

## **Vlth institutionalized ministerial European Union - Rio Group meeting**

Cochabamba Declaration; 16 april 1996

1. The Vlth institutionalized ministerial meeting of the Rio Group and the European Union was held in Cochabamba (Bolivia) on 15 and 16 April 1996, in accordance with the provisions of the Rome Declaration of 20 December 1990 and the Final Declaration of the Vth ministerial meeting held in Paris on 17 March 1995.
2. Ministers confirmed the vital importance they attached to respect for human rights and citizens' fundamental freedoms and to the principles of democracy and political pluralism. Those values form the basis for collaboration between the European Union and the Rio Group and also represent an essential element in securing sustainable development.
3. Ministers made a positive assessment of the political dialogue and of the relations and cooperation between the countries of the Rio Group and the European Union since the Rome Conference. They also agreed to make their coordination within international organizations even more effective.
4. The institutionalization of the biregional dialogue had contributed to the strengthening of relations with the different subregions and countries of the Rio Group.
5. Cooperation had been enhanced, in particular as a result of the Third-Generation Agreements, greater involvement of civil society, the definition of strategies for the subregions, countries and sectors and the implementation of horizontal programmes.
6. In the last five years, Latin America and the Caribbean had become one of the most dynamic world markets for European exports; the countries of the European Union had become one of the main investors in the region. In addition, the European Union was the leading cooperating partner in Latin America and the Caribbean.
7. Ministers welcomed the implementation of a new strategy for reinforcing commercial, economic and technological exchanges and promoting industry and investments consolidating the partnership between the private sectors in both regions. That strategy takes account of the realities and new potential of the two regions from the political, trade, investment and cooperation aspects and aims at facilitating closer relations by means, for example, of schemes to bring about the gradual and reciprocal liberalization of trade with the subregions and countries of the Rio Group. In this context, they pointed to the following evidence of progress:
8. The conclusion of the Interregional Framework Cooperation Agreement between Mercosur and the European Union and the Joint Declaration on political dialogue signed in Madrid in December 1995, which had as their aim the strengthening of their relations and the establishment of a political and economic interregional association.
9. The signing of the Joint Declaration on political dialogue between the European Union and Chile on 18 December 1995 and the beginning of negotiations for a new agreement aiming at the establishment of a political and economic association.
10. The adoption of the Joint Solemn Declaration on 2 May 1995 between the European Union and Mexico in which the parties expressed their resolve to negotiate a new political, economic, trade and cooperation agreement.
11. The positive direction taken by the San José dialogue between the European Union and Central America, one of the essential objectives of which is to reaffirm the process of peace and development and renew and update the institutional dialogue between the parties, as agreed at the San José XII meeting in Florence on 21 March 1996. They also emphasized the positive role of the Alliance for Sustainable Development (ALIDES).
12. The development of the dialogue which will enable political, economic and trade relations between the European Union and the Andean Community to be strengthened, in accordance with the conclusions of the Andean Presidential Council and the Madrid European Council.

### **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

13. Ministers welcomed the gradual incorporation of all aspects of sustainable development into public policies, thus linking a strengthening of the socio-economic development of the people, environmental protection, the fight against poverty, especially as regards less-favoured regions, the expansion of international competitiveness and respect for cultural diversity. Ministers confirmed their agreement on the implementation of the action programme of the World Summit for Social Development held in Copenhagen in March 1995. They agreed, therefore, to pay special heed, inter alia through projects in the areas of health,

education and housing policies, to the fight against inequality and social exclusion, the protection of the rights of indigenous communities and their cultural heritage and their full participation in all aspects of society in the context of the national development of their respective countries.

14. Ministers recommended stepping up specific action to promote and protect women's rights and equal participation in decision-making processes, in accordance with the agreements adopted at the Fourth World Women's Conference held in Beijing.

15. Ministers also stressed the importance, in the context of this comprehensive view of sustainable development, of the holding of the Summit of the Americas for Sustainable Development, which is to take place in Bolivia in December 1996, and of the declarations of the European Council in this respect.

16. Ministers underlined the importance of industrialization as a means of securing sustainable development. In this context, they stressed the role of UNIDO and welcomed the ongoing comprehensive reform.

#### **ECONOMY, TRADE AND INVESTMENT**

17. Ministers welcomed the continuing progress of regional integration in Latin America, the Caribbean and in Europe which, by creating extended economic areas, has made an important contribution to the liberalization and expansion of international trade, the political rapprochement of the States concerned and to the on-going modernization and refinement of their economic and social structures.

18. As evidence of the growing macro-economic solidity of the Latin American region and the Caribbean, Ministers drew attention to the way in which the economies of the countries of the region had faced up to and overcome the negative effects of the volatility of international capital which had occurred in the first months of 1995. In this context, they stressed the importance of the holding of a seminar on the subject in Rome on 6 and 7 May 1996.

