



Program Content Definitions 2014-2018

The government program proposed by Evelyn Matthei to the country is solid and has the merit of including in the discussion the importance of campaigns with explicit projects and relevant issues defined for the citizens. She keeps the subject matters of growth and public security, traditional bastions of the sector, but at the same time complements them with new ideas of public interest, such as respect regarding consumers, diversity and intercultural aspects.

In the final stages of the presidential campaigns, the program content proposals of the nine candidates to *La Moneda* gain importance. On October 1st, the center-right standard-bearer, Evelyn Matthei, introduced her government program 2014-2018 called "*Un 7 para Chile*" ("A 7 for Chile"). The program puts the focus on improving the quality of public services, strengthening growth and employment, reducing delinquency and laying the foundations for a country that is respectful of differences.

The program was the result of the work from 19 program content commissions involving more than 300 people. They picked up the work done by former program content teams: both the "PROA" of Andrés Allamand and "Chile Justo" of Pablo Longueira, as those from the ex presidential pre-candidate Laurence Golborne. Moreover, they were inspired by the work carried out by the sector's think tanks.

The final program, classified in seven subject matter, represents a consensual view within the coalition of how should the next center-right government be. It keeps the central themes of growth and public security, traditional bastions of the sector, but at the same time it adds new issues of public interest, such as respect regarding consumers, diversity and intercultural aspects.

The achievement in timing matters should also be highlighted. A complete program was elaborated in 45 days –not just isolated measures but including the candidate’s vision of the country – supported by spending figures and a technical team who sustains the proposed reforms. On the other political sidewalk, there are still not many definitions in constitutional and labor issues amid a pressure environment from different blocs. Thus, less than a month before the elections and having been nominated the single candidate of her sector over six months ago, the representative of the New Majority, Michelle Bachelet, has still not revealed her government program to the country. It was not until his week that she disseminated a document containing 50 proposals, which are just isolated measures eluding her great campaign promises.

Next, we will take a look at the main points contained in Evelyn Matthei’s government program.

First Subject Matter: Public and Decent Health

During the administration of Sebastián Piñera, public health in Chile has improved in terms of cutting waiting lists and hospital reconstruction efforts following the earthquake. Still, there is a shortage of medical specialists and excessive waiting in hospital’s emergency services and surgeries. The program includes a hospital management agenda to improve the good use of financial resources, a pack of measures to face mental health problems and special healthcare programs for the elderly. This subject matter’s two emblematic measures include the implementation of 100 excellence health centers with medical specialists, technology for taking health tests, extended attention schedules, and extending free choice to all FONASA users (National Health Fund). Extending free choice does not only benefit the directly involved insurees, but also helps to relieve overcrowding in the public network, especially the emergency services during the winter, and it will reduce the waiting times for consultations with medical specialists.

Second Subject Matter: Equitable and Quality Education from the Crib to Work

Although in recent years higher education has monopolized the debate, Evelyn Matthei’s program chose to consider education as a factor serving to increase people’s possibilities throughout their entire life, and thus being a real vehicle for social mobility. The starting point will be early stimulus, the best way to level the playing field and the existing gap. It will also coordinate training with the labor market’s real needs, better wages and work opportunities. In school education, no child will be left without quality education if he lacks the financial resources to pay it. Furthermore, measures are proposed to lighten the burden of middle class families whose children attend higher education.

The program contains powerful measures; among them we can highlight the incentives for excellence teachers who decide to teach in one of the thousand priority schools in Chile, a family school subsidy which will help strengthen the municipal schools with additional resources and, at the same time, it will allow access to these schools to children who cannot finance copayment. One of the most outstanding reforms, which show the candidate's experience as a Minister of Labor, aims at renewing the training system, inspired by the German model. It will not only increase the vacancies for quality trainings, totaling 60 thousand annual vacancies for the Training for Work program (duplicating current vacancies), but they will be in harmony with the real needs of the labor market. This focus will allow strengthening the training program for trainees, which subsidizes up to 50% of the minimum wage to trainees working in the companies. Dual training will be fostered, through learning in the firms, allowing students who attend a technical professional secondary public school to have access to this benefit.

