



XVII CONFERENCIA INTERPARLAMENTARIA UNIÓN EUROPEA/AMÉRICA LATINA
XVII CONFERENZA INTERPARLAMENTARE UNIONE EUROPEA/AMERICA LATINA
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XVII EUROPEAN UNION/LATIN AMERICA INTERPARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE
XVII CONFÉRENCE INTERPARLEMENTAIRE UNION EUROPÉENNE/AMÉRIQUE LATINE
XVII INTERPARLAMENTARISCHE KONFERENZ EUROPÄISCHE UNION/LATEINAMERIKA



Lima, 14-16 June 2005

FINAL ACT

Lima, 16 June 2005

INTRODUCTION

Delegations from the Latin American Parliament and the European Parliament met in Lima, Peru, from 14 to 16 June 2005, for the XVII European Union/Latin America Interparliamentary Conference. The previous Conferences had been held in Bogota (July 1974), Luxembourg (November 1975), Mexico (July 1977), Rome (February 1979), Bogota (January 1981), Brussels (June 1983), Brazil (June 1985), Lisbon (June 1987), San José de Costa Rica (January/February 1989), Seville (April 1991), São Paulo (May 1993), Brussels (June 1995), Caracas (May 1997), Brussels (March 1999), Valparaíso (April 2001) and Brussels (May 2003).

The Latin American Parliament was represented by delegations from the following countries:

- The European Parliament Delegation consisted of members of the Delegation for Relations with the countries of Central America, of the Delegation for relations with the countries of the Andean Community and of the Delegation for relations with Mercosur, together with the members of the Delegations to the EU-Mexico and the EU-Chile Joint Parliamentary Committees. Members of other European Parliament committees and delegations also participated in the Conference.
- The formal opening of the Conference was attended by Dr. Antero Flores-Araoz, President of the Congress of the Republic of Peru, Dr. Manuel António dos Santos, Vice-President of the European Parliament and Dr. Ney Lopes, President of the Latin American Parliament.
- The opening plenary session was held on Tuesday, 14 June 2005 at the Peruvian Congress in Lima, with the Conference working sessions taking place in the Sheraton Hotel.
- Representatives of the Central American Parliament, the Andean Parliament, the Mercosur Joint Parliamentary Committee and of other international institutions took part in the Conference as special guests.
- Representatives of the People's Republic of China, Celare, UNIFEM, OTCA, UNICEF, UNDP, AGCI and IDEA-International (Peru) attended the Conference as observers.
- Six reports were presented to the Conference:
 - *Common social agenda and the environment*: rapporteurs Luisa María Calderón Hinojosa (Latin America), and Alain Lipietz and Irena Belohorská (European Parliament);
 - *Strengthening institutions and political parties*: rapporteurs Carlos Federico Ruckauf (Latin America), presented by Gonzago Mota, and Rosa Díez González (European Parliament);

- *Latin America and the European Union: bases for a Bi-regional Strategic Association*: rapporteur Carlos Ominami (Latin America) and *Making the Vienna Summit a success*: rapporteur José Ignacio Salafranca Sánchez-Neyra (European Parliament).
- The Conference was closed on at 12.00 on Thursday, 16 June 2005.
- This Act was adopted unanimously by the Conference.

XVII EUROPEAN UNION / LATIN AMERICA INTERPARLIAMENTARY CONFERENCE

The Third Summit of Heads of State and Government of the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean, which was held in Guadalajara from 28 to 29 May 2004, enabled the leaders of 58 countries to meet at the highest level. The participants stressed the need to bolster multilateralism, promote social cohesion and develop the bi-regional relationship. The Fourth Summit of EU-LAC Heads of State and Government, to be held in Vienna in 2006, should enable significant progress to be made towards the Bi-regional Strategic Association.

The Integration Parliaments, which have always spearheaded the process of developing the relations between the two regions, have repeatedly encouraged the governments in Europe and Latin America to move forward more resolutely. This was done by the European Parliament before the Madrid Summit, in its Resolution of 15 November 2001, and by the Integration Parliaments with the Puebla Declaration of 19 March 2004, addressed to the Guadalajara Summit.

