



WHY SHOULD LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN BE IMPORTANT TO THE EUROPEAN UNION AND WHY SHOULD THE EUROPEAN UNION BE IMPORTANT TO LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN?

Opinion Articles



Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union: the relationship between two major strategic partners

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Latin America and the Caribbean, together with the European Union, share strong historical links, values, culture and economic relations, facts which have strengthened the ties between both regions and led to the launch in 1999 of a bi-regional strategic partnership, aimed at helping improve the political and commercial dialogue that was already in place.

From the continent of America, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), comprising thirty-three nations, has become a more visible and influential player, with a stronger presence in the world and with a greater ability to negotiate with international players.

Furthermore, the Governments of the region have demonstrated the central role they have given to the drawing up of innovative programmes, and have succeeded in mobilizing internal resources and in increasing social investment, aiming to advancing towards sustainable and more equitable development for their people.

Despite our vast diversity, we have shown our willingness to focus on policies and programmes that put at the forefront the common interests of the region; one example of this is our strong commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to fulfilling the Paris Agreement on climate change.

These instruments translate into joint challenges that have been accepted as sovereign nations, and which are fundamental for the exchange between countries and regions in the pursuit of achieving the best results to benefit humanity.

In addition to all the shared values previously mentioned, the inter-regional relationship has strong ties both in economic terms and aid for development terms, as the EU is the second largest trading partner and one of the most important foreign investors in the Latin American region of and in the Caribbean.

Nowadays, a response must be given to rapid and unprecedented changes, to which the strengthening of multilateralism is of -utmost importance. That is why El Salvador, in its capacity as Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC, has been accomplishing efforts to deepen this relationship, having achieved, among others, a successful Second Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the European Union and the CELAC Community, held in Brussels on the 16th and 17th July, 2018.

The slogan given to this meeting was: “Building bridges and strengthening our partnership to face global challenges”, with the priorities of both regional groups focussed on three areas: the Consolidation of multilateralism; the strengthening of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Future Cooperation; working together to achieve inclusive and sustainable economies, trade, investment and productivity.

The firm willingness of participants to face global challenges and to make significant changes in favour of our peoples was likewise acknowledged.

However, in spite of all these progresses, a question must be asked, “How can this bi-regional partnership continue to become ever stronger over the course of time?”



This is precisely what lies at the centre of the initiative, especially when there are internal political and economic circumstances affecting both regions. Facing this as well as future emerging challenges, it is essential to seek out and deepen common ground aspects, protect common interests, and generate debate and political reflection that will allow us to obtain tangible results and achieve greater progress in our actions in response to the development needs of our peoples.

As such, promoting joint positions on topics of interest where we come together at the multilateral forums, establishing programmes for cooperation, the exchange of experiences and the reinforcing of trade relations and investment are therefore effective and strategic means to consolidate this partnership, as they will give it greater unity and strength when faced with global threats.

Thus it is now essential for CELAC and the EU to continue along the road on which they have embarked in order to underpin their collaboration, setting aside their differences and recognising that this partnership will only be strengthened to the extent that political rapprochement in aspects of mutual interest are reflected in tangible decisions that will indeed advance the development of our nations.



The relationship between the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean is strong, deep and inalienable

Federica Mogherini
High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission.

Strong, deep, inalienable: there are no better words to describe the relationship between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean. We saw this clearly once again this Monday and Tuesday, when the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the 28 countries of the European Union and the 33 of the Community of Latin American and the Caribbean met in Brussels, to further promote the partnership between our two continents. Although separated by geography, Europe and Latin America are closer than any other continents.

We are on the same side. We believe that international disputes should only be tackled by diplomacy and international cooperation. We believe in the United Nations as the centre of gravity of the international system. We believe that a globalized world can only be governed in a joint manner – with alliances to deal with our common interests, from sustainable development to action on climate issues.

The cooperative world order in which we believe is now being called into question: the UN system is being attacked, there is a threat of new trade wars and the most basic rules of our international system are being breached.

Our democracies are also facing similar challenges in our two continents, more similar than many of us believe. Latin America and the Caribbean is the only part of the world where inequalities have been continuously decreasing from the beginning of this century, yet it continues to be the most unequal region in the world. There is a growing demand for better jobs, better education and good governance to meet the increasing expect-

tations of our people. Many of these preoccupations are the same as those Europeans are also expressing to their governments. Our democracies have a duty to listen to these demands.