Third Subject Matter: Regionalization for Real

A true decentralization is sought, which allows regions to enjoy the benefits of productive activities developed in their communes and to define their own investments with specific tax changes and transfer of authority to local governments. Therefore, in addition to a series of institutional changes granting more powers to regional authorities, the most outstanding initiatives seek that projects carried out in the regions pay a tax to the local community and also give a percentage of their income taxes to the region, every year. The program indicates that a tax will be created in such a way that 1% of the investment on large project will be allocated to funds aimed at financing with tax credit local development works that are socially profitable, so as not to raise the price of the investment, and every relevant new investment project will allocate 10% of the income tax to the region in which they produce their earnings.

Fourth Subject Matter: Firm Hand against Delinquency and Drug Trafficking

The program of Evelyn Matthei recognizes that the sector is still in debt in citizen security and in order to face this issue, which is most concerning for the citizens, it proposes a plan embracing from prevention to management improvements in the Judiciary. This subject matter is structured in the following areas: measures to prevent crime; more effective policemen; rehabilitation and social reintegration; frontal attack against drug trafficking at the borders and neighborhoods; a pack of reforms to the criminal institutional framework; and improvements to achieve a modern Judiciary.

In relation to the first, programs will be fostered in the schools to prevent school violence problems, alcohol and drugs. Additionally, an Executive Secretariat of Critical Neighborhoods will start operating, copying the successful experience of the lower class neighborhood *La Legua*. Five thousand high-risk families will have access to a Multisystemic Therapy, in order to take children out of the circle of delinquency and drugs, together with their families.

Furthermore, one thousand new policemen will join the police forces, improving the promotion and wage systems, and they will be granted new authorities to fulfill their mission properly. The Tactical Crime Analysis System (STAD, in Spanish) will be improved along with others that have obtained good results in the current government's agenda.

Regarding rehabilitation and reintegration, the adolescent criminal institutional framework will be improved so as to cut the criminal career in early stages, and a labor training program will be implemented for ten thousand convicted with medium-high criminal profile, encouraging at the same time the hiring of prisoners. A strong plan is also designed to face drug trafficking, which embraces the elaboration of a public database of people accused of drug trafficking with arrest warrants, improvements to the law, and it will include the analysis of capital assets in drug trafficking investigations.

Concerning the reforms to the criminal institutional framework, they will increase the powers to declare preventive detention for those accused of serious crimes, an Academy of Prosecutors will be created and citizenship's active transparency will be strengthened regarding the tasks of the Public Ministry.

Finally, the Judiciary will be improved through the approval of the new Code of Civil Procedure, new technologies will be incorporated to the litigation process in order to reduce the trials' time and proceedings, the evaluation mechanisms of the judicial system will be updated and a perfection agenda for the Supreme Court will be implemented.

Fifth Subject Matter: Growth to get better Jobs, Pensions and Greater Wellbeing for Chileans

In relation to the economic dynamism, it puts the emphasis on growth to keep a strong rhythm of employment creation and finance the government's social program, without increasing taxes. This point has been defended in the face of the aggressive tax reforms of the other candidates, which directly threaten the PYMES (Small and Medium Businesses) and the country's growth.

As for employment matters, a goal of 600 thousand jobs is promised for the period, from which 400 thousand will be for women. While putting the emphasis on employment is a judicious decision, this measure also reinforces the achievement of the current government on this matter, and has the seal of the candidate.

The aim is to guarantee a monthly salary of CLP\$300,000 to vulnerable and emerging middle class women and young who work full time in a company; this will be supervised by checking that all employers pay their benefits and with an additional contribution of the State.

Economic growth also ensures the funds to further improve pensions, where the promise is to increase the Basic Solidarity Pension (PBS, Pensión Básica Solidaria) to CLP\$100,000, and the social security solidarity contribution (APS, Aporte Previsional Solidario) will be extended to those earning up to CLP\$350,000.