19. Ministers expressed their interest in the promotion of investments which, in recent years, had made a particularly important contribution to the modernization of the productive capacity of Latin America and the Caribbean, the strengthening of links between the countries of the European Union and the Rio Group, the diversification of economic and trade relations and the consolidation of the partnership between the private sectors of the two regions.

20. Ministers asked the European Investment Bank to step up its activities in Latin America while adhering to its funding procedures and criteria.

21. Ministers stressed their commitment to the promotion of the principles of multilateralism and free competition; they expressed their firm resolve to strengthen the World Trade Organization by fully implementing its rules and disciplines and employing the mechanisms provided for the solution of trade disputes. In this regard, they stated their firm rejection of any unilateral measure having extraterritorial effects contrary to international law and to commonly accepted free-trade rules. They emphasized the importance of honouring the commitments made during the Uruguay Round and the urgent need in this context of successfully completing the negotiations for the liberalization of the remaining sectors and continuing the examination of the questions arising from the Marrakesh Conference. In this context, the interests and the differing levels of development of the countries must be considered in a balanced way.

22. They considered it desirable to cooperate closely in order that a full appraisal of the implementation of the results of the Uruguay Round might be made at the first WTO ministerial meeting, to be held in Singapore in December 1996.

23. Ministers acknowledged the importance of the European Union's cooperation in the interests of the Rio Group countries over the last five years and agreed on the need for those efforts to continue and to be stepped up, with due regard for the development priorities established for each country. They welcomed the conclusions of the Madrid European Council concerning the strengthening of cooperation between the European Union and Latin America for the period 1996-2000 on the basis of certain areas of priority focus.

24. Ministers expressed their willingness to support projects for cooperation between the private sectors of the two regions, with particular support for small and medium-sized enterprises. Accordingly, they attached great importance to the recent European Union arrangements regarding the renewal of co-investment promotion programmes and ties between entrepreneurs (AL-INVEST and ECIP). They again acknowledged the academic and vocational training programmes being developed by the CEFIR in the field of regional integration, the FORCE-RIO programme for technical training and the ALFA academic and scientific exchange programme.

25. Furthermore, they emphasized the potential of the ALURE programme for the exchange of information on and restructuring of energy policy. Ministers welcomed the forthcoming European Union-Latin America Energy

Conference due to take place in Caracas on 27 and 28 June, which would analyse the prospects for energy cooperation between the two regions.

26. In the context of improving the effectiveness of cooperation, Ministers recognized the importance of follow-up to and appropriate assessment of programmes and cooperation projects.

27. Ministers underlined the importance of the IVth Framework Programme for Scientific and Technological Cooperation and acknowledged the need, when the Vth Framework Programme was drawn up, to consider the possibility of strengthening the participation of the Rio Group countries. They therefore stressed the importance for the two regions of full participation in the various aspects of the construction of the Information Society. They agreed to establish a dialogue at the appropriate level, with a view to defining the ways and means to be used to achieve these objectives.

#### **DRUGS AND RELATED ISSUES**

28. Ministers emphasized the importance of maintaining a high-level political dialogue between the Rio Group and the European Union on cooperation in the field of drugs and related issues. Accordingly, they noted with satisfaction the dialogue between the European Union and the Andean Group initiated at the ministerial meeting in Brussels on 26 September 1995, the signing of the agreements for the control of chemical precursors and the first joint meeting of high-level experts in Rome on 11 March 1996. Ministers emphasized the importance of strengthening the role of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme.

29. Both sides viewed with interest the proposal to hold a special session of the United Nations General Assembly on drugs and related issues. They stated that this proposal should be dealt with by the 39th session of the Commission on Narcotics Drugs, to be held in Vienna from 16 to 25 April 1996, and by the high-level group of the Economic and Social Council on the problem of drugs, which will be held in New York in June 1996.

30. Ministers also expressed satisfaction at the agreement reached by the Rio Group and the European Union on developing and deepening their relations in this area. They emphasized the importance of promoting practical joint measures to address the global threat posed by the problem of drugs.

31. They also appealed to the international community to take joint action based on the principle of co-responsibility to deal with this problem. Ministers considered that this global co-responsibility strategy was essential in bringing about a genuine reduction in the supply of and demand for illicit drugs of both natural and synthetic origin, to control the diversion of chemical precursors, money-laundering and other related offences, and to ensure judicial cooperation and the implementation of development programmes aimed at abolishing production.

