



**Declaration of the Co-Presidents of
the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly (EuroLat) on
‘Addressing the consequences of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine with a view to
strengthening peace and the multilateral order’
of 30 November 2022**

The Co-Presidents of the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly (EuroLat), Óscar Darío Pérez, Member of the Colombian House of Representatives and Andean Parliament, and Javi López, Member of the European Parliament, pursuant to Article 18 of the Assembly’s Rules of Procedure and on the occasion of the meetings of the EuroLat committees, forums and working groups from 30 November to 2 December 2022 in Brussels, Belgium, hereby:

1. Condemn in the strongest possible terms the Russian Federation’s illegal, unprovoked and unjustified military aggression against and invasion of Ukraine, as well as Belarus’s participation in it, demand that the Russian Federation immediately cease all military activities in Ukraine, unconditionally withdraw all military and paramilitary forces and equipment from all internationally recognised territory of Ukraine and fully respect the territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of Ukraine within its internationally recognised borders. Further condemn the illegal annexation by Russia and four Ukrainian regions by means of unlawful and illegitimate referendums; stress that the military attack and invasion constitute a grave violation of international law and, in particular, of the Charter of the United Nations; call on states and international organisations to establish access corridors and provide the necessary humanitarian aid to protect Ukraine’s civilian population. Roundly condemn the Russian army’s crimes of aggression and war crimes, indiscriminate attacks on the civilian population and numerous violations of international humanitarian law and human rights, which must not go unpunished. Call for a rapid solution including dialogue and diplomacy leading to peace and respect for the basic principles of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of states.
2. Highlight the stance taken by most Latin American countries supporting the Ukrainian people and rejecting Russia’s aggression.

3. Express their concern at the economic and social consequences that have aggravated the already uncertain economic situation and possible economic recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic, which constitutes one of the deepest crises of recent decades.
4. Demand that the Russian Federation cease its threat to use nuclear weapons, whose catastrophic consequences would upset security and stability.
5. Welcome with great satisfaction and interest the EU's adoption of the 'Road to 2023' strategy which marks a key step forward in revitalising the strategic partnership between the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean. Such a partnership, which should also serve to revitalise relations with civil society, is increasingly necessary in the light of the geopolitical and global challenges, including those triggered by the HIV/AIDS pandemic and Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, and in particular for rebuilding multilateralism, strengthening democracy and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as in trade in the energy, food and raw materials sectors.
6. Welcome the holding of the EU-CELAC Ministerial Meeting on 27 October in Buenos Aires, the first in-person meeting since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Stress the need to fully resume high-level political dialogue between the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean, and welcome the likelihood that a Bi-regional EU-CELAC Summit will be held in 2023, to set out objectives, priorities and a strategy, together with a concrete action plan to address common challenges, with special emphasis on safeguarding democracy and human rights and their universality.
7. Hope that the EU and Mexico will swiftly reach an agreement on the legal architecture of the EU-Mexico Global Agreement that will enable the ratification process to move forward. Its entry into force will enable closer political and trade relations between the EU and Mexico, and give rise to new ways to work together to overcome current global crises and will breathe new life into the relationship between the two regions. Trust that the agreement will lead to a simplification of administrative procedures and the effective protection of products classified as sensitive, providing enhanced legal certainty for all Mexican and European operators. Further call for the finalisation of the EU-Mercosur agreement once the additional commitments have been agreed. Express their support for the swift renewal of the EU-Chile agreement. Stress the that those European countries that have not yet done should complete the process of ratifying the political dialogue and cooperation pillar of the EU-Central America Association Agreement, which has been on hold for almost ten years. Hope that these agreements ensure high standards of human rights, sustainable development and environmental protection.
8. Emphasise that a broad network of cooperation, association and trade agreements between the two regions with the highest standards of sustainability represents a framework of useful and effective instruments with which to address a constructive common agenda, which may significantly help to boost the post-pandemic socio-economic recovery and address other challenges such as the consequences of the threefold global crisis (climate change, air pollution, loss of biodiversity) and war.

