Parliamentary Assembly
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COUNCIL OF EUROPE
CONSEIL DE L'EUROPE

Resolution 2603 (2025)[1]

Strengthening relations between the Council of Europe and Latin America

Parliamentary Assembly

1. Europe and Latin America share multidimensional ties: the Parliamentary Assembly, in its Resolution 390 (1968) "Relations with Latin America", already recalled that "the many bonds linking Europe and Latin America are not simply the result of the economic realities of the modern world, but also of their heritage of civilisation". Indeed, their cultures, politics and economies are deeply intertwined, and the links forged during more than five centuries of common history have facilitated the exchange of ideas, traditions and values across the Atlantic Ocean.

2. With some exceptions, countries and organisations in the Latin American region share the same fundamental values that lie at the heart of the Council of Europe: the universality of human rights, the irreplaceable nature of democracy and the primacy of the rule of law over the rule of might.

3. The Council of Europe has already institutionalised relations and established contacts with several regional organisations and institutions in Latin America:

3.1. a co-operation agreement was signed in 2008 between the Assembly and the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament (Parlatino);

3.2. a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Council of Europe and the Organization of American States (OAS) in 2011;

3.3. the European Court of Human Rights, together with the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, adopted the Declaration of San José in 2018, which establishes the Permanent Forum of Institutional Dialogue;

3.4. dialogue and co-operation activities have been developed with the Ibero-American system and its sectoral organisations.

4. The Council of Europe has always supported the cause of freedom, democracy and the rule of law in Latin America. In 2024, it awarded the Václav Havel Human Rights Prize to María Corina Machado.

5. The Council of Europe also has bilateral relations with a number of Latin American countries. Mexico is the country with the strongest ties with the Organisation, considering that, since 1999, it enjoys observer status with the Council of Europe, and the Mexican Congress enjoys observer status with the Assembly. Other Latin American countries co-operate with the Council of Europe, for example through the European Commission for Democracy through Law (the Venice Commission): since 2002, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica and Peru have joined the Venice Commission as members, and Argentina and Uruguay as observers.

6. The existing links between Europe and Latin America are particularly relevant in the current volatile and uncertain geopolitical context. The rules-based international order is under attack and, at the same time, the global challenges requiring a common international response based on multilateralism and co-operation are

1. *Assembly debate* on 10 April 2025 (17th sitting) (see Doc. 16129, report of the Committee on Political Affairs and Democracy, rapporteur: Mr Antonio Gutiérrez Limones). *Text adopted by the Assembly* on 10 April 2025 (17th sitting).
See also Recommendation 2296 (2025).

growing: geopolitical conflicts and threats to international security, climate change and environmental degradation, energy transition and the management of relevant natural resources, mass migrations, health risks and the use of artificial intelligence.

7. As in some member States of the Council of Europe, democracy in Latin America suffers from the threat of polarisation, radicalism and foreign interference.

8. The Assembly considers that it is more important than ever for Europe to strengthen its ties with regions that share its values. The Latin American region should be considered as a natural ally. While the existing partnerships with multilateral organisations and countries in Latin America should be strengthened, the Council of Europe should also seek to develop dialogue and new forms of co-operation in the region.

9. The Assembly recalls that, in the Reykjavik Declaration, the Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe committed to strengthening the role of the Organisation in global governance by enhancing its external dimension, through a new engagement based on its core values with democracies in the world. They also underlined the need to promote increased ratification of Council of Europe conventions that are open to non-member States, extending the outreach of the Organisation to non-member countries also through the active contribution of observer States, and they called for more political dialogue with other international organisations.

10. The Assembly pays tribute to the important contributions made by the observer delegation of the Mexican Congress to the work of the Assembly and to the role played by Mexico as a State that has observer status with the Council of Europe for more than twenty-five years. It therefore invites Mexico and its Congress to continue to promote the work and standards of the Council of Europe, and to serve as an inspiration for other countries and their national assemblies in the Latin America region that might be interested in strengthening their relations with the Organisation.

11. In line with these considerations, and building on Resolution 2581 (2025) “The need for a renewed rules-based international order”, the Assembly calls on Council of Europe member States and observer States to:

11.1. strengthen their relations with relevant multilateral organisations in Latin America, in particular the OAS and the Ibero-American system, through high-level meetings, sectoral agreements, technical co-operation activities, exchange of expertise and joint events, with a view to:

11.1.1. upholding multilateralism and the respect for international law;

11.1.2. promoting and protecting human rights;

11.1.3. countering the backsliding of democracy;

11.1.4. promoting the principles of the rule of law;

11.1.5. addressing the impact of pollution, climate change and loss of biodiversity;

11.1.6. addressing the impact of new technologies and artificial intelligence;

11.2. engage in a dialogue with Latin American States, to promote Council of Europe standards and technical expertise and to encourage their accession to the enlarged agreements, enlarged partial agreements and conventions that are open to non-member States of the Council of Europe, such as the Council of Europe Framework Convention on Artificial Intelligence and Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law (CETS No. 225), the Venice Commission and the Council of Europe International Co-operation Group on Drugs and Addictions (Pompidou Group).

12. The Assembly welcomes the fruitful collaboration of the European Court of Human Rights with its regional counterparts, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights, and encourages them to further strengthen their joint efforts, in particular with regard to the promotion of their regional instruments, the sharing of their jurisprudence with national courts and the available mechanisms for monitoring the enforcement of judgments.

13. Convinced of the importance of interparliamentary dialogue and diplomacy in building bridges across continents, ensuring the cross-fertilisation of ideas and protecting and strengthening democracy, human rights and the rule of law, the Assembly resolves to:

13.1. revive the co-operation agreement signed with the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament in 2008 and contribute to its implementation, by:

13.1.1. inviting the President of the Parlatino, at appropriate intervals, to attend and address the Assembly's plenary during its part-sessions;

13.1.2. inviting a delegation from the Parlatino to attend the Assembly's part-sessions, conferences and other events, whenever appropriate, and organising joint ad hoc meetings on matters of common interest;

13.1.3. exchanging official documentation and putting its expertise on parliamentary practice and procedure at the disposal of the Parlatino and its members;

13.2. enter into a dialogue with the ParlAmericas, the independent network comprised of national legislatures of the member States of the OAS, to assess possible areas of collaboration on matters of common interest.

14. The Assembly encourages national parliaments from the Latin American region to explore the strengthening of their relations with the Assembly, with a view to submitting a request for observer status with the Assembly.

15. With regard to the general outreach of the Council of Europe in the Latin American region, the Assembly recognises the value of having available updated texts and information regarding the Organisation translated into Spanish and recommends that this effort be continued whenever possible.