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**The key role of civil society in modernising the EU-Chile Association Agreement**

The **2nd meeting of the EU-Chile Joint Consultative Committee (JCC)** supported the proposal to negotiate the modernisation of the EU-Chile Association Agreement, noting the importance of consulting civil society.

The meeting, which took place in Brussels on 8 November, concluded with a 15-point declaration intended to guide the relationship between the two partners — the EU and Chile — make recommendations for the modernisation of the **Association Agreement** and take further steps towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

According to the JCC, a **more inclusive distribution** of the benefits of trade and greater **transparency** are crucial for the modernisation of the Agreement and to facilitate the contribution of civil society organisations. In addition, the JCC called for a specific chapter on **SMEs and micro-enterprises** and stressed the importance of the **mobility of knowledge** between the two partners in terms of innovation and revitalisation of the economy.

With regard to the SDGs, the JCC asked that the countries take a multilateral approach to their implementation, and called for the promotion of decent work and conservation of the environment. For this reason, the declaration included the need for a strong and ambitious chapter on **Trade and Sustainable Development** (TSD) in the modernised EU-Chile Association Agreement.

The EU-Chile Joint Consultative Committee is a permanent body for consultation between civil society in Chile and the EU, made up of members of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and members of organisations representing Chilean civil society. The JCC is co-chaired by **Lidija Pavić-Rogošić**, member of the EESC, and **Abraham Armijo Cáceres**, Vice-President of the Central Autónoma de Trabajadores de Chile.

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[VIDEO: How has the EESC made a difference](http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.videos.41081)

*The European Economic and Social Committee is an institutional consultative body established by the 1957 Treaty of Rome. The Committee has 350 members from across Europe, who are appointed by the Council of the European Union. It represents the various economic and social components of organised civil society. Its consultative role enables its members, and hence the organisations they represent, to participate in the EU decision-making process.*

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