9. Stress the need to make progress in harmonising rules on tourist visas and visa waivers between the two regions, thus facilitating the free movement of people, strengthening our shared bonds and fostering economic, social and cultural exchanges that are of great mutual value, and call for priority to be afforded to negotiations towards a Schengen visa waiver for Ecuadorian citizens, thereby making good on the EuroLat Assembly's statements in favour of this.
10. Underline that the increase in the cost of living aggravates rates of poverty, extreme poverty and inequality, which hit women and children particularly hard, and therefore, the impact of rising prices on the most vulnerable households must be mitigated in order to hold down these indicators. Further underscore the need to find mechanisms to support all sectors of the economy which are facing unprecedented difficulties due to the rising cost of energy and raw materials.
11. Call for the adoption of policies to avoid energy dependence, fostering a diversification of energy resources, technologies and supply routes, establishing specific programmes for both public and private investment in energy efficiency and for the transition to renewable energies to guarantee compliance with climate commitments and to ensure energy sovereignty, thus helping combat climate change and address the energy supply problem.
12. Underscore the need for sustainable, efficient and affordable energy and electricity markets. Welcome the measures taken at various levels of government to ensure access to energy and electricity for citizens and businesses and thwart abuses
13. Stress the particular importance in the current climate of the need to protecting jobs, employment and labour rights, as well as promoting measures that favour the creation of stable, high-quality jobs. Recall the groups that have been particularly hard hit by these crises in terms of employment, future opportunities, education and training in both regions and therefore call on the governments of both regions to afford special attention to these sectors of the population. Underline that it is of utmost importance to ensure the protection of particularly vulnerable individuals, in particular women, young people, indigenous peoples, the elderly, persons with disabilities and those living alone or in institutions.
14. Stress the need to strengthen universal education systems that enable all people to have more options for social inclusion and labour market participation.
15. Highlight that the European Union and Latin America share common universal values, including freedom and the principle of non-discrimination. Stress the need to continue work shared between the two regions in the cause of gender equality and women's rights, including sexual and reproductive rights, and the rights of LGBTQIA+ people, as well as to combat gender-based violence, trafficking and sexual exploitation.

16. Underscore the importance of expressions of solidarity with women, adolescents and girls living in conflict situations in the world and call for the promotion of multilateral cooperation to implement the provisions of international humanitarian law and to maintain international peace and security, in accordance with UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), and the other resolutions related to the women, peace and security agenda proclaimed in the Buenos Aires Commitment adopted at the XV Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean; and call for women's participation in leadership positions in strategic sectors of the economy to be fostered with a view to achieve and move towards a society of care, thus overcoming the gender-specific division of labour.
17. Deplore the rise in hate speech against LGBTQIA+ people and call on states in both regions to take strong measures against hate speech against LGBTQIA+ people.
18. Underscore the importance in the current climate of maintaining fiscal responsibility and moving towards fairer and more sustainable tax systems. Stress the importance of ensuring that tax systems are progressive, and of states being responsible in drawing up monetary policies and public budgets.
19. Emphasise that public and private stakeholders must adopt initiatives and measures and make investments that allow for the continued reconstruction of our economic, social, health-care and food systems. Stress the need to redouble efforts to achieve social and economic recovery from the impact of the pandemic and to ensure that sustainable development, and green and digital transition are equitable and inclusive; recognise the additional burden that high levels of public debt impose on developing countries. Consider it important to establish frameworks and mechanisms to deal efficiently, equitably and predictably with situations of unsustainable public debt and to look into mechanisms for debt forgiveness for environmental care and conservation by Latin American countries.
20. Stress that COVID-19 has undermined media freedom, pluralism and independence and the safety of journalists worldwide. Call on governments in both regions to take concrete measures to foster a free and safe environment for journalists and media workers, thus strengthening peace, democracy and sustainable development; take the view that multilateral meetings, including the UN General Assembly and the UN Human Rights Council should adopt initiatives raising awareness of the oppression of freedom of expression;
21. The COVID-19 pandemic and the crisis triggered by the war in Ukraine have once again demonstrated the social economy's resilience and its importance in ensuring a just transition, reducing inequalities, providing high-quality job opportunities for vulnerable groups, fostering independent living, strengthening feelings of community, combating depopulation and furthering the development of rural areas; believe that Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union have the opportunity to share experiences and regulatory and deliberative frameworks, to continue the momentum of the social

economy in both blocs and to take a leading role in promoting of the social economy in international fora.

22. Underline that the current crisis is shining a light on the vulnerabilities of the global food system; insist, therefore, on the need to guarantee food security at global level by finding mechanisms to keep a lid on the current volatility in food prices, while ensuring inclusive and sustainable global supply chains and local and regional markets, with a view to guaranteeing the supply of affordable and accessible food for all, with due account for effects and negative consequences such as scarcity and shortages that can be caused by protectionist policies that restrict international trade.
23. Take the view that that Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union must foster joint initiatives in international fora to address situations that constitute threats and to ensure food security or access to food for vulnerable countries and populations.
24. Stress the importance of making the UN system more representative and inclusive and thus able to address global challenges more effectively and efficiently while guaranteeing the principles of sovereignty and equality among all states. Further call in that regard for a rethinking of the international financial architecture. Point out that that dialogue, negotiation and agreements are essential tools in guaranteeing global peace and security.