X EU-Chile Association Committee

Joint Communiqué

[Informal English Translation by EEAS]

1. The X Meeting of the EU-Chile Association Committee, established by the Association Agreement, took place in Santiago on 3 October 2012. The Chilean Delegation was led by the Director General for Bilateral External Relations, Ambassador Rodrigo Gaete, and the European Delegation was led by Mr. Tomás Duplá del Moral, Director for the Americas in the European External Action Service.

2. The Parties coincided in their positive evaluation of the ten years since the Association Agreement was signed, noting that it has generated important mutual benefits. They took stock of the excellent state of the bilateral relationship and reiterated their commitment to continue developing and deepening it further. In the framework of their political dialogue, the Parties had an open exchange of views about various global topics. The Parties highlighted the forthcoming meeting between Presidents Piñera, Van Rompuy and Barroso, to be held on 15 November in Brussels in the framework of the political dialogue at the level of Heads of State and Government that is institutionalised in the Association Agreement.

3. As regards regional matters, the Parties exchanged information about recent developments in the European Union and in Chile. They also examined the preparations for the I EU-CELAC Summit, to be held in Santiago on 26 and 27 January 2013, and agreed to make every effort to ensure that this bi-regional meeting is attended by as many Heads of State and Government as possible and contributes to the deepening of the dialogue between both regions.

4. Concerning Defence and International Security, the Parties welcomed the progress achieved in the negotiations for a Framework Agreement for Crisis Management between the European Union and Chile.

5. The Parties took note of the successful implementation of the various sectoral dialogues. They highlighted the celebration of the III Human Rights Dialogue; and expressed their intention to ensure that the V Employment Dialogue, to be held shortly in Brussels, would take place successfully.

6. As regards the Dialogue on Regional Policy, the Parties took stock of the main activities and achievements since the signature of the Letter of Understanding in 2010, and also highlighted the study visit for professionals from various regions of Chile that took place in April 2012. At the same time, they examined the second phase of the RED project, which provides for technical cooperation and study visits for Chilean regions that are implementing regional innovation strategies and also for those that are preparing such strategies.
7. The Parties welcomed the renewal of the Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement between the EU and Chile and acknowledged the progress achieved in the implementation of this agreement.

8. As regards cooperation, the Parties highlighted the successful seminar on "EU-CELAC Development Cooperation: Challenges Beyond 2015" organised jointly by the Chilean Agency for International Cooperation (AGCI) and ECLAC. They also acknowledged the importance of the regional cooperation programmes offered by the European Union, such as EuroSocial II and LAIF, inter alia; while at the same time stressing the need to have access also to European bilateral cooperation in certain strategic areas where the EU has particular experience and added value.

9. As regards EU-Chile cooperation specifically, the Parties commented that, although the previous stage of bilateral cooperation has ended, various opportunities remain available for them to continue collaborating in areas of mutual interest, through various mechanisms to be agreed.

10. The Parties acknowledged the work and contribution of the EU-Chile Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) in the framework of the deepening of the Association Agreement.

11. As regards trade and economic matters, the Parties shared their appreciation of the positive dynamics of bilateral trade and investment brought about by the Agreement, in spite of the challenges deriving from the global economic and financial conjuncture.

12. The Parties underlined the importance of achieving a successful multilateral conclusion of the Doha Development Agenda and seeking early outcomes in areas such as trade facilitation.

13. The Parties reviewed the work done by the various technical committees on trade-related matters, exchanging views on outstanding bilateral issues. For instance, in the Wines and Spirits committees, the Parties agreed, on a reciprocity basis, to continue working on the simplification of their import and control systems.

14. The Parties also took note of the issues dealt with by the Joint Management Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary matters, and welcomed the decision taken therein to find swift solutions to some of the outstanding issues in the area. They also approved the report on the issues discussed in the Animal Welfare Working Group. The Parties established their priorities, as reflected in the action plan.

15. Regarding the tariff quota for high quality beef opened and managed by the EU in accordance with, respectively, Regulation (EC) N°617-2009 and Regulation (EC) 620-2009, the Parties welcomed the progress being made in the technical evaluation. The EU undertook to deliver a written answer, according to the analysis of the dossier provided by Chile under those regulations, by the end of
the year.

16. The parties took note of the work done in the area of government procurement, and agreed to proceed with the modification of the Agreement to incorporate the changes to the Chilean list of public entities.

17. The Parties received with mutual satisfaction the information related to the technical exchanges in the area of intellectual property rights.

18. Finally, the Parties shared views on the changes to the common nomenclature of the EU, and agreed that solutions to specific issues should preserve the existing benefits included in the Agreement for the sectors concerned.

19. The Parties welcomed the entry into force of the Convention on the Conservation and Management of High Seas Fishery Resources in the South Pacific Ocean, and the progress that this represents regarding the search for solutions to pending matters.

20. Finally, the Parties agreed that the 11th Association Committee will be held in Brussels, on a date to be agreed.