Cooperation between our continents has enormous potential for tackling these difficulties: for example, we are launching a European Facility for Development in Transition in Latin America and the Caribbean - going beyond the old mentality of donor-recipient towards a partnership of equals, in cooperation with the OECD and the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. A stronger partnership can help protect the interests of our citizens, create new opportunities for economic and human growth, and promote a more cooperative world order.

At our meeting in Brussels, we first discussed our common global agenda: how to continue turning the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris climate Agreement into reality. These had been drawn up by us working together over years of coordinated effort.

We have also explored new opportunities related to our economic cooperation. Millions of people on our continents live and work on the other side of the Atlantic. The European Union is the principal foreign investor in Latin America and the Caribbean, and represents one third of the total investment in the region. The commitment of the European Investment Bank to your continent has increased by 400 million euros.



Our trade agreements have not only brought economic benefits to our companies; they have also provided security for our traditional products, raised standards for workers and protected our environment. We want our trade to be both free and fair. We are now modernising our political and trade agreements with Mexico, Chile and Mercosur: we want to extend their benefits to a greater number of people, especially small and medium enterprises, but also to achieve a higher level of cooperation in energy and infrastructure projects, in culture and the creative sectors, and in research and education, including our Erasmus programme.

We have begun a totally new phase in our relations with Cuba, based on frank dialogue and effective cooperation for the benefit of all our populations.

Our partnership also aims to promote peace and security. In recent years, the European Union has mobilized unprecedented support for the peace process in Colombia, helping with rural development, and the reconciliation and reintegration of former combatants. We will continue to support dialogue with the aim of finding negotiated political solutions for the crisis in Nicaragua and Venezuela. And we are now mobilizing a new set of measures to support Venezuelan refugees throughout the region. When hurricane Irma struck the Caribbean, we sent support immediately, from humanitarian aid to satellite images to help the rescue teams.

We know from our European experience that regional integration is a powerful driving force for growth, peace and security. Cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean is proving to be particularly important and we are observing it with interest and hope. It is natural to build new bridges between the European Union and projects of regional cooperation such as Mercosur and the Pacific Alliance.

In a world where multilateralism and international cooperation are under pressure, we are demonstrating the value of partnership, within and between our continents. It is a partnership for employment and social justice, for inclusive democracies and human rights, for peace and security. It is an antidote to the current confusion in the world, towards a fairer and more cooperative world order.



Once more unto the breach: How the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean can advance the Paris Agreements

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Last December, the UN climate change talks in Katowice, Poland, successfully concluded with the majority of the work to finalize the Paris Agreement rulebook completed. The conference also witnessed growing calls for increasing climate action by 2020.

In Katowice, several Latin American and Caribbean countries alongside the EU and other countries called for greater ambition on climate change over the next two years guided by the findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) report on avoiding overshooting 1.5 degree Celsius of warming. Drawing on their extensive cooperation on climate change, the EU and LAC nations can lead the formation of a critical mass of countries willing to put forward national climate plans aligned with the Paris goal of 1.5 degree Celsius.

This will not be easier given the magnitude of the climate crisis. The IPCC says the world could reach 1.5 degrees Celsius of warming in 11 years unless the current batch of pledges, which put us on a trajectory of roughly 3 degrees of warming, are drastically increased. The planned departure of the U.S. from the Paris Agreement leaves a substantial gap in emission reduction efforts and the provision of finance. While the EU and LAC countries cannot fill this void alone, they can make a vital contribution and show how strong collective climate action can be an impressive engine for sustainable development.

For example, European renewable energy companies are leading players in Brazil, Mexico and Chile. Between 2005 and

2017, European firms were responsible for 65% of all investment in renewable energy projects in the region. Both regions can also showcase the positive impacts of European climate finance in LAC countries. In the Ecuadorian capital, Quito, the European Investment Bank is co-financing the construction of the city's subway system, which will be operational this year. [i] The metro is set to create hundreds of millions of dollars in annual investment, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and air pollution, and also congestion and traffic accidents. The European Commission's EUROCLIMA+ Programme is also working with 18 Latin American countries to support the design of climate policies in areas such as resilient food production, urban water management and disaster risk reduction.

