** **

**JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ**

 **XVth Association Committee EU-Chile**

**Brussels 22 June, 2018**

1. The XV Meeting of the European Union - Chile Association Committee, established by the 2002 Association Agreement, took place in Brussels on 22 June 2018. The Committee was co-chaired by the Managing Director of Americas of the European External Action Service, Ms. Edita Hrdá and the Chilean Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Alfonso Silva. The Parties approved the minutes of the XIVth Association Committee which took place in Santiago de Chile on 31st January 2017.
2. The Parties took stock of the state of their bilateral cooperation and exchanged on issues of common interest in the international agenda. They also shared the latest on the state of advancement of the ongoing negotiations for the modernisation of the Association Agreement following the 3rd round of negotiations on the Political and Cooperation Chapters of the agreement which was held the day before the meeting of the Association Committee.
3. Both Parties shared the view that negotiations for a Modernised Association Agreement were progressing well and agreed on the objective to further enhance and deepen bilateral relations and increase the number of areas for cooperation.
4. The Parties were also debriefed on the state of advancement of negotiations of the trade pillar of the Association Agreement as well as on the outcome of the different trade sub-committees that have taken place since the last Association Committee in Santiago de Chile in January 2017.
5. The Parties took note of the outcome of a series of bilateral meetings and cooperation over the past months in the fields of Democracy and Human Rights, Science, Research and Technology, cooperation programmes at national and regional level and Ocean Governance.
6. On Democracy and Human Rights, both parties took stock of the latest EU-Chile Human Rights Dialogue held in December 2017 and which focused on multilateral cooperation, strengthening of the Human Rights and Democracy institutional framework, inclusion and non-discrimination (LGBTI and Indigenous Peoples), Business and Human Rights, and Women's and Gender Equality. Both parties undertook to strengthen their cooperation in this context by promoting consistent actions in support of human rights and defending their universality and indivisibility.
7. On Science, Research and Technology, the European side congratulated Chile on the recent approval of a new Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation, which would give a new impulse to economic and social development of the country and to EU-Chile cooperation.
8. The parties welcomed the ongoing research and innovation collaboration and called for further engagement on the specific topics agreed at the February 2017 meeting of the Science and Technology Steering Committee-sustainable mining, climate action and resource efficiency, health and, within the framework of Mission Innovation, clean energy. They also recalled the joint work to put in place the Common Research Area between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean, in particular on sharing research infrastructures and on the challenge of sustainable urbanisation. Both sides looked forward to intensifying their cooperation under the proposed Horizon Europe programme beginning in 2021.
9. On ongoing cooperation programmes, the parties noted the state of play of the ongoing projects and recognised the importance in working together to face Global Challenges in such important areas as, sustainable urbanization through the *International Urban Cooperation Programme*, gender equality in the private sector through the *Win Win* project or Global Health by fighting Anti-Microbial resistance.
10. Both parties welcomed the ongoing strengthening of bi-regional digital cooperation between the European Union and Latin American and the Caribbean. In this regard a mapping exercise is under preparation on 4 strategic areas of digital cooperation: regulatory frameworks; economic aspects of cyber-security; audio-visual content and services and online platforms/ e-Commerce. Chile, as Vice-President of the eLAC 2020 had been invited to a workshop in Brussels on 3 and 4 July 2018.
11. The parties further expressed their common will to strengthen their relationship in Cooperation activities, in order to achieve the objectives of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, including the Memorandum of Understanding on International Cooperation signed by both parties in 2015, to engage together on triangular cooperation and noted the state of play of the ongoing regional projects supported by the EU to which Chile participates actively and in particular in the area of social cohesion with Eurosocial+, in the area of environment and climate change with Euroclima+, in the area of citizen security with the recently started El PAcCTO programme and in the area of support to SMEs with AL Invest 5.0.
12. On Ocean Governance, The parties highlighted the importance of improving ocean governance to ensure the oceans are healthy, safe, secure and sustainably managed. In this context, the Parties welcomed the successful outcome of the Our Ocean Conference held in Malta in 2017 and expressed their commitment to implement the announcements made during this event towards the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans.
13. The Committee took note of the Final Declaration of the Second Meeting of the Joint EU-Chile Consultative Committee (JCC) which was held in Brussels on 8th November 2017 and focused on the role of civil society in the context of the ongoing negotiation for a modernised Association Agreement as well as on the Sustainable Development Agenda.
14. The Committee took note of the holding a XXV Joint Parliamentary Committee which took place in Chile on 22 and 23 January 2018 and which included fruitful exchanges with President Michelle Bachelet, representatives from the business sector, from trade unions and civil society. The Committee noted the holding of the XXVI Joint Parliamentary Committee on 25 and 26 June 2018 in Brussels.
15. Finally, the parties resolved that the XVI European Union - Chile Association Committee meeting shall be held in Santiago de Chile in the course of 2019.

**Brussels, 22 June 2018**