



EU-Chile Joint Consultative Committee

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30 April 2020

Statement

The members of the **EU-Chile Joint Consultative Committee (JCC)**, who met via video conference on 30 April 2020:

- stress that the health, economic, human, social and political crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic will have a significant impact on all dimensions of EU-Chile bilateral relations, including trade, freedom of movement and social aspects;
- believe there to be key issues — e.g. protecting the environment, promoting the safety of workers and ensuring the sustainability of businesses — that are even more important during a time of crisis and which risk being marginalised;
- re-affirm their commitment that the JCC will act as a primary mechanism for contributing to strengthening bilateral ties and coordinating efforts in line with the interests of civil society organisations;
- reiterate the importance of retaining the JCC, as an essential space for dialogue, participation and consultation for civil society on both sides, in the future modernised Association Agreement (AA), with the current terms of reference, to enable the JCC to express its views on any political or cooperation issue envisaged by the AA, including the trade chapter;
- call for the JCC to be kept immediately and fully informed at all stages of the negotiations on the modernised AA, by both Contracting Parties.

The Chairs of the JCC under the EU-Chile Association Agreement, Hernán Calderón Ruiz and Josep Puxeu Rocamora, prioritised discussing the following issues at a meeting via video conference: the impact of the COVID-19 crisis, support mechanisms to tackle COVID-19 through bilateral and multilateral international cooperation; the human dimensions of the pandemic and the social and employment aspects; the importance of economic, social and cultural exchange between the EU and Chile; the JCC's experience as a constructive mechanism that contributes to strengthening EU-Chile ties based on fundamental values.

The co-chairs proposed a meeting of the JCC via video conference in the run-up to the next round of negotiations.