

EURO-LATIN AMERICAN PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY



RESOLUTION:

A Euro-Latin American Charter for Peace and Security

based on the report of the Committee on Political Affairs, Security and Human Rights

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EUROLAT – Resolution of 8 April 2009 – Madrid (Spain)

[based on the report of the Committee on Political Affairs, Security and Human Rights]

Euro-Latin American Charter for Peace and Security

The Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly,

- having regard to the declarations by the five Summit Meetings of Heads of State and of Government of Latin America and the Caribbean and of the European Union (EU-LAC) held to date, namely in Rio de Janeiro (28 and 29 June 1999), in Madrid (17 and 18 May 2002), in Guadalajara (28 and 29 May 2004), in Vienna (12 and 13 May 2006), and in Lima (16 and 17 May 2008),
- having regard to the United Nations Charter signed in 1945, and particularly its Chapter I on Purposes and Principles, Chapters IV and V on the General Assembly and the Security Council, Chapter VI on pacific settlement of disputes and Chapter VIII on regional arrangements,
- having regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 10 December 1948,
- having regard to the European Convention on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, signed in Rome on 4 November 1950,
- having regard to the European Union’s Charter of Fundamental Rights adopted on 14 December 2007,
- having regard to the Interamerican Democratic Charter adopted on 1 September 2001 and the Ushuaia Protocol on Democratic Commitment in Mercosur, the Republic of Bolivia and the Republic of Chile, and the Andean Charter for Peace and Security adopted in 2002,
- having regard to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty of 1 July 1968 and the Tlatelolco Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean, which has been in force since 25 April 1969 amongst the 33 countries of the nuclear weapons-free zone which signed it,
- having regard to the Convention on Chemical Weapons of November 1992 and the Convention on Biological Weapons of April 1972,
- having regard to the European Security Strategy ‘A Secure Europe in a Better World’, adopted by the European Council on 12 December 2003, and the EU Strategy against Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, adopted on the same date,
- having regard to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime adopted by the UN General Assembly on 15 November 2000, and its additional Protocols to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, Against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Air and Sea, and Against the Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking in Firearms, their parts and components and ammunition,
- having regard to the UN Programme to combat the international trade in small arms and light weapons,
- having regard to the Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling,

- Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction, adopted on 18 September 1997,
- having regard to the United Nations Convention against Corruption adopted in Mérida on 31 October 2003,
 - having regard to the 17 existing United Nations instruments on preventing and eradicating international terrorism, and to Security Council Resolutions 1368 and 1373 (2001) and 1267 (1999), and to the General Assembly resolution A/RES/60/288 of 8 September 2006 on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the Annexed Action Plan,
 - having regard to the European Union’s Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted by the European Council of 14 and 15 December 2005,
 - having regard to the European Parliament resolution of 15 November 2001 on a Global Association and Common Strategy for relations between the European Union and Latin America,
 - having regard to the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly resolution on European Union-Latin American Relations with a view to the Fifth Lima Summit, and with special reference to democratic governance, of 20 December 2007, and its Message to the Fifth EU-LAC Summit of 1 May 2008,
- A. whereas peace and security in today’s world no longer depend solely on the absence of conflict between states, but are also bound up with many other factors, such as the unequal distribution of wealth, widespread hunger amongst the poorest sectors of the population, the violation of human rights, good governance, the exclusion of minorities from the decision-making process, the ongoing depletion of energy sources and natural resources, mass migration, the growing impact of environmental deterioration, terrorism, corruption, organised crime, etc.,
- B. whereas the international community has adopted a series of Conventions which are universal in scope within the framework of the United Nations Organisation (UN), to put an end to or at least mitigate threats, e.g. the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Chemical and Biological Weapons Conventions, the Convention on Prohibition or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects, the Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and the Ottawa Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction,
- C. whereas the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and the countries of the European Union face many common threats, which can better be tackled by prevention, cooperation and collective action within the framework of the Bi-regional Strategic Partnership, on the basis of the principle of the equal rights and right to self-determination of their peoples, and in accordance with the principles of social justice and international law, and by the shared commitment to peace, security, cooperation, human rights, democracy and multilateralism,
- D. whereas matters related to peace and international security should be a permanent item on the agenda of the structured political dialogue between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean,
- E. whereas in its resolution of 20 December 2007 and in its message to the fifth EU-LAC

Summit in Lima on 1 May 2008 the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly, on the basis of its multilateralist convictions, and with a view to assisting the Action of the UN, proposed the drawing-up of a Euro-Latin American Charter for Peace and Security,