In addition to these measures that are aimed at voters, the program emphasizes long-term competitiveness, without the slogans repeated in the other candidates' proposals. It proposes to face with determination some issues that have been dealt with for a long time, such as the high cost of energy which currently affects businesses and will soon affect Chileans' electricity bills, and the elimination of the obstacles that restrain entrepreneurs. Throughout its pages we can find an energy agenda, another one for PYMES and a large list of innovation measures.

Sixth Subject Matter: Respected Consumers with More Competition and Protection

The program is right to include this subject which has been relevant in the national agenda, focusing public policies towards competition rather than excessive regulation. Current institutions are strengthened, such as an autonomous SERNAC (consumer service) which is independent from the government in office, with the aim of guaranteeing the compliance with the law, besides proposing regulation changes in order to achieve a balance between consumer protection and the companies' dynamic development. It also includes some attractive proposals aimed at consumers, such as implementing a reform that allows users to unilaterally and immediately end their contracts with service providers through a simple internet proceeding.

Seventh Subject Matter: Modern Chile

This subject matter summarizes a wide spectrum of reforms in political, constitutional, indigenous and State management matters. By Modern Chile we understand a country with a more participative democracy, good quality of life in the cities and a respectful environment leaving no space for

discrimination; these concepts are a deeply felt desire of Chileans. A country recognizing itself as intercultural, with a dynamic State that does not burden citizens with red tape and proceedings. A country that values culture as a key factor of its public policies, because it is aware of the value of reading, patrimony and arts. A country with a healthy life, with millions of people doing sports to keep their quality of life for many years. The purpose of these changes is to persist on the road to progress, but making the necessary changes so that nobody is left behind.

Among the proposals that have drawn more attention we can mention the re-election limits for public positions, a reform to the re-election process, a stimulus to the Life Partner Agreement (AVP, Acuerdo de Vida en Pareja), the improvement of Santiago's urban transportation system, and an agenda on indigenous matters. Moreover, housing subsidies will continue to be perfected (400 thousand additional housing solutions are promised).

Bachelet's 50 Measures

On the other hand, the New Majority candidate has promised to reveal her program in a couple of weeks, but meanwhile she released a document with 50 measures for the first 100 days in the government. There are substantive and adjective issues. In relation to the first, she has made a progress by presenting priority government measures, but it calls our attention that they elude the three big subjects of Bachelet's campaign. She promises a tax reform, but does neither ratify the previous announcements nor give details of the law that she promises to send if she wins the competition to La Moneda. She does neither mention a single word about the "New Constitution", which has been the central idea of her speeches, nor the mechanism chosen to make the reform; thus, the phantom of the Constituent Assembly, which is a concerning issue for many people, is still latent. Finally, she mentions free education "for young people" in a very general way, without resolving if it includes or not giving fee-free university to the richest. These three subjects, which appear to be the most conflicting (together with the labor issue) within a coalition including moderate sectors and other more radical ones, are still brought up ambiguously.

The vagueness of the announcements contained in this document calls our attention. For example, more than ten bills are listed naming just the matter to be handled –bill for the big educational reform, for example- and commissions are formed and delegates are appointed to define key issues. In energy matters, for example, unlike the nine points of action listed in Matthei's document, the only promise is that "the energy agenda will be presented" without further details than "production needs shall be compatible with the respect to the environment".

Furthermore, the list contains some concerning announcements regarding public policy matters, like a bonus of CLP\$40 thousand per dependent for two million people, that will become permanent as a “March bonus” every year, and a state AFP (Pension Fund Manager) which does not resolve the pension expectation problems, since experts agree on increasing the density and amount of social security contributions.

In the weeks ahead before the elections for president, parliament members and CORES, the voters have the right to know what each candidate proposes, clearly and with detail. A good democracy allows citizens to watch the confrontation of projects and measures, and enables and appreciates the debate and transparent information during the campaigns. In this matter, the center-right candidate, Evelyn Matthei, succeeded to present a complete program and with the right approach; unlike other nominations.

In brief...

- The program of Evelyn Matthei “*Un 7 para Chile*” contributes to the campaign with a solid document containing proposals with a right vision of Chile, based on growth and security, but leaving space for new issues that concern the citizens.