



External Perspectives on EU Diplomacy

ANNUAL HIGH-LEVEL LECTURE

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Summary of the first high-level
*External Perspectives on EU
Diplomacy Lecture*

EU International Relations and
Diplomacy Studies

College of Europe, Bruges

12 March 2024

A Latin American Perspective on EU Diplomacy: A View from Chile

Ambassador Gloria NAVARRETE, Ambassador of Chile to the EU



Federica MOGHERINI, the Rector of the College of Europe, warmly welcomed the audience and expressed her gratitude to Ambassador Gloria NAVARRETE for accepting the invitation

to come to Bruges and delivering a lecture on Chile's relations with the European Union (EU). She also thanked Professor Sieglinde GSTÖHL, Director of the Department of EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies, for organizing the first 'External Perspectives on EU Diplomacy' lecture. Professor GSTÖHL emphasized that it was time to create a second lecture series that complemented the Department's existing annual series of 'EU Diplomacy Lectures'. She then introduced the speaker and reminded the audience that the lecture is livestreamed and will be followed by a Q&A.

Ambassador NAVARRETE's presentation covered three main topics: a short presentation of key facts about Chile, the country's foreign policy principles and strategic priorities, and EU-Chile relations.

She first recalled some interesting facts about Chile's geographical characteristics, economy and political system, supported by a short video on the country 'at the southern edge of the world' and its perspectives for the future.



Brugge

College of Europe
Collège d'Europe



Natolin

Department of EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies

Dijver 11 BE-8000 Brugge T +32-50-47.72.51 F +32-50-47.72.50

www.coleurope.eu/ird



The Ambassador explained Chile's principles of foreign policy since its return to democracy in 1990: the respect for international law, the promotion of democracy and human rights and the responsibility to cooperate. She referred to current challenges such as the Russian war of aggression on Ukraine, which Chile has condemned in various international fora, while providing

humanitarian aid to Ukraine. She also addressed the crisis in Gaza, recalling that Chile – which hosts the largest Palestinian population outside of the Middle East – supports a two-state solution. Moreover, the Ambassador explained that Chile is one of the most open economies in the world, holds significant raw materials and minerals, and features many achievements in the fields of renewable energy, technology and innovation. The country is committed to sustainability and human rights. Chile has put multilateralism at the top of its foreign policy – the Ambassador stressed that for Chile, 'multilateralism is a must'.

Chile's foreign policy priorities focus on a deepening of alliances, promoting growth and values, enhancing regional dialogue in Latin America, and combating climate change, including the protection of oceans and Antarctica. Ambassador NAVARRETE underlined that Latin America is and continues to be Chile's priority, while also contributing to global governance. Chile has advanced infrastructural projects and plays an important role in the security landscape of the continent; it has, for instance, accompanied the Colombian peace process with the *Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia* (FARC). Chile has created a web of free trade agreements and is currently working on diversifying and deepening its economic ties with key partners. It aims to become a global supplier in renewable hydrogen and has in 2023 adopted a national lithium strategy. Chile and the EU signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on establishing a partnership on sustainable raw materials value chains.

Concerning the digital agenda, the Ambassador argued that the ability to innovate is a fundamental requirement for economic growth. She underlined that Chile and the EU share fundamental values in the context of the digital transformation, ensuring its inclusiveness and sustainability. In 2021 Chile launched its first national policy on artificial intelligence. It is building the first submarine cable that will connect the Americas with Oceania through the

southern hemisphere. Chile is also interested in EU digital approaches such as the General Data Protection Regulation and the Artificial Intelligence Act.



Concerning disaster prevention, the Ambassador recalled that Chile is one of the ten most vulnerable nations with regard to climate change. The country has experienced an increase in the frequency of extreme events like droughts, flooding and wildfires. In May, the EU-LAC bi-regional dialogue is expected to sign an MoU on Integrated Disaster Risk Management.

The Ambassador summarized the development of Chile-EU relations in the past three decades, from the first Cooperation Agreements in 1990 and 1996 to the 2002 Association Agreement, various dialogues and summits and the Advanced Framework Agreement (AFA) signed in December 2023. The AFA constitutes a modernization of the institutional framework of the bilateral relationship and deepens and incorporates new issues like sustainable development, climate change, environment, energy, oceans, science and technology, global health, innovation, cybersecurity, money laundering and financing of terrorism. In terms of trade, the agreement is the greenest that Chile has ever signed and for the EU it is one of the first ones to include a chapter on gender and trade. The Ambassador concluded her speech by stressing that Chile and the EU are like-minded, democratic partners.

The lecture was followed by a stimulating question and answer session with the audience on a broad range of topics.





Ambassador **Gloria NAVARRETE** received the agrément as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Head of the Mission of the Republic of Chile to the European Union, on 7 July 2022. She presented her Letters of Credentials to the President of the European Council on 12 December 2022 and to the President of the European Commission on 28 July 2023. On 21 June 2022, Ambassador NAVARRETE assumed duties as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Chile to the Kingdom of Belgium and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. She presented her Letters of Credentials to His Majesty King Philippe on 21 September 2022, and to H.R.H. the Grand Duke of Luxembourg on 23 November 2022.

Ambassador NAVARRETE had previously served at the Chilean Embassies to the United Kingdom, Ireland, Belgium, and Austria and in the Mission of Chile to the International Organizations based in Vienna. In Chile, she was Director-General for Ceremonial and Protocol. She worked at the Department of the International Court of Justice of the Foreign Ministry and the Planning Department. She was also chief of staff for the Vice-Minister of Foreign Relations. On 1 March 2021, she was appointed Secretary-General for Foreign Policy, as the first female career diplomat to hold this position.

Ambassador NAVARRETE has been trained as a lawyer at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile and graduated from the Andrés Bello Diplomatic Academy. She holds a Master of Laws from the London School of Economics and is a graduate of the Foreign Service Programme, University of Oxford. In addition, she obtained a diploma in Administrative Law from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.

