

Americas

- Liberal International congratulates the Liberal Network of Latin America (RELIAL) for its fourth Congress organized in Caracas, Venezuela in May 2009. Liberal International continues to support RELIAL and its aim to strengthen and spread liberal democracy in Latin America. Liberal International also congratulates RELIAL for having gained a place among the TOP 25 think tanks in Latin America.
- Congress congratulates President Barack Obama and the Democratic Party from the United States for the successful election campaign in which the core messages were based on active citizenship, tolerance, dialogue, individual rights, freedom and democracy. Liberal International underlines the importance of the proactive approach of the United States in the fields of international multilateralism, international dialogue, promotion of democracy and human rights, free trade and international development.
- Congress applauds the Liberal Party of Canada for the successful organisation of the 182nd Executive Committee of Liberal International in Vancouver, British Columbia. Monitoring the political debates in Canada closely, Congress expresses surprise over the unusual populist policies of the current Canadian government. The election of Michael Ignatieff as new leader of the Canadian Liberals raises the hopes for furthering the liberal agenda both in Canada and on an international level.
- Following our principles, Congress expresses a degree of concern for the cases of extension of the mandate of an incumbent president, when it is not in conformity with the current constitution. Expressing profound concern by the undemocratic and authoritarian tendencies in a number of Latin American countries, Liberal International calls for democracy to be strengthened in all the countries of the region and for all democratic institutions to continue working towards this aim, both on a national and regional level.
- Congress calls on the Organisation of American States to play a stronger role in promoting democracy, respect of Human Rights and rule of law on the basis of equal standards to all its member states.
- LI congratulates the nomination of RELIAL President Otto Guevara for the presidential elections of Costa Rica in February 2010. Congress believes that through unity the liberal forces in the country can achieve substantial electoral success.
- Liberal International has been following the developments in Honduras with great concern. The country went through a period of serious disturbances provoked by the violation of its Constitution by the President of the Republic. Liberal International condemns all unconstitutional acts and calls for the restoration of democracy and rule of law in the country. LI believes the support of the international community in

ensuring that the upcoming presidential elections in Honduras are free, fair and democratic remains crucial.

- Liberal International is concerned with the political situation and the continued spread of nationalism and populism in Venezuela under the Hugo Chavez regime. LI condemns Venezuelan president's Hugo Chavez's continuous attacks on the opposition, NGOs and the independent media. The new "Law on media crimes" aims to limit freedoms, control and regulate all content of media outlets and to threaten journalists with up to four years in prison. LI is also concerned with the nationalisation of all major industries in the country. LI is concerned and condemns the government's repeated violations against human rights and democracy. Congress calls for greater collaboration between civil society, independent media, opposition and entrepreneurs as the only means to address the raising authoritarianism in the country.

- LI is concerned about the dangerous power grab of the populist president of Nicaragua, Daniel Ortega, and the changes that he wishes to make to the constitution, allowing his re-election — as Presidential re-election is prohibited under the current constitution. Congress re-affirms the Resolution passed by the Executive Committee in January 2009 and condemns the fraud in the last Nicaraguan local elections, demanding international observers to verify the results at the next elections. Congress calls on all liberal forces in the country to unite in order to return to liberal democratic governance in the country.

- LI congratulates Ricardo Martinelli for winning the presidency of Panama. Congress supports Martinelli's efforts to convert Panamá into a more free and prosperous country with opportunities for everyone.

- Liberal International deplores the fact that the personal changes in the communist leadership of Cuba have not lead to democratic reforms. Congress calls for the democratization and opening of Cuba, which 50 years after the revolution still has a government which does not respect human rights, freedom of speech or freedom of association.

- Congress expresses support to the fight against the narco-trafficking led by Columbian President Alvaro Uribe. An obstacle standing in the way of combating narco-trafficking is the corruption.

- Liberal International calls for a united regional and international front against narco-trafficking, in which US/Colombian military cooperation would be integral. At the same time, Congress finds it crucial to Colombian democracy that the respect for the current constitution is upheld when it comes to the mandate of the incumbent president.

- Congress believes that the reduction of press freedoms and liberties by the ruling administration of President Kirchner in Argentina is a step in the wrong direction. The

country can return to the glorious days of development through reforms that would guarantee democracy, freedom of expression, as well as freedom of movement of people, capital and goods.

- LI is concerned about the political situation in Bolivia and the spread of nationalism and populism in the country under the leadership of the country's president Evo Morales. The leadership of the country threatens the democratic governance and might provoke further civil unrest and split of the country.

- Liberal International is concerned over the escalating waves of drug-related violence witnessed in Mexico. Special attention must be paid to the fact that women are yet again major victims of violent attacks and conflicts. Over 4000 people have lost their lives so far this year due to the drug war. LI calls upon the authorities to work hard to achieve security, peace and order throughout the country.