

# EMERGING NATIONS

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## CHILE, a New Balance

# The thirteenth Latin America AND Caribbean Weeks:

SEMAINES  
DE L'AMÉRIQUE  
LATINE  
ET DES CARAÏBES

21 MAI - 7 JUIN 2026



## CALL FOR PROJECTS

The **13th Latin America and the Caribbean Weeks (#SALC2026)** will take place from **21 May to 7 June 2026**, in France, Latin America and the Caribbean. This event aims to showcase the diversity of Latin American and Caribbean creative expression and to highlight the strong interest of the French public in the region.

Over nearly three weeks, **hundreds of events** — cultural, scientific, political, economic and festive — will be held, both in person and online. The Weeks provide a unique opportunity to promote the historical and contemporary relations between France and the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, while enabling the French public to gain a deeper understanding of the region.

Launched in **2011** at the initiative of the French Senate as a single commemorative day, the event evolved in **2014** into the Latin America and the Caribbean Weeks. Coordination and promotion were entrusted to the **French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs**. Unique in France and internationally, the event has continued to grow thanks to the commitment of numerous partners and an increasingly rich and diverse programme.

The **12<sup>th</sup> edition** featured **476 events**, organised in **71 French cities** as well as in **six Latin American and Caribbean countries**. Among them, **13 events highlighted Chile**.

The **13<sup>th</sup> edition** aims to go even further, particularly by strengthening the visibility of **economic relations between France and the Latin American and Caribbean region**. Anyone may contribute to the programme by proposing projects of all kinds, provided they promote the region or highlight the ties linking it to France.

Conferences, seminars, concerts, performances, exhibitions, culinary or festive events — all initiatives are welcome, whether held indoors, outdoors, on the airwaves or online, and whether they address topics such as trade, diplomacy, the arts, gastronomy, science, education or training.



**The Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs** does not provide funding or organisational support for selected events, but will ensure their promotion on the official website <https://www.semaineameriquelatinecaraibes.fr> and through the media.

Partners wishing to take part are invited to submit their projects via the **online application form**, open until **12 April 2026**:  
<https://semainesameriquelatinecaraibes.fr/Appel-a-projets>

For further information, the **Latin America and the Caribbean Weeks** team can be contacted at:  
[semaine-alc.ame@diplomatie.gouv.fr](mailto:semaine-alc.ame@diplomatie.gouv.fr)

# Chile : a New Balance

In December 2025, Chile elected a new president: José Antonio Kast, who won with 58% of the vote. His rival, Jeannette Jara, the candidate of the left-wing unity party, secured only 42%. This election marks a clear break with the political and economic path the country had followed in recent years. It brings to an end—at least temporarily—the demands for social justice voiced by the social movements of 2019. With José Antonio Kast's rise to power, Chile is entering a new political era, all the more so as the new president has always claimed an affinity with the legacy of Augusto Pinochet. Several factors help explain this electoral success.

Elected in 2021, Gabriel Boric harbored the ambition of profoundly transforming the Chilean model. His flagship reform aimed to provide the country with a new Constitution in order to promote greater social justice. However, this project was rejected by 56% of voters

in the 2024 referendum <sup>(1)</sup>. In addition, the tax reform intended to finance social policies failed in 2023 due to parliamentary opposition. Yet this reform sought to reduce persistent social inequalities, which continue to hinder the country's economic growth. According to *The Global Economy*, the wealthiest 10% of households account for around 34.5% of total income <sup>(2)</sup>.

However, José Antonio Kast's victory should not be interpreted as a slide toward authoritarianism. As his party does not hold a majority in Congress, a system of checks and balances remains in place, requiring negotiation and compromise. This institutional configuration paves the way for governance based on the gradual adjustment of public policies, shaped by parliamentary power dynamics. The resulting balance rests on a political compromise that is both fragile and indispensable. The Chilean right emerging from these elections will therefore have to learn how to govern collectively, despite the diversity of its internal currents. The real challenge for the new president will lie in his ability to build lasting compromises, equal to the expectations of a country in search of stability and prosperity.

Raymond Aron wrote that "*democracy does not live on certainties, but on balances*" <sup>(3)</sup>. Contemporary Chile offers a striking illustration of this idea: after years of social unrest, unfulfilled reformist ambitions, and ideological polarization, the country now faces the need to rebuild a democratic balance based not on confrontation, but on institutional compromise and on the ability of its leaders to govern within a pluralist framework. ☉

Douraya Asgaraly

<sup>(1)</sup> [https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/chiles-right-is-in-the-drivers-seat-for-creating-a-new-constitution-can-it-succeed/?utm\\_](https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/new-atlanticist/chiles-right-is-in-the-drivers-seat-for-creating-a-new-constitution-can-it-succeed/?utm_)

<sup>(2)</sup> [https://www.theglobaleconomy.com/Chile/gini\\_inequality\\_index/?utm\\_](https://www.theglobaleconomy.com/Chile/gini_inequality_index/?utm_)

<sup>(3)</sup> Raymond Aron, *Thinking Freedom, Thinking Democracy*, Gallimard (Quarto), 2005

Nous vous invitons à réagir à cet éditorial en nous écrivant à l'adresse mail suivante: [contact@nations-emergentes.org](mailto:contact@nations-emergentes.org)

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