19. Urges industrialised countries to help other countries in the process of adaptation to climate change, as well as, provide financial assistance for National Adaptation Programmes for Action (NAPs) prioritising in particular the topics of Community-Based Adaptation and Ecosystem-Based Adaptation; giving priority also to financial and technical cooperation facilitating the transfer of clean technologies, exchanges of information, specialists and professionals in the field; urges those countries willing to receive assistance to create adequate conditions for the smooth planning, execution and control of projects; acknowledges the role that the Development Community, OECD and OECD DAC should play in working closely with stakeholders and relevant organisation to assess and mitigate the worst human impacts of climate change, which are expected to be challenging even below a 2°C warming level;
20. Urges governments to allocate resources and promote scientific and technological cooperation, and commends all efforts aimed at effecting energy efficiency and significant increases in the proportion of electricity derived from renewable sources in the structure of the European and Latin America and the Caribbean energy matrix;
21. Emphasises the importance that technology aimed at both mitigation and adaptation will play, even in a scenario where global increases in average temperature are kept beneath 2°C, and urges cross governmental support for the Nairobi Work Program as established by the UNFCCC at COP11 in order to further progress technology transfer and facilitate

joint R&D;

22. Calls for both regions to reconsider the Yasuní-ITT Initiative, proposed by the government of Ecuador, which consists of preserving, without exploitation, approximately 856 million barrels of petrol in the ecological reserve of the same name, for which purpose Ecuador sought the cooperation of the industrialised countries without obtaining the necessary support, while recalling that governments have the right to decide the preservation or exploitation of the natural resources under their sovereignty and to undertake the most appropriate plans and projects to achieve the objectives of keeping the below 2 degree goal within reach and of benefiting local communities; benefiting local communities, and approaching zero emissions by 2050;
23. Considers that public financing should be reoriented and mobilised, taking into account national specificities and circumstances, to promote low-carbon technologies, the use of renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and sustainable rural development with the aim of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, facilitating the transition to a low-carbon economy as well as of assuring secure inclusive access to clean energy and food security;
24. Asks the LAIF Strategic Council to clearly define the criteria and guidelines regarding transparency and the access to information relating to investment projects; this clarification should take into account environmental impact assessments containing considerations on human rights and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions matters;
25. Urges governments to keep open channels for political dialogue and interinstitutional coordination using interparliamentary mechanisms and settings, in order to ensure the participation of regional integration parliaments and interparliamentary bodies made up of representatives of the legislature in policy formulation regarding climate change, sustainable development, environmental protection and biodiversity;
26. Asks that the European Union-CELAC dialogue on Sustainable Development, the Environment, Climate Change, Energy, and Biodiversity, as defined in the Santiago de Chile Summit, is developed with the participation of citizens, women's organizations, indigenous communities, and civil society representatives from both regions. In this context, the EuroLat Parliamentary Assembly currently offers the ideal forum to stimulate, reinforce, and nourish that dialogue.