In this context, and faced with the challenges presented by the 21st Century, the Members of the Latin American and European Parliaments meeting in Lima on 14, 15 and 16 June 2005 for the XVII EU-LAC Interparliamentary Conference considered proposals for further developing the association between the two regions on the following bases:

- A. The historical, cultural, political and economic ties that bind Europeans and Latin Americans, adherence by all to the objectives and principles set out in the United Nations Charter; respect for international law; compliance with treaties; the common undertakings in the field of respect for human rights, the rule of law and fundamental freedoms; and the common preference for multilateralism and multipolarity call for a Bi-regional Strategic Association that is genuinely operational as soon as possible.
- B. That Association is a project for integration between two regions consisting of 58 countries and inhabited by over 900 million people that centres on three main spheres: political affairs and security, economics and trade, and social and cultural affairs.
- C. The Bi-regional Strategic Association proclaimed in June 1999 during the Rio de Janeiro Summit, which brought together the Heads of State and Government of the European Union and Latin America for the first time, has nevertheless still to take substantial concrete form.
- D. The interparliamentary dialogue has in the meantime been a very important factor in the Association Agreements signed by the European Union with Mexico in 2000 and with Chile in 2002, and should continue contributing to their development. These dialogues also played an essential role in the decision to open negotiations on an Association Agreement with Mercosur and to reach an agreement of this type with the Andean Community and with Central America.
- E. In the economic and social sphere, the main problems affecting Latin America continue to be the risks of political ungovernability and social exclusion, despite twenty years of democracy. This is reflected in a sceptical attitude towards politics, the political institutions and, in particular, the political parties. There can be no democratic governability or social justice without strong, open and democratic political parties.

Political participation by women is a factor for cohesion and the deepening of democracy.

- F. In the environmental sphere, the European Union and Latin America are facing similar problems, although in Latin America there is a clearer link between combating poverty and enhancing environmental protection. The EU therefore has the means to adapt at least to the direct effects of a slight climate change. For the much poorer countries of Latin America, whose economies are evidently more agriculture-based, climate change will have immediately perceptible and perhaps uncontrollable effects.
- G. While in Europe over half a million people are infected with AIDS, the United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) estimates that between 1.3 and 2.2 million people are infected in Latin America. However, the majority of those infected have no access to generic medicines. General access to those medicines constitutes an effective means of combating such illnesses.
- H. Despite the difficulties encountered, regional integration continues in Europe and in Latin America to represent an essential stage in the construction of more egalitarian societies and prosperous societies, which is why it should remain at the basis of the Bi-regional Strategic Association.

1. Concerning the strengthening of democracy and the political institutions

Effective democratic governability calls for a participatory democracy and strong, open and democratic political parties. In order to ensure the social credibility of political activity and of the organisations that support it, the following measures, among others, should be taken:

- 1.1. Education to promote recognition of politics as an essential tool for enabling the necessary institutional changes that spur development and boost human dignity.
- 1.2. Strengthening of the political parties as tools for boosting and securing the confidence of civil society in its own public institutions, as recommended by the Cuzco Consensus of 24 May 2003. It is recommended in particular that meetings and cooperation between the European and Latin American sides be stepped up.
- 1.3. Modernisation and adaptation of the political parties and their machinery, at both national and regional and local level, to the challenges posed by a society in the throes of change, with new values to uphold and new challenges to take up.
- 1.4. Promotion of active participation by citizens in the political projects on which the futures of their societies depend, through political parties that are closer and more open to them. The disaffection of citizens with the political parties has serious consequences for the democratic system.
- 1.5. In the face of the increasing globalisation of decisions, strengthening of the democratic instruments for the protection of individual rights and collective interests, through the adoption of mechanisms that strengthen the transparency

and effectiveness of public management. The combating of corruption and fraud can serve as basic parameters for joint bi-regional action.