#### **JOINT ACTION**

32. Ministers agreed to step up their cooperation in the above areas in the framework of their respective jurisdiction in the appropriate fora. Consequently, in their desire to improve the appropriate dialogue and cooperation structures, they also agreed to:

33. - intensify their political dialogue, at subregional level, by incorporating topics of concern to both regions and the international community, at the inter-parliamentary level and in international fora;

34. - continue the exchange of experiences, with a view to strengthening the climate of confidence and thereby reducing the risks of conflict and consolidating international peace and security through respect for the law and international treaties;

35. - examine, taking into account the efforts of both regions in the fight against corruption and terrorism, the conclusions to be drawn, in the interests of effective cooperation between the two regions, from the Seminar on Moral Integrity and Civil Ethics, held in Montevideo in November 1995, the Inter-American Convention on Corruption, signed in Caracas on 29 March 1996, and the Specialized Conference on Terrorism to be held in Lima in April 1996.

36. Ministers stressed the importance of judicial cooperation in the civil and criminal spheres and called for such cooperation to be intensified, in particular by the accession of the countries concerned to the relevant international conventions.

37. Ministers agreed to continue developing the dialogue established in the United Nations framework and to meet in New York on the occasion of the United Nations 51st General Assembly.

38. Ministers agreed to convene the IVth High-Level Economic and Trade Meeting in Brussels for the second half

of 1996.

39. Ministers thanked the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands for its invitation to hold the VIIth institutionalized Rio Group - European Union ministerial meeting at Noordwijk on 7 April 1997.

40. Ministers expressed their gratitude to the Bolivian people and to the Bolivian Government for their hospitality and organization of the meeting, which had ensured the success of the VIth institutionalized ministerial meeting between the Rio Group and the European Union.

## **ANNEX**

### **LIFT OF PARTICIPANTS**

The President of Bolivia, Mr Gonzalo SANCHEZ de LOZADA, addressed the opening session of the meeting.

#### **EUROPEAN UNION**

##### **Belgium:**

Mr Frans VAN DAELE Director-General for Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

##### **Denmark:**

Ms Ellen Margrethe LOJ State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

##### **Germany:**

Mr Werner HOYER Minister of State for Foreign Affairs

##### **Greece:**

Mr Theodoros PANGALOS Minister for Foreign Affairs

##### **Spain:**

Mr Carlos WESTENDORP Minister for Foreign Affairs

##### **France:**

Mr Michel BARNIER Minister with responsibility for European Affairs

##### **Ireland:**

Mr Dick SPRING Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs

##### **Italy:**

Ms Susanna AGNELLI Minister for Foreign Affairs

##### **Luxembourg:**

Mr Paul FABER Ambassador, Head of Delegation

##### **Netherlands:**

Mr J.E. CRAANEN Director, "Western Hemisphere Department"

##### **Austria:**

Ms Benita FERRERO-WALDNER State Secretary, Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs

##### **Portugal:**

Mr Manuel FERNANDES PEREIRA Director-General for European Affairs

##### **Finland:**

Mr Jukka VALTASAARI State Secretary for Foreign Affairs

##### **Sweden:**

Mr Ulf HJERTONSSON Director-General for Political Affairs

##### **United Kingdom:**

Mr Malcolm RIFKIND Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

##### **Commission:**

Mr Manuel MARIN Vice-President

#### **RIO GROUP**

Argentina:  
Mr Guido DI TELLA Minister for Foreign Affairs

Bolivia:  
Mr Antonio ARANIBAR Minister for Foreign Affairs

Brazil:  
Mr Sebastião REGO BARROS Secretary-General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Chile:  
Mr Jose Miguel INSULZA Minister for Foreign Affairs

Colombia:  
Mr Diego CARDONA Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs (America)

Costa Rica:  
Mr Rodrigo CARRERAS JIMENEZ Minister for Foreign Affairs

Ecuador:  
  
Mr Gao LEORO FRANCO Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mexico:  
Mr Jose Angel GURRIA Minister for Foreign Affairs

Panama:  
Mr Marcel SALAMIN Chef Coordinating Delegate of the Rio Group

Paraguay:  
Mr Luis Maria RAMIREZ BOETTNER Minister for Foreign Affairs

Peru:  
Mr Francisco TUDELA Minister for Foreign Affairs

Trinidad and Tobago:  
Mr Ralph MARAJ Minister for Foreign Affairs

Uruguay:  
Mr Alvaro RAMOS TRIGO Minister for Foreign Affairs

Venezuela:  
Mr Miguel Angel BURELLI RIVAS Minister for Foreign Affairs

#### OBSERVERS

European Parliament:  
Mr Gerardo GALEOTE QUECEDO President of the European Parliament delegation for relations with South-American countries

Latin-American Parliament:  
Mr Gustavo LARREA President

Institute for European-Latin-American Relations (IRELA):  
Mr. Wolf GRABENDORFF Director

ADC:  
Mr Enrique GARCIA President