

9th EU-CHILE ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE

Brussels, 25 November 2011

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ

1. The 9th meeting of the EU-Chile Association Committee, established by the Association Agreement, took place in Brussels on 25 November 2011. The Chilean delegation was led by the Deputy Minister of External Relations, Ambassador Fernando Schmidt Ariztía; and the European delegation was headed by Mr. Christian Leffler, Managing Director for the Americas in the European External Action Service.
2. Both Parties celebrated the signature by DG ECHO Director General M. Claus Sorensen and the Ambassador of Chile to the EU Carlos Appelgren, immediately before the start of the meeting in the presence of Commissioner Kristalina Georgieva and Deputy Foreign Minister Schmidt, of a letter of intent to establish a dialogue in the field of disaster risk reduction between the European Commission and the Government of the Republic of Chile, concurring that this collaboration will be of great mutual benefit in improving disaster prevention and preparedness, and mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation at bilateral and regional levels.
3. The Parties concurred as to the excellent state of the bilateral relationship and reiterated their commitment to continue developing and strengthening it further by, inter alia, exploiting fully the considerable scope offered by the Association Agreement. In the framework of their political dialogue, the Parties exchanged views on vital global and regional challenges and foreign policy issues including climate change, environment and sustainable development and regional integration. They agreed to continue their close cooperation and coordination in the run-up to major forthcoming events including the 17th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Durban (COP17), the UN “Río +20” Conference on Sustainable Development and the VII EU-LAC Summit.
4. The Parties exchanged information regarding recent developments in the European Union and in Chile, and had an initial exchange of views inspired by the proposed EU-LAC Summit topic “Alliance for Sustainable Development: Promoting Investments of Social and Environmental Quality.” Regarding the bi-regional relationship and the Chilean presidency of the LAC side, the Parties discussed the preparations for the Santiago Summit and its possible outcomes, and agreed to continue working in close coordination to ensure a successful Summit with the highest possible participation of leaders.
5. The Parties took note of the successful meetings on human rights with EU and Chilean civil society organisations held on 12-13 October 2011 in Santiago, and noted that a further such meeting would take place in 2012.

The Parties agreed to hold the third EU-Chile Human Rights Dialogue before the end of 2012.

6. The Parties agreed to coordinate their efforts to prepare the ground for the EU-Chile Joint Consultative Committee to be established in the near future, taking into consideration the respective institutional frameworks.

7. The Parties took note of the progress achieved to date in the negotiations on an agreement establishing a framework for the participation of Chile in EU crisis management operations, as agreed during the 8th Committee, and expressed their determination to conclude these in the coming months.

8. Regarding trade and economic matters, the Parties shared their appreciation of the positive dynamics of bilateral trade and investment brought about by the Agreement. The Parties reaffirmed their commitment towards an active process of multilateral trade liberalisation and rule-making, and urged the WTO Ministerial Conference to develop a solid roadmap for advancing the negotiations in 2012 towards agreement issue by issue on their own merit, following the Doha mandate “early harvest” provision. The Parties received reports from the various technical committees on trade-related matters, and also exchanged views on a number of outstanding bilateral issues. The Parties also expressed their commitment to further deepen the Agreement and to exchange views on how to proceed.

Regarding the tariff quota for the high quality beef opened and managed in accordance with, respectively Regulation (EC) N°617-2009 and Regulation (EC) 620-2009, both parties considered positive the mutual readiness to continue the work and the exchange of information presented. In addition, the Commission committed to respond, as soon as possible, to Chile's request for recognition as a third country applying production and control standards for organic products equivalent to those of the European Union.

9. In matters related to the conservation and management of swordfish stocks in the South-Eastern Pacific, the Parties stressed their support for the outcome of the negotiations for the Bilateral Understanding and confirmed their strong commitment to proceed rapidly to the signature and subsequent ratification of the Understanding. On issues related to the conservation of Jack mackerel stocks, the Parties expressed their appreciation for the mutual collaboration in the framework of the new South Pacific Regional Fisheries Management Organisation (SPRFMO), and reiterated their commitment to strengthening it by resolving speedily pending bilateral issues, in particular those concerning the access to Chilean ports of EU fishing and supply vessels involved in the small pelagic fishery.

10. With regard to climate change, the Parties welcomed the meeting of the Dialogue for Progressive Action (Cartagena Dialogue), which took place in Santiago on 7-8 November 2011. The Cartagena Dialogue promotes the establishment of an ambitious, comprehensive and legally binding regime to address global warming. The EU and Chile will cooperate to support significant progress at the Durban Climate Change Conference, which should resolve outstanding issues relating to a possible second commitment period of Kyoto and adopt a roadmap towards an ambitious, comprehensive and legally binding global climate change framework. Likewise, the EU and Chile aim at implementing the mechanisms adopted in Cancun, in particular the Green Climate Fund, provisions related to technology and adaptation, as well as provisions on mitigation and measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of greenhouse gas emissions.

11. The Parties exchanged views about the progress achieved in the implementation of the EU-Chile Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement and about how to increase still further its positive impact in Chile as well as Chilean participation in the 7th Framework Programme. The

Parties noted that the review of the first five years of implementation would be discussed during the 6th meeting of the Steering Committee on 6 December in Brussels, together with the prospects for continued development of cooperation at bilateral and bi-regional levels.

12. Both Parties concurred on the political importance of cooperation as one of the fundamental pillars of the Association Agreement, noting the expanding range of shared interests and policy areas in which the EU and Chile are already cooperating and can cooperate further. In this context, they welcomed the publication “EU-27 and Chile – Basic Statistical Indicators and Selected Trade Figures” in the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between the National Statistical Institute of Chile and EUROSTAT, noting this was an excellent example to be emulated in other fields.

Recalling the constructive and thoughtful debate during their 24 November seminar on cooperation and development, the Parties agreed to work closely together to develop additional kinds of cooperation, including but not limited to policy dialogues, in areas of mutual relevance appropriate to the mature bilateral relationship and proportional to the level of development achieved by Chile.

13. The Parties welcomed the March 2011 visit to the EU by the Chilean Deputy Secretary for Labour and Social Security, as well as the video-conference in September 2011 between Chilean participants and the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work. These events, in the framework of the IV EU-Chile Dialogue on Employment and Social Policy, re-confirmed the solid basis provided by this Dialogue for strengthening further the collaboration and partnership between the EU and Chile in this field. In this context, the Parties also exchanged views with regard to preparation of the V Employment Dialogue which will take place in 2012.

The Parties also welcomed the July 2011 visit to Brussels by representatives of Chilean regional authorities and SUBDERE, in the framework of the “Regional Innovation Strategies” programme co-funded by the EU, and looked forward to the forthcoming study visit to France and Sweden in the framework of the EU-Chile Dialogue on Regional Policy.

14. The Parties acknowledged the valuable contribution of the EU-Chile Joint Parliamentary Committee towards the enhanced application of the Association Agreement. They took note of and welcomed the XV JPC meeting held in Valparaíso on 2 November and expressed the hope that the XVI meeting, to be held in Brussels in the first half of 2012, would make a further contribution to the strengthening of the bilateral relationship.

15. Finally, it was agreed that the 10th Association Committee will take place in Santiago in 2012, on a date to be agreed.