



European Economic and Social Committee  
Comité Économique et Social Européen  
Comité Económico y Social Europeo  
Comité Económico e Social Europeu

Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly  
Assemblée Parlementaire Euro-Latino Américaine  
Asamblea Parlamentaria Euro-Latinoamericana  
Assembleia Parlamentar Euro-Latino-Americana



**PROTOCOL ON COOPERATION**  
**BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE**  
**AND THE EURO-LATINAMERICAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY**

**The European Economic and Social Committee (hereinafter the EESC), an EU consultative body set up by the Treaty Establishing the European Community, and the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly (hereinafter the EuroLat Assembly), as the parliamentary institution of the Bi-regional Strategic Partnership between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean,**

AFFIRMING their wish to contribute to the development of the cultural, economic, social and political links between Europe and Latin America,

STATING their commitment to the principles of democracy and good governance, particularly in the political, economic and social spheres,

SHARING the objective of fostering both the parliamentary dimension and the civil society dimension of the Bi-regional Strategic Partnership between the European Union and Latin America,

RECOGNISING the role played by the EuroLat Assembly in contributing to a better political dialogue between the integration parliaments in the European Union and in Latin America, on the one hand, and between the Latin American integration parliaments themselves, on the other,

AWARE of the importance of such parliamentary dialogue as an effective contribution to EU-Latin American relations with regard to democracy, protection of human rights, global governance, integration, peace, and economic and social affairs,

WHEREAS both parties believe that the participation of organised civil society and above all of economic and social organisations is essential to effective dialogue between the two continents,

RECOGNISING the role of the EESC as a consultative body for the EU institutions, representing as it does organised European civil society, and likewise acknowledging its experience of regional integration processes and its contribution to such processes, particularly in the socio-economic field,

AWARE of the contribution of the EESC's Latin America Follow-Up Committee to the dialogue between EU economic and social and other civil society organisations and their counterparts in Latin America, and to strengthening these organisations and their participation in the agreements between the two regions and hence to the objectives of the Bi-regional Partnership,

HAVING REGARD TO Article 6 of the EuroLat Assembly's Rules of Procedure, whereby institutionalised advisory bodies linked to the Bi-regional Strategic Partnership are entitled to the status of permanent observers,

BELIEVING that ongoing cooperation between institutions representing organised civil society in Latin America and their respective regional parliaments (Parlasur, Parlatino, Parlacen, Parlandino) will facilitate the swift drafting by these institutions of a Protocol similar to this Protocol between the EESC and the EuroLat Assembly,

TAKING DUE ACCOUNT of the particular characteristics of their respective compositions and mandates,

HEREBY ADOPT the following Cooperation Protocol:

### **Article 1 Objectives**

1. The objective of this Protocol on Cooperation is to establish a plan for regular cooperation between the EESC on the one part, and the EuroLat Assembly on the other, with a view to:
  - strengthening their links,
  - sharing their experiences,
  - carrying out joint activities of mutual interest,
  - enhancing the impact of their work.

## **Article 2**

### **Institutional provisions**

1. In its capacity as a permanent observer to the EuroLat Assembly, the EESC may, through its Latin America Follow-Up Committee, actively take part in the plenary meetings of EuroLat. It may likewise attend the meetings of EuroLat's standing committees and working parties, and the regional or sub-regional parliamentary meetings of the EuroLat Assembly. The EESC, together with its Latin American counterparts, shall submit an annual report on its activities to the EuroLat Assembly at least once in the course of each of its two year mandates.
2. The status of the EuroLat Assembly as a permanent participant in the biennial meetings of the organisations representing EU-Latin American and Caribbean civil society is hereby acknowledged; the EuroLat Assembly may also attend the meetings of the EESC Latin America Follow-Up Committee and other events organised by the EESC in connection with its activities with Latin America.

## **Article 3**

### **Forms of cooperation**

1. The EESC and the EuroLat Assembly shall cooperate in their activities designed to contribute to and guarantee the deepening of the cultural, economic, social and political links between Europe and Latin America.
2. The EuroLat Assembly and the EESC shall cooperate on all issues that concern the strengthening of social partners and other civil society organisations in Latin America, and shall cooperate on strengthening and/or setting up institutions and consultative bodies that represent them.
3. The EuroLat Assembly may request contributions from the EESC and its Latin American counterparts on issues related to its work. It may also propose that the EESC draft exploratory opinions on issues concerning EU-Latin American relations.
4. The EuroLat Assembly and the EESC shall cooperate, in particular, on promoting the active involvement of Latin American civil society institutions and consultative bodies in the work of their respective integration parliaments.
5. The EESC and the EuroLat Assembly shall also seek to make their activities as widely known and accessible as possible to civil society, all its constituent groups and sectors both in Latin America and in Europe.
6. To that end, the representatives of the EuroLat Bureau and the EESC Latin America Follow-Up Committee shall organise a coordination meeting once a year to discuss their respective programmes of work and the two bodies' priorities and to establish specific themes on which they can collaborate.

**Article 4**  
**Entry into force, amendment and conclusion**

1. This Protocol shall enter into force on the day it is signed, and shall apply for an indefinite period.
2. The EuroLat Assembly and the EESC may carry out a review of this Protocol every three years by common consent.
3. The EESC and the EuroLat Assembly may terminate this Protocol providing that they inform each other in writing at least 90 days in advance.

Done in Brussels on 6 July 2009 with originals in Spanish, French, English and Portuguese, each version being equally authentic.

*FOR THE EURO-LATIN AMERICAN  
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY (EUROLAT)*

*FOR THE EESC*

Luis Fernando DUQUE GARCÍA  
Co-President

Mario SEPI  
President

José Ignacio SALAFRANCA SÁNCHEZ-NEYRA  
Co-President