

For Stronger Relations between the European Union and Latin America

The Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe Party convening in Amsterdam, the Netherlands on 1 to 3 December 2017:

Considers that:

- the European Union stands for the progressive liberalisation of trade barriers and for the promotion of liberal democracy in the world as a way to grant welfare and dignity for all peoples;
- Latin America needs to strengthen their democratic systems and rule of law and to achieve a sustainable development in order to reduce inequality, and to promote stability and growth in the region;
- the present negotiations for an Association Agreement between the EU and Mercosur, and for a new strategic association with Mexico and Chile represent a unique opportunity;
- the EU and its Member States are the biggest International donors in the promotion of sustainable development and human rights in Latin America.

Acknowledges that:

- ALDE's commitment to economic freedom, free trade, rule of law, sustainable development and the effective protection of human rights across the world;
- the EU's duty to promote the values of sustainable development, environmental protection and consumer rights across the world through global trade liberalisation;
- the strong historical and cultural ties between the peoples of Europe and Latin America, who share the same fundamental values as represented by the 1969 American Convention on Human Rights and the 1949 European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (ECHR);
- the existence of a real separation of powers and the independence of the Judiciary as requisites for democracy.

Calls for:

- the EU and its partners to finalise the Mercosur free trade agreement;
- the European Commission to accelerate the negotiations for a comprehensive Association Agreement between the EU and Mercosur, and for new strategic associations with Mexico and Chile, and to open new negotiations to have more strategic partners in the Latin American region;

Resolution:

For Stronger Relations between the European Union and Latin America

Year and Congress:

Amsterdam,
Netherlands 2017

Category:

Foreign Affairs

Page:

1

- the EU to make an effective use of the human rights conditionality clauses "more for more" principle in all association agreements in order to promote the development of democratic societies, and the respect of fundamental rights in Latin America;
- the European Commission and the EU Member States, through their cooperation policies, to continue supporting sustainable development and structural institutional reforms in the Latin American countries to reduce inequality and to strengthen rule of law.

Resolution:

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Category:

Foreign Affairs

Page:

2