- F. whereas issues concerning peace and security are intimately linked with development and social justice, respect for the principles of the equal rights and right to self-determination of peoples, non-use of threats or force to resolve conflicts, as well as deterioration of the environment and respect for the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons, regardless of race, language or religion,
- G. whereas the Charter ought to reflect the fact that any immigration policy must be based on respect for human rights,
 1. Recommends that the Summit adopt a Euro-Latin American Charter for Peace and Security which, on the basis of the UN Charter and the associated international legislation, should include strategies and joint political and security strategies and action guidelines, so as to tackle the common threats facing the members of the Bi-regional Strategic Partnership, so as to strengthen security, economic development, solidarity and democratic governance in the Euro-Latin American area, within a climate of mutual trust and respect, and to meet their citizens' expectations of peace and security, well-being and freedom, and contribute to international peace and security;
 2. Proposes that the Euro-Latin American Charter for Peace and Security be based on a broad understanding of security, preserving the collective approach which characterises the United Nations Charter, incorporating further elements suggested by various UN bodies (e.g. those of the FAO on food security and of the UNDP on human security) covering the political, economic and social aspects, especially unconditional respect for human rights, as well as the environmental and defence aspects, and also including the concept of security in both bi-regional and western hemisphere terms;
 3. Considers it vital to maintain an approach based on the concept of shared security; rejects the disproportionate increase in military expenditure to the detriment of expenditure of a social nature;
 4. Highlights the need for the Charter to be based on the aims and principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter and the principles and values shared by the Euro-Latin American partners, at consecutive Summits from Rio de Janeiro to Lima, and in particular the 'Madrid Commitment' of 17 May 2002, especially those relating to democracy, respect for and promotion and defence of human rights, a common commitment to multilateralism, the peaceful resolution of disputes, the responsibility to protect, the duty of historical memory and transitional post-conflict justice, regional integration, social cohesion and respect for national sovereignty;
 5. Stresses, as specific objectives of the Charter, the strengthening and deepening of the political dimension of the Bi-regional Partnership, by encouraging the signature, ratification and implementation by the Euro-Latin American partners of the international and regional instruments applicable to the various issues involving peace and security, and by establishing joint proposals and action on all these issues;
 6. Believes that the new threats which affect both the European Union and Latin America specifically include poverty, pandemics and infectious diseases, the deterioration of the environment, threats to governance and good government, war and internal violence, anti-personnel mines, the proliferation and possible use of nuclear, chemical and

biological weapons, terrorism and transnational organised crime, drug trafficking and the trafficking of human beings;

7. Believes that it is essential to all the interests, of whatever kind, of the Euro-Latin American partners to achieve an effective multilateral system which rests on strong, consolidated international institutions, with the UN system as its central core;
8. Points out that – while always bearing in mind the central importance of the United Nations System – international society is becoming increasingly aware of the need to incorporate new institutional rules and approaches into the existing international order, such as the responsibility to protect;
9. Considers that both Latin America and the EU must actively participate, promote and jointly reflect with a view to the adoption and consolidation of an up-to-date international rule-making system, so that, in the event of potential future breaches of that system, no one can evade its application by arguing that they were not involved in its adoption;
10. Stresses that the Charter should help to make more effective the political dialogue at ministerial level on security, broadly understood, and that this dialogue should take the form of regular meetings of the Ministers concerned, including Ministers of Justice and the Interior and of Defence, so that issues concerning the different aspects of peace and security can be dealt with at the highest level and by a continuous dialogue at parliamentary level;
11. Believes that terrorism is a serious threat to peace and international security, and therefore to the Euro-Latin American partners, and condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, on any grounds and wherever and by whomsoever it is perpetrated; believes that it is essential that all the instruments adopted with regard to terrorism by the United Nations be complied with, and that bi-regional dialogue on the issue be stepped up; stresses that the fight against terrorism must be conducted with strict respect for the rule of law, human rights and international law;
12. Recommends that on the basis of the principle of shared responsibility, cooperation on combating drug trafficking be stepped up, extending its scope and reinforcing existing instruments such as the LAC-EU Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism against Illegal Drugs and the High Level Dialogue on Drugs between the Andean Community and the EU, and likewise by signing, ratifying and implementing all existing international instruments concerned with this issue;
13. Stresses the transnational nature of criminality and international organised crime, and therefore proposes that cooperation be stepped up in judicial and criminal law matters and the area of police intelligence in order to tackle this issue properly, since the peace and stability of the Euro-Latin American partners are affected by such crime in its various forms, including drug trafficking, trafficking of human beings and of arms, money laundering and corruption;
14. Calls for joint innovative action to combat all crime related to the harmful use of new information technologies, including child pornography, computer fraud, cyberterrorism, the violation of network security and all acts against computer security in general;
15. Reiterates its conviction that peace and security in the Euro-Latin American area are closely linked to the equal sovereignty of all states, respect for their territorial integrity and political independence and respect for democratic values and human rights, including the right to economic and social development; welcomes therefore all cooperation

instruments which will contribute to achieving the Millennium Development Goals by the year 2015; stresses in this connection the need to get beyond a purely aid-based approach to development cooperation with Latin America, and give priority instead to cooperation in the fields of technology, higher education and innovation; reiterates its conviction that any immigration policy must be based on respect for human rights;

16. Stresses its commitment to promoting energy efficiency and increasing the use of renewable energy sources as a major step towards achieving security, stability and competitiveness in the area of energy supplies and sustainable development; stresses the importance of developing and investing in energy infrastructure; rejects the use of energy as a means of exercising political pressure;
17. Acknowledges that the long-term prosperity of both regions depends to a large extent on rational and sustainable management of natural resources, and supports the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and of respective capacities; undertakes to boost the reduction of emissions and the development of emission trading between the two regions and to promote joint action to combat climate change; calls on the Euro-Latin American partners to sign, without further delay, the various initiatives adopted on this issue within the UN framework, and particularly the Kyoto Protocol, and to spur bi-regional cooperation centring on an all-embracing approach to environmental issues;
18. Recommends that a bi-regional centre be established for the prevention of natural disasters, with the remit of drawing up common strategies and early-warning and preparation measures to reduce both regions' vulnerability to natural disasters caused by climate change and technological disasters; stresses that it is essential that the two regions cooperate on the prevention of risks linked to civilian use of nuclear energy, which is currently being developed in Latin America;

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19. Instructs its Co-Presidents to forward this resolution to the Presidency of the EU-LAC Summit, the Council of the Union and the Commission, and to the parliaments of the Member States of the European Union and all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, to the Latin American Parliament, to the Central American Parliament, to the Andean Parliament and to the Parliament of Mercosur.