Twelfth meeting of the EU-Chile Joint Consultative Committee

Brussels, 12-13 June 2024

DECLARATION

Members of the EU-Chile Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) created in the framework of the 2002 EU-Chile Association Agreement (AA),

Reaffirming their commitment to the common values and principles shared by the EU and Chile, including the respect for democracy, human rights, rule of law, respect for human dignity and for multilateral rules-based order,

Considering the common challenges of the current evolving geopolitical circumstances, and concerned about challenges which exacerbate instability and hamper human development worldwide,

Considering the robust political, economic, cultural and cooperation ties between the EU and Chile, and acknowledging the meaningful relations between their organised civil societies represented in the JCC,

1. Call for peace and stability

1.1 In view of the ongoing wars in various parts of the world, stress the need to maintain rules-based order and call for dialogue to be promoted and paths to peace to be pursued, in full compliance with international humanitarian law.

1.2 Stand in solidarity with the victims and deplore the suffering of civilian populations, including women and children, in conflict-affected areas.

2. On cooperation

2.1 Consider it important that the relations between Chile and the EU be enhanced by using the potential and opportunities offered by initiatives from both parties, and deem the involvement of civil society organisations essential for monitoring and assessing the social and environmental impact of the projects that will benefit from funding.

2.2 In view of modernising the Association Agreement, state that, at this new stage of the relationship between the EU and Chile, cooperation should be stepped up and extended, with the aim of:
- transferring and exchanging knowledge and good practices conducive to the diversification of the EU’s and Chile’s economic development, focusing in particular on small and medium-sized enterprises and the development of cooperatives, social economy enterprises and promoting the circular economy;
- building stronger partnerships in the evolving global political and economic circumstances, including the digital and green transition which should be just and all-inclusive;
- putting people first and promoting and facilitating the role of civil society organisations in tackling common challenges based on the experience gained in the current JCC.

2.3 Consider that an important chapter of EU-Chile cooperation should be related to cyber security and exchanges regarding the impact of the digital revolution on citizens’ rights and society.

3. **On trade and investment**

3.1 Point out that foreign investments are an important factor in the economic and social development of Chile and the EU, and must respect human rights, rule of law and the highest environmental, labour, social and consumer protection criteria in line with the existing frameworks of each party in relation to the work being carried out within the framework of the United Nations.

3.2 Point out that the EU is interested in developing a mutually beneficial partnership to strengthen sustainable raw material supply networks that are essential in the global ecological and digital transition process, and that it is important for Chile to attract industrial investment and modernise its infrastructure and economy through access to technology and cooperation in areas such as health, digitalisation, education and in research, increasing the added value of exports, especially for smaller companies.

4. **On sustainable development and the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including climate change**

4.1 Consider that it is essential today to protect the environment, ensure the health and safety of workers, promote gender equality, protect consumers and promote alliances with civil society organisations. This requires an appropriate regulatory framework aimed at fair globalisation and just transition. Investments in education, training and lifelong learning, and monitoring of its results as well as strong policy coordination, and social and civic dialogue are indispensable.

4.2 In the current context of increased geopolitical tensions, weakened multilateralism and jeopardised realisation of SDGs, recognise the enormous importance of the implementation of the Agenda 2030 as the most comprehensive, ambitious and universal roadmap for sustainable socio-economic prosperity within planetary boundaries.

4.3 Acknowledge that our shared future depends on financing sustainable development that benefits people and the planet. Given the high cost of the implementation of the SDGs, it is necessary to secure financial resources and align financial flows and policies with economic, social and environmental priorities. In order to significantly increase affordable, long-term financing for development, deeper and longer-term reforms of the international financial architecture is needed.
Mobilising financing for sustainable development requires creative approaches, bold political decisions and new sources of financing.

4.4 Stress that civil society’s contribution is essential for finding and delivering solutions on the ground, not least in the joint efforts to achieve the 17 SDGs, fostering a just transition and fighting climate change and achieving human well-being.

5. **On the role of civil society organisations**

5.1 Acknowledge that the current global instability exacerbates the threat of authoritarianism, and underline the need to strengthen participative democracies worldwide. In this context, recognise the fundamental role of civil society in preventing backsliding.

5.2 Underline the need to set up, promote and finance an institutionalised social and civic dialogue model to enable citizens to play a key role in the transitions.

6. **Proposals for the preservation of the Joint Consultative Committee**

6.1 Acknowledge the positive results of the EU-Chile AA, which has provided a clear legal framework for a regular dialogue between the European and Chilean organised civil societies and created a platform serving not only to monitor the implementation of the provisions of the agreement related to trade or sustainable development, but as a forum for meaningful exchanges on all issues of relevance for the partners. However, the JCC representation in Chile said that it was still unable to participate fully and in an informed way in the bilateral dialogues.

6.2 Recognise the need to modernise the agreement to bring it up to date with the evolving political, social and economic circumstances, but also underline the relevance of preserving and further strengthening the structured dialogue that is developed within the JCC beyond the date of entry into force of the Advanced Framework Agreement.

6.3 Urge the authorities to swiftly ratify and transparently implement the Advanced Framework Agreement and to avail themselves of the necessary impact assessments and monitoring tools to ensure the effective participation of organised civil society for the entire lifetime of the agreement.

6.4 Call on the authorities to ensure that the model of a regular, structured dialogue and good practices developed within the Joint Consultative Committee continue beyond the date of entry into force of the AFA, and insist on ensuring financial support to strengthen the participation of the organised civil society represented, in line with the previously formulated requests.

6.5 Request that in the context of possibly updating the agreement on trade and sustainable development, consideration be given to implementing mechanisms to maintain structured and permanent dialogue between European and Chilean civil society organisations.

6.6 Express their wish to hold the next meeting either at the end of November or the start of December, or in January 2025 at the latest.