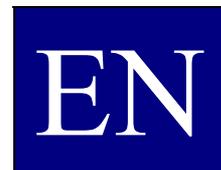




**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



(Other), 17 May 2008
9540/08 (Presse 131)

**THIRD CHILE-EU TROIKA SUMMIT
Lima, Peru, 17 May 2008**

Joint Communiqué

In the framework of the institutionalized political dialogue between Chile and the European Union, the Third Summit took place on 17th May 2008 between the President of Chile, Mrs Michelle Bachelet, and the European Troika, represented by the Prime Minister of Slovenia, Mr Janez Jansa, current President of the EU and the President of the European Commission, Mr José Manuel Durão Barroso.

1. This is the third institutionalized political dialogue, after the Guadalajara (2004) and Vienna (2006) dialogues, between Chile and the European Union at a Heads of State or Government level since the Chile-European Union Association Agreement, signed in Brussels on 18 November 2002, entered into force.

This third meeting took place in a very positive atmosphere, reflecting the good relations existing in all areas between Chile and the European Union. During the meeting both parties confirmed their willingness to strengthen further their relations.

P R E S S

2. Both sides, recalling the five years that the Association Agreement has been in force, concluded that the evolution and implementation of this instrument has been positive. Both sides reviewed the main activities carried out since the last bilateral Summit, namely the first meeting of civil society representatives on the implementation of the Agreement (Santiago, 29th November 2006); the second sectoral dialogue on employment and public employment services (Brussels, 22nd March 2007) and the first regional Forum on Social Cohesion (Santiago, 24th September 2007). In those meetings, the parties highlighted the excellent collaboration observed in their organization, the high level of the participants and the interesting conclusions reached in topics of common interest.
3. Both sides noted that these and other activities – together with the three Councils and five Chile/EU Association Committees organized so far – constitute concrete examples of the correct implementation of the Agreement, the fulfilment of the engagements and the active collaboration in areas of common interest. The Parties committed themselves to continue the sectoral policy dialogues and pursue their efforts aimed at progressing and consolidating the process of mutual association.
4. Furthermore, as part of the shared objective of deepening their mutual relations and strengthening the political dialogue, Chile announced its willingness to work with the European Union on the follow-up of the social cohesion or/and climate change topics included on the Lima agenda. In the same way, the Parties agreed to improve their coordination in multilateral fora, especially regarding human rights. To this end, they agreed to hold a senior officials coordination meeting in Brussels in the near future. Parties also decided to organize a seminar to mark the five-year anniversary of the Association Agreement that will include the participation of all actors involved and be forward looking.
5. Moreover, both Parties took note of the important progress observed in the trade relations since the Association Agreement entered into force. They agreed on the need to keep moving forward in this area. In this respect, Parties expressed their will to explore the deepening of the Agreement through the improvement of the access of goods and services on the basis of a duly balanced negotiation.
6. The European side commented on the most relevant aspects of the European integration process, and in particular the Treaty of Lisbon and its ratification, as well as the enlargement process.
7. The European Union Troika informed the participants of the state of play of negotiations on EU Association Agreements with Central America, the Andean Community of Nations and Mercosur, emphasising the progress made.
8. Parties agreed to concentrate bilateral development cooperation for the 2007-2010 period on the following priority sectors:
 - Innovation and competitiveness, which will have a total budget of 20.5 million euros over four years, of which 10.25 million euros are EC funds;

- Social cohesion, with an emphasis on cooperation programmes focused on supporting education, social protection and employment. To this end, a total of 20.5 million euros will be allocated, of which 10.25 million euros will be EC funds for the same period;
- Higher education, through the launching of an Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window - Chile, for which the EC contribution amounts to 4.92 million euros (100%) for the same period. This programme foresees the financing of 140 masters, doctoral and post-doctoral scholarships for Chilean students in Europe.

All of these bilateral cooperation initiatives are part of the 2007-2010 Chile-European Commission Programme.

9. The Parties, recognizing the role of scientific progress and technical innovation in the development of countries, congratulated each other on progress made within the framework of the 2002 EU-Chile Agreement on Science and Technology and for the good collaboration in this area, and noted that there is still room for improvement. In this regard, both parties agreed that the visit of the Commissioner for Scientific Research, Mr. Janez Potočnik, to Chile in October 2007 was a concrete demonstration of the priority given to cooperation in this field.
10. Parties also reiterated the importance of advancing the development and implementation of digital television, which is an important instrument in the efforts against exclusion barriers to communication. The EU underlined the advantages of the European standard in reaching those objectives, and the role it would play to enhance the bilateral relations.
11. Parties reiterated their interest in strengthening bilateral relations in the field of civil aviation. Chile underlined the importance of negotiating an improved aviation agreement, and the role it would play to enhance the bilateral relations.
12. Finally, under the institutionalized political dialogue, both Parties agreed to hold a further meeting at a Heads of State or Government level on a mutually agreed date.