- 1.6. Strengthening of the institutions and their scope for action, in order to neutralise the adverse effects of globalisation and promote its positive effects.
- 1.7. The fostering and consolidation of regional blocs, which are showing they can offer a guarantee of peace and raise the living standards and increase the security of their citizens.
- 1.8. To this effect, it is proposed that a Permanent Forum for discussion be created to expand the bi-regional dialogue on the progress made in the area of administrative reforms and governability in Latin America and in the European Union and to promote the exchange of shared experiences.
- 1.9. Promotion of innovative channels for participation based on initiatives similar to those already implemented by both regions (for example, the participatory budget used in Brazil and the traditional forms of participatory democracy employed by native communities), in order to create an area open to civil society as a whole.
- 1.10. Fostering of the protection of human rights, and especially those of the most vulnerable sections of society, and the combating of xenophobia, racist behaviour and other forms of discrimination and intolerance.
- 1.11. Similarly, policies and bi-regional cooperation to combat terrorism, drugs trafficking and organised crime should also be promoted, in compliance with international treaties.
- 1.12. Stimulation of investment, on the basis of a coordinated strategy of the world's governments, in education, training and new technologies in developing countries, in order to bridge the gulf that currently exists between the developed countries and developing ones.
- 1.13. Promotion of actions that remove the obstacles which prevent the participation of women under equal conditions, bearing in mind that in order for democracy to be improved and its quality enhanced there must be active participation by women in politics, party political mechanisms and the public institutions. Welcomes the fact that 2005 has been declared the Latin American and Caribbean Women's Year.
- 1.14. The awarding of special attention, in European Union cooperation programmes, to support for and the strengthening of Latin American political institutions and parties. In this respect, the European Commission is called on to adopt the draft text presented by the Latin American Parliament with that in mind. Equally, support should be given to those measures designed to increase women's participation in public life.

2. Concerning the institutional strengthening of the Strategic Association

The institutional mechanisms of the Strategic Association should be strengthened via initiatives such as:

- 2.1. Establishing of the basic concept of the pre-eminence of the Strategic Association over any other attempt to promote in the future bilateral approaches limited solely to certain partners.
- 2.2. Updating of the Europe Latin America ministerial political dialogue to make this more dynamic and effective, and which should in any case again now involve the participation of the Regional Parliaments at the very highest level, particularly with regard to the summits, the Rio Group and the San José Dialogue,.
- 2.3. The laying of emphasis on the creation of a Europe-Latin America Transatlantic Assembly, consisting of Members of the European Parliament on the one side, and of the Parlatino, Parlacen, Parlandino, Mercosur JPC and Mexican and Chilean Congresses on the other.
- 2.4. The setting-up of a Europe-Latin America Permanent Secretariat designed to lend impetus to the work of the Association in the periods between summits.
- 2.5. Support for the South American Community of Nations proclaimed in Cuzco on 8 December 2004 which, as regards South America, could provide the various sub-regional integration schemes such as Mercosur and CAN with a common roof for political cooperation, and which should similarly become a key dialogue partner of the European Union.
- 2.6. Further development of Europe-Latin America cooperation in all international forums of common interest, with particular reference to the United Nations system and its reform.
- 2.7. The negotiation and signing of a Europe-Latin America Charter for Peace and Security and the lending of consideration to the creation in Latin America of a Bi-regional Centre for Conflict Prevention serving as a joint body for swift and effective bi-regional cooperation in such matters
- 2.8. The conference welcomes the example set by the Peruvian Parliament in settling on direct election for the Peruvian representatives to the Andean Parliament.
- 2.9. Boosting of the regional integration processes in Latin America, which calls for acceleration, by the Latin American side, of every aspect of integration, whether political, institutional, economic, commercial or social, and which, on the European Union side, should not be viewed as a precondition in bi-regional negotiation processes.

3. Concerning the further development of economic and trade association

The Europe-Latin American Free Trade Zone must be established in keeping with the principles of cooperation, equality and justice, and by 2010 at the latest, through the adoption of the following measures:

- 3.1. Conclusion of the negotiations on the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement as swiftly as possible.
 - 3.2. The opening of negotiations, at the latest during the Vienna Summit, on the various Association Agreements with the Andean Community and the Central American Integration System, independently of a possible conclusion of the WTO Doha negotiations.
 - 3.3. Maintenance, until such time as those Agreements enter into force, of the arrangements under which the Andean and Central American Countries benefit from the Community GSP.
 - 3.4. Facilitation of the gradual liberalisation of regional and inter-regional trade.
 - 3.5. The adoption of common rules, within the bi-regional framework, to guarantee the freedoms provided for in balanced and fair association agreements.
 - 3.6. Collaboration on trying to secure the best debt negotiation conditions for Latin American countries, in line with the stance recently taken by the G8 on this matter and in consonance with the terms of the agreements of the Rio Presidential Summit of 2003.
 - 3.7. The institutionalisation of a bi-regional business dialogue, enabling business and trade union organisations from both regions to hold regular talks on economic, commercial and ecological issues, with a special mechanism for cooperation between small- and medium-sized enterprises that might be extended to include chambers of commerce.
 - 3.8. The establishing of a programme of joint investment in support of Latin American integration in the fields of transport infrastructure, telecommunication and energy.
4. Concerning association in the field of social affairs, the environment and development cooperation

