EUROPEAN CONSERVATIVES AND REFORMISTS

Lima, 1st June 2025

ECR GROUP POLITICAL MESSAGES AT THE EUROLAT ASSEMBLY, LIMA 2025

*The ECR Group believes that Europe and Latin America must work together to promote and defend freedom and democracy (starting with **CUBA, VENEZUELA and NICARAGUA);** increasing fair trade relations and investment flows; encourage the sustainable use of natural resources and promote a non-ideological approach to environmental protection; create joint projects and develop infrastructures capable of unlocking all untapped social and economic potential; investing in human capital and in particular in the new generations; combating organised crime and drug trafficking.*

Europe and Latin America are inextricably linked by their common past. We share languages, culture and religion. Thanks to this unique bond, we are convinced that these two parts of the world have a **common destiny**. For us Latin America represents the continuation of European civilization, a 'Europe outside the EU'. Together we want to shape a future of **peace**, **security** and **prosperity**.

In the light of the increasingly complex geopolitical situation, we are convinced that it is necessary to strengthen the strategic relationship between Europe and Latin America. Our main objective is to promote a mutually beneficial political agenda focusing on concrete initiatives that can have a real impact for people, starting from their fundamental needs: **freedom and security.**

As ECR Group, we are aware that we need a new approach to relations between Europe and Latin America. The EU needs Latin America, in particular

to achieve the green and digital transitions, just as Latin America needs the EU to continue and strengthen its political, economic and social development. Together, looking also at the United States of America, we can **strengthen the "Western bloc" defending the social model and the values that distinguish it**, within a world that has become multipolar.

Politically, on the European side, we are at the beginning of a new phase, with a new Parliament and a new European Commission. This is the right time to **redefine our bilateral relations**, both at sub-regional level (Mercosur, the Andean Community, Central America and the Caribbean) and with individual countries (Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, Colombia and Chile). The parliamentary dimension of the EU's external action, in particular the action of the Delegation to the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly (EUROLAT), could play a key role in achieving this.

The ECR Group priorities are:

- Unite conservative forces: we want strengthen ties with democratic, conservative and patriotic political forces that are alternatives to the "Foro de Sao Paulo" and "Grupo de Puebla". Together we should also fight against the left-wing economic model that has impoverished and indebted the peoples of Latin America. We welcome the extraordinary work of economic recovery carried out by the President of Argentina Javier Milei;

- Counterbalance the leftists' ideology: we want to counter the cultural hegemony of the European left in reference to Latin America. We oppose the theories that promote "cancel culture", the "Spanish black legend (*leyenda negra)"* and "indigenism" *(indigenismo*). These proposals, supported by the left, weaken the unity between Europe and Latin America.

- Defending freedom and democracy: we are particularly concerned about the worsening situation in Venezuela, Cuba and Nicaragua, which are among the world's most authoritarian states; we strongly condemns the systematic human rights violations and abuses perpetrated by these regimes and we demanding the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners; we remain steadfast in our commitment to support the Venezuelan people's struggle for

freedom and democracy, advocating for stronger international action, we reaffirm our recognition of Edmundo González as the legitimate elected President; we request the suspension of the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement (PDCA) with the Cuban government signed in 2016;

- **Countering the Chinese presence:** China, Russia and Iran, have deepened their footprint in LAC, with Beijing constantly expanding investments in infrastructure. Furthermore, China's growing economic dominance and political influence in Latin America has quietly but steadily advanced, potentially weakening the European Union's presence and reshaping geopolitics in the region. A clear example is the new port of Chancay in Peru, which is emerging as China's first logistics hub for the Pacific coast of Latin America. We are particularly concerned about the Colombia's decision to join China's Belt and Road initiative;

- Tackling drug trafficking and promoting legality: we are concerned about the unprecedented quantities of illicit drugs trafficked to the EU from the LAC region; we reiterate the call for a substantial increase in bi-regional cooperation in the fight against organized crime and drug trafficking; we want foster the exchange of knowledge and good practices in law-making and law enforcement cooperation in the fight against organised crime and drug trafficking. On the European side, we should have a particular focus on new law enforcement initiatives such as the 'European ports alliance against drugs' and promoting awareness-raising campaigns targeting new generations. There must be no room for agreement with organized crime and the drug cartels and we must fight them firmly and with adequate resources and means. We acknowledge the positive results obtained by the President of El Salvador Nayib Bukele.

- Creating new economic opportunities Latin America offers great business opportunities. We are in favor of further liberalization of trade but this must not go against the interests of our farmers, who are already severely affected by the green ideology imposed by the left. We support a positive agenda of equal cooperation, facilitating technology transfer and support the LAC region the production and transformation of critical raw material (CRM) for the benefit of local communities and economies;

- Support the Global Gateway in a pragmatic way: the Global Gateway, which has a dedicated section for Latin America with EUR 45 billion of investments

divided into 135 specific projects, must be focus in investments in the expansion and maintenance of utility, energy, transport and telecommunication infrastructure; a special focus could be given to space cooperation also with the contribution of French Guiana;

-Managing migratory flows: the correct management of migratory flows, both internal and external, represents a common challenge for both sides. We propose that both regions adopt immigration policies to safeguard national borders and protect national identity, with an emphasis on combating illegal immigration, human trafficking, and ensuring that immigration is aligned with the needs and security of the host countries; we are particularly concerned about immigration for humanitarians and political reasons, as in the case of Venezuelan, Cubans and Nicaraguans citizens forced to escape from their antidemocratic regime; given the cultural proximity, it would be better for the EU to promote legal immigration from Latin America rather than from other areas of the world that present greater challenges for integration;

- **Preserving common roots:** as ECR Group, we attach great importance to maintaining the historical, cultural and linguistic links between Europe and Latin America. For this reason, we propose to raise support to cultural associations active in the educational and sports fields and in particular those that are concerned with keeping alive the memory of European emigration to Latin America; cooperation in the tourism sector must be placed at the center of the bi-regional agenda.