



Confédération syndicale des travailleurs des Amériques
Confederación sindical de los trabajadores de las Américas
Trade Union Confederation of the workers of Americas



Confédération européenne des Syndicats
Confederación Europea de Sindicatos
European Trade Union Confederation



Confédération syndicale internationale
Confederación Sindical Internacional
International Trade Union Confederation

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Trade Union call to action for the 1st EU-CELAC Summit of Heads of State and Government (Santiago de Chile, 26 and 27 January 2013)

Alternative Development model.

1. We communicate the trade union movement's disappointment to the EU-CELAC summit regarding the Rio+20 Conference Final Declaration. This was manifested during the II Trade Union Assembly on Labour and the Environment called by the ITUC in June 2012 and demand that the governments respect and implement the commitments undertaken in intergovernmental processes concerning sustainable development and the environment such as: the Rio Declaration, Agenda 21, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Conventions on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Desertification, as well as the mechanisms for managing hazardous chemicals such as the Rotterdam, Basil and Stockholm Conventions.
2. Taking into account that the main theme of the EU-CELAC Summit will be "promoting investments of social quality to create employment and sustainable development", the EU-Latin-American trade union movement consider that it is necessary to get rid of the neoliberal tendencies which have up to now, predominated in Europe and in many Latin American countries, shaping the development models and relationships between the two blocs.

Consequently it is imperative to reiterate the proposals from the 3rd Ibero-American Trade Union Forum held in Madrid in October 2012:

- The promotion of full employment as a strategic goal of all the Governments macroeconomic policies promoting more and better decent jobs.
- The development of industrial policies and technological advances that promote production and sectorial sectors in our countries, increasing the levels of systemic productivity and the levels of decent work.
- Promoting progressive fiscal policies that foster aggregate demand and productive investment and encourage a more equitable distribution of wealth. These policies should put special emphasis on the fight against fraud and tax evasion and the elimination of tax havens as well as the implementation of a universal financial transaction tax.
- The revival of the role of the development bank and better access to productive financing, promoting the long-term financial stability of our economies.
- The development of a strong role for public investment and social policies to accompany a new generation of decent and productive jobs.
- The promotion of a gender focused sustainable model, in which the redistribution of wealth will eradicate poverty for women, eliminate the wage gap and reduce unemployment among women.

- A call for continuing support for economic policies fostering growth and youth employment within the framework of a genuine sustainable development policy.

Furthermore we confirmed that:

- Investment policies must be an instrument for sustainable development and decent work. Otherwise, they lose their social function and cause serious damage to citizens and workers.
- It is essential to establish Consultation Clauses with the communities receiving investment in order that it benefit the companies but also the development of the local communities.
- The strategic importance of traditional agriculture and family agricultural production as fundamental axes for the development and social inclusion of millions of Latin-Americans. Reiterating that rural farmers should be protected from the aggressive action of agribusiness and that they should be given help to own land, credit and technical assistance to steadily develop the Agricultural Reform needed across our region.

Trade Agreements and Policies.

3. The trade agreements should overhaul their neoliberal tendencies. The so-called Association Agreements are starting to become mere free trade agreements that do not take into account the asymmetries between the signatory countries and regions and which exclude the social, labour and environmental dimensions which increases dependency.

We are calling for a change of direction in the bi-regional negotiations so that the talks foster development models that are more economically balanced, ensure greater cohesion and social justice and respect for the environment.

4. We support the EESE proposals for the setting up of Joint Consultation Committees so that civil society can participate in the follow-up of the Trade Agreements. They should also set up, with trade union participation, specific committees to guarantee compliance with ILO Standards and Conventions with adequate powers to denounce violations of workers' rights.
5. We value the efforts by some members of the European Parliament during the ratification process to correct the serious deficiencies in the EU-Colombia-Peru trade agreements (particularly in Colombia in relation to the continuing anti-trade union violence and impunity) through the request for a road map that the governments of Peru and Colombia have not responded to adequately. They have also failed to consult with trade union and social organisations in their respective countries. However we do not consider them sufficient to overcome the structural problems which hinder the effective implementation of workers' rights in those countries. We reiterate our request to the Summit that those agreements do not enter into force (and we will continue to ask for their rejection during the ratification

process in the European national parliaments) and that it be renegotiated within the framework of a Bloc Agreement, between the EU and the Andean Community.

