

UK-Chile Joint Communiqué

Prime Minister David Cameron and President of Chile Michelle Bachelet, met today in London and issued a joint statement.

Prime Minister David Cameron and President of Chile Michelle Bachelet met today in London and reaffirmed the historic friendship and partnership that exists between Chile and the UK. Both countries are committed to further cooperation on foreign policy, protection and promotion of human rights, gender, education, science and innovation, environment and climate change, defence, and trade.

Prime Minister Cameron noted the strong opportunities for UK companies in the Chilean market, with trade worth £1.25bn to the UK in 2014. He recalled the UK's support for energy reform and low carbon transition in Chile as well as efficiency and innovation in the mining sector. In 2016 the UK's Prosperity Fund will deliver projects in Chile on renewable energy development, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing opportunities for green finance; and in the mining sector on disaster prevention, sustainable mining, energy efficiency, water management and environmental governance.

Prime Minister Cameron and President Bachelet announced that the UK would assist Chile with enhancing Smart City governance and leadership, and designing low carbon districts, which in turn will increase UK-Chile trade and development opportunities in the construction and infrastructure sector. They also agreed to continue collaboration on the development of technological platforms (Building Information Modelling) for increasing productivity and innovation in the construction industry and noted the signing of an agreement in this regard.

Prime Minister Cameron and President Bachelet reiterated the importance of defence relations between the two countries, with naval links going back over 200 years. The MOD and the Chilean Defence Ministry will continue their strategic defence dialogue programme, sharing best practice and identifying opportunities for future coordination.

The UK and Chile will explore further opportunities to exchange information and experience in the field of civil protection, disaster preparedness and effective response, in particular to support communities to develop greater resilience.

The leaders spoke about the significant progress to date by Chile on their National Cyber Policy and potential future collaboration.

Prime Minister Cameron and President Bachelet noted the strength of UK-Chile scientific collaboration. They reaffirmed their commitment to the promotion of joint scientific research and innovation through the Newton-Picarte Fund. In its first two years both countries have committed £8m to support 120 jointly funded projects as well as the provision of training and mentoring to 54 young innovators. This in turn will further develop opportunities for their research communities. They also agreed to continue collaboration on the development of technological platforms for increasing productivity and innovation in the construction industry.

The Prime Minister and President reiterated their commitment to prevent, deter, and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in particular from the Southern Ocean and the Pacific. They will work together to adopt international enhanced conservation measures in relation to the creation, monitoring and control of marine protected areas and in relation to climate change.

Both countries will continue co-operation at expert level on possible joint projects between the two National Antarctic Programmes and logistical cooperation.

This year is of special relevance as we are celebrating the anniversary of the rescue by the Chilean Navy of the entire 1916 Antarctic expedition headed by Sir Ernest Shackleton, for which there will be several activities organized throughout the UK. Chile will also be present at the 2016 Design Biennale.

Both countries also noted the importance of English as an international language of research and innovation, recognising collaborations between the British Council and the Chilean Ministry of Education and agreeing closer partnerships, including a programme to develop creative industries in Chile.

Today the UK and Chile signed an agreement to allow mutual recognition of educational qualifications. They will work to deliver long-term growth for their countries including educational links developed through programmes such as the Chevening Scholarships and BECAS Chile for post-graduate studies.

A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between the Diplomatic Academies of UK and Chile. This will support closer collaboration on the training of diplomats and promote cooperation between the Participants.

Prime Minister Cameron expressed his support for the Pacific Alliance and Chile's Presidency in 2016. The UK will continue its engagement in the areas of innovation, competition and education as an Observer with the Pacific Alliance.

President Bachelet acknowledged the United Kingdom's continuing support for the modernization of Chile's Association Agreement with the European Union.

Prime Minister Cameron and President Bachelet look forward to continuing and strengthening cooperation in all these areas.