EC/Chile agreement: partnership and cooperation agreement

1996/0149(CNS) - 11/06/1996 - Legislative proposal

OBJECTIVE: to conclude a cooperation agreement in order to prepare for future political and economic association between the European Community and its Member States and Chile. CONTENT: . main principle: the agreement, which was signed by the parties on 26 April 1996, has been concluded for an indefinite period and seeks to strengthen existing links by fostering the conditions that will lead ultimately to the establishment of political and economic association between the parties. .democratic clause: respect for democratic principles and human rights are an essential element of this agreement; . main elements: - regular political dialogue: this will take the form of regular meetings at the highest level between the various authorities in Chile and the European Union (e.g. President of Chile and Presidency of the European Union). An Annex defines how this dialogue will be conducted; - commercial aspects: strengthening of relations in order to promote and diversify trade and prepare for progressive liberalization of trade at a later date. The agreement should create conditions conducive to the establishment of political and economic association, in conformity with WTO rules and with due allowance for the sensitivity of certain products. Economic and commercial dialogue has been included in order to strengthen this cooperation. Provision has been made for cooperation on standardization, accreditation, certification, metrology and conformity evaluation, customs, temporary importation of goods, statistics, intellectual property and public procurement; - economic aspects: the parties undertake, in their mutual interest, to expand their economies by cultivating synergies in productive activities, creating new opportunities and increasing economic competitiveness. Cooperation will be as broad-based as possible, without excluding any sector a priori, and will focus in particular on conserving the environment and promoting the fundamental social rights of the parties. There are therefore provisions regarding industrial and business cooperation, cooperation on services, investment promotion, scientific and technical cooperation, especially in the fields of energy, transport, telecommunications, environmental protection and agriculture; - other fields of cooperation: the agreement includes provisions seeking to improve cooperation on social development, regional integration, public administration, institutional matters, communications, information and culture, training and education, drug trafficking, consumer protection and maritime fisheries. Triangular cooperation is also foreseen as a means of promoting cooperation with third countries in areas of common interest. Provision has been made for a joint declaration on interregional economic cooperation, mainly within MERCOSUR and for an open-ended clause so that the scope of cooperation can be extended as and when necessary; - resources for cooperation: the parties undertake to make sufficient resources available to implement this agreement (EIB to be encouraged to step up investments in Chile). - implementation of the agreement: a Joint Council for the framework cooperation agreement has been set up in order to supervise the implementation of the agreement. This Council will meet at ministerial level at regular intervals. The Council will be assisted by a joint committee in charge of commercial matters and a joint sub-committee in charge of ensuring that commercial targets are met. Provision has also been made for dialogue at parliamentary level and a joint declaration.