6. We ask for the revision of the EU-Mexico and EU-Chile trade agreements signed in 1997 and 2002 respectively, in order to adapt them to the equitable development objectives outlined, to introduce social dimension criterion and also to establish civil society participation fora, not provided for in the EU-Mexico agreement and not implemented by the EU-Chile agreement.

Human and fundamental labour rights

7. The gravity of the anti-trade union violence in Guatemala requires the enforcement (even before its entry into force) of the mechanisms provided for in the EU-Central America Association Agreement for the suspension of same in cases of serious breaches, that in this case would be the provisions concerning the enforcement of the international Conventions on human rights. We will communicate to the appropriate CELAC and EU authorities the details of the ITUC, the TUCA and the ETUC campaigns condemning the murders and other forms of violence in Guatemala
8. The promotion of decent work should become a priority of the cooperation policy between the European Union and Latin America. The Trade Unions Forum believes that in order to achieve this objective, genuine commitments must be made to respect and implement the ILO Fundamental Conventions, the mechanisms for verifying compliance should include social and trade union participation in all EU-LAC policies and negotiations, the ILO Tripartite Declaration on Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy and ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal People and also the Ratification of ILO Conventions 156, 183 and 189. Similarly, the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises should also be respected.
9. Collective Agreements have been a fundamental part of the European Social model in the majority of countries since the Second World War and in others since their democratisation processes. However, in recent years, social dialogue has weakened in Europe. The recent labour reform in Spain aims to override collective agreements as an instrument to improve worker participation in the distribution of income. This resulted in a complaint being filed with the ILO against the Spanish government. We demand the abolition of the labour reform and the opening of dialogue between the Spanish government and the trade unions.
10. We call on the summit of Heads of State to promote the adoption of legal measures to incorporate the gender perspective in a transversal way and to eliminate all forms of violence against women. We ask that the issues of companies' discrimination against women, particularly regarding access to quality jobs and wages, be remedied. We support the efforts of various countries in the LAC and the UE to implement a genuine equal opportunities policy through affirmative actions but these public policies must be implemented and enforced in order to guarantee workers' human and labour rights.

11. Concerning the Reform of the Federal Labour Law in Mexico, we call on the ILO to carry out a study on its impact on fundamental labour rights to guide future trade union actions.

Democracy and political and civil rights

12. We ask the European Union and the Member States' governments to listen to the message expressed by European workers during numerous mobilisations in favour of a new Social Contract that would put social issues at the heart of political agendas to achieve sustainable economic growth with social cohesion and respect for the values enshrined in the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights.
13. We support the negotiation process in Colombia between the government and FARC and we express our wish that it will contribute to peace and peaceful and democratic coexistence. Furthermore we also affirm that negotiations on social and labour issues should include the trade union movement.
14. We call on the EU-CELAC Heads of State to reject the forced deposition of the Constitutional President of Paraguay, Fernando Lugo who was democratically elected by the people. They are calling for the respect of basic human rights and for democracy in Paraguay and to maintain the pressure so that the illegal government of Paraguay is isolated internationally.
15. We call for an end to the American blockade of Cuba and the opening of talks between Cuba and the EU to reach bilateral agreements such as the inclusion of Cuba in the Africa-Caribbean-Pacific Agreement (ACP).
16. We condemn the criminalisation of social protest in Panama and the repression of the Panamanian trade union movement by Ricardo Martinelli's government.
17. We show our solidarity with all trade union and social leaders in the different countries who have been penalised and prosecuted on account of their trade union action and their fight for human rights. In particular we call for the liberation of the 10 Luluncoto prisoners in Ecuador.
18. The Trade Unions Forum asks the European authorities to emphatically address the xenophobia outbreaks in various EU countries where immigrant workers are threatened with discriminatory measures. We therefore reiterate the request to review the so-called Return Directive. We also reiterate our call for the ratification of the United Nation's Convention on the Protection of Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families.
19. Trade unions call for full democracy in all European and Latin American countries and particularly for trade union freedom as established by ILO principles.

- 20.** The Euro-Latin-American trade union movement supports the farmer's movement in Latin American and the Caribbean and asks governments to implement genuine agricultural reform to fight against land concentration, reprimarisation and the large profits of agribusiness.