It is proposed, with regard to all the above areas, that the following measures be adopted:

- 4.1. Encouragement for the adoption of firm and effective policies in the fields of democratic governability, social affairs, public finance and taxation, with the aim of increasing social cohesion by reducing poverty, inequality and marginalisation.
- 4.2. The establishment of innovative financial structures, such as the Bi-regional Solidarity Fund, in support of actions by the various partners to combat poverty and social exclusion, with the participation and resource allocation of private and public international financing bodies.
- 4.3. Progress towards the adoption of national laws which, taking their lead from international agreements, regulate international adoptions and have children's rights as their prime concern.

- 4.4. The condemnation of any form of child exploitation, wherever this may take place, and of any economic agent profiting from such exploitation. Similarly, the condemnation of the trade in human beings, the killing of women and of violence against women in general. The Conference urges the advancement and adoption of all national and international rules on this matter
- 4.5. The launching of a global plan of priority action aimed at children and adolescents in Latin America, in line with UNICEF measures.
- 4.6. Information exchange and cooperation to stem the growing phenomenon of the 'maras' and other youth gangs that threaten the safety of the individual both in Central America and in the rest of Latin America and Europe.
- 4.7. Promotion of a more resolute and generous European Union cooperation and development policy towards Latin America, centring on social issues, education, culture, health and immigration, with the target of achieving the Millennium Goals.
- 4.8. The adoption of legislation to limit the current excessive costs of money transfers by migrants.
- 4.9. Exchanges of experience and best practice in the field of environmental protection, based on analysis and mutual understanding of large-scale ecological problems; implementation in Latin America of projects based on sustainable development and compatible with the Kyoto Agreement.
- 4.10. The Conference calls once again on all parties to ratify the Kyoto Protocol as swiftly as possible and congratulates those countries which have already done so.
- 4.11. The pinpointing of common positions on environmental matters in the competent international forums, with the ultimate aim of ensuring sustainable economic development in both regions.
- 4.12. The protection of biodiversity, particularly in inter-tropical America, in respect of which the European Union must also make a technical and financial contribution; to this effect, it is proposed that specific programmes be launched to protect and promote, not least in Latin America, production processes that are consonant with sustainability and raise living standards, especially in indigenous areas. In this respect, it supports the creation of the Andean Institute for Biodiversity and cultural exchange efforts between the Andean Community and Mercosur.
- 4.13. European Union involvement in WTO negotiations, and in those of the World Intellectual Property Organisation, with a view to establishing the conditions for obtaining the mandatory licences needed to produce generic medicines for use in Latin American countries to combat major epidemics.
- 4.14. Support for activities relating to research, postgraduate studies and training in the field of regional integration processes.

5. BOLIVIA

The Conference expresses its concern at the recent events in Bolivia, and hopes that the forthcoming general elections will set that country on the road towards respect for the Rule of Law, national sovereignty, stability, governability and strengthening of the democratic institutions in the spirit of integration and with the full participation of all the sectors and players of Bolivian society. All the above are preconditions for the progress, development and well-being yearned for by the people of Bolivia.

6. ECUADOR

The Conference urges the political authorities in Ecuador urgently implement political reform to strengthen that country's democratic system and thereby enable greater social cohesion and a higher degree of governability.

7. Preparation of the Message to the IV Summit, to be held in Vienna in May 2006

The XVII European Union/Latin America Interparliamentary Conference instructs the bureaux of the Integration Parliaments and the Drafting Committee of this Conference to organise a preliminary interparliamentary meeting in Bregenz (Austria) at which, on the basis of the Puebla Declaration and of this Final Act, a message to the IV Summit of Heads of State and Government, to be held in Vienna, will be prepared.

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