Variation looks different. With growing bitterness, the liberal conservatives in Uruguay, the country’s traditional elites, must take note of one election victory after another of the centre-left alliance of the Frente Amplio. Nor does the political staff bring much new. According to the Uruguayan constitution, presidents may not be directly re-elected. The current President Tabaré Vázquez, first elected in 2004, skipped the 2009 elections in favour of his equally victorious ally José Mujica to be then elected for another five years in 2014.

What sounds dull is in fact a success story. Since 2005, the Frente Amplio has succeeded in strengthening the market economy through gradual structural reforms, reducing debt, attracting higher direct investment and achieving high growth rates. At the same time, poverty has been successfully combated and unemployment reduced. Even though the country, like many Latin American economies, has experienced significantly lower economic growth in recent years, a high degree of social inclusion has been achieved and a solid market economy has been established. Uruguay has been the most stable and best-run democracy in Latin America for many years.

### Elections
In Uruguay it is compulsory to vote. Voter turnout is over 90%, the party system is stable and voter migration is low. Elections are free and absolutely fair, with equal media access for all candidates.

- good playmaking

### Freedom of speech
Freedom of expression and freedom of the press is completely guaranteed; there is no censorship. The media are ideologically and politically diverse, so that a very broad spectrum of opinions is represented. When a media law was passed, care was taken to ensure that the new media authority did not regulate any content.

- excellent fan culture

### Civil rights protection
Civil rights are fully protected and there is little structural discrimination. In recent years, the Frente Amplio governments have sought the late prosecution of human rights violations under the military dictatorship (1973-1985), for which an amnesty was originally promised.

- excellent defense

### Social inclusion
By Latin American standards, the extent of social inclusion is high, but social inequality is still pronounced despite all progress. Gender parity has not been fully achieved yet. Uruguayans of African descent (9% of the population) are disproportionately poor and without equal access to education.

- mediocre team spirit

### Corruption prevention
There is a dense network of integrity mechanisms that successfully combat corruption. Politicians are obliged to disclose their finances. A party financing law is to guarantee transparency and limit private donations. The only shortcoming is that the supervisory agency designated for this purpose is understaffed.

- good fair play