Building on this progress, the EU and LAC can combine forces to build a critical mass of countries willing to submit enhanced national climate plans in 2020. The timing is ideal following recent elections in the region, where a number of the new government's domestic and foreign policy priorities especially in the case of Chile and Costa Rica overlap with the Paris Agreement.

A priority in the coming months will be to capture the progress of climate action in the real economy. This can build confidence that implementing the Paris accord is not just about reducing emissions but also about enhancing competitiveness and fiscal discipline, creating jobs and attracting investment. Confronting vested interests and political inertia working against climate action is necessary to avoid lacklustre implementation of existing targets and creating the appetite to do more.



To take EU-LAC cooperation on climate change to the next level, the European Commission and EU Member States can work with LAC national and local governments, the private sector and investors to develop transformative projects such as connecting national power grids. The Inter-American Development Bank says that a combined push to drastically expand renewable energy and connecting national power grids, could save Latin America US\$30 billion by 2030 and help to reduce emissions. These savings would come about given expanding transmission lines is cheaper than building new power plants and renewable energy has zero fuel costs.

European financial institutions can also support efforts by the Inter-American Development Bank to promote sustainable infrastructure and landscapes as a new paradigm for infrastructure investments. This could be an avenue to encourage China, which tends to focus on high-carbon sectors in Latin America, to better align their activities with the Paris Agreement.

European agencies could consider supporting LAC civil society groups such as Brazil's Climate Observatory, Costa Rica Limpia and the Latin America Climate Finance Group, which play a significant role in encouraging governments to support climate action. The timing is ripe as various LAC countries have signed the Escazú Agreement, which emphasizes the protection of environmental defenders, the right to access to environmental information and public participation in decision-making process.

The design of channels to facilitate the sharing of European and LAC experiences on climate action including the recent delivery of 200 electric buses to Santiago de Chile and Danish know-how on managing floods is also required. Working together to share experiences on sustainable finance, climate risk and just transitions could be very timely, given the scale of EU-LAC trade and investment in carbon-intensive sectors such as fossil fuels and automobile production.

With the next major round of UN climate talks to be co-hosted by Costa Rica and Chile later this year, the road to 2020 presents an ideal moment for the EU and LAC to position the low-carbon and climate-resilient agenda at the heart their relationship. This can be a win-win for all.

[1] World Bank Blog <http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2016/12/05/ecuador-la-reactivacion-economica-de-qui-to-viaja-en-metro>



Relevance of the Caribbean in the European Union (EU) - Latin American and the Caribbean (LAC) strategic bi – regional partnership

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This short piece discusses the relevance of the Caribbean^[1] in the European Union (EU) - Latin American and the Caribbean (LAC) strategic biregional partnership (thereafter, the Strategic Partnership), and the challenges it faces in this framework. The article argues that the engagement of the Caribbean subregion in the Strategic Partnership depends very much on its participation in the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), the EU's counterpart for the Strategic Partnership.

The Caribbean grouping adds much value to EU-LAC relations. First, the Caribbean carries diplomatic weight. By virtue of its numerical strength, the Caribbean could increase the visibility and influence of CELAC in its engagement with the EU, and any EU-LAC alliance in international fora, in cases where joint action is being taken.

Second, the Caribbean adds legitimacy to discussions of certain matters in which CELAC and the EU engage. One such issue is climate change. Given that Caribbean territories are Small Island Developing States (SIDS), the subregion could add more weight to the wider LAC region's international lobbying efforts to access funding for climate change mitigation and adaptation. The Caribbean can also speak with authority on, and influence issues relating to SIDS development.

Third, Caribbean states physically located on the South American continent – Belize, Suriname and Guyana – which hold membership in Latin American integration processes are helping to close the relational gap even further between the Car-

ibbean and Latin American subregions, thereby strengthening the Strategic Partnership. The above view assumes that a cohesive CELAC is essential for a strong Strategic Partnership with the EU.

Fourth, Caribbean countries possess an abundance of natural resources particularly sea and marine resources and fertile agricultural land. Guyana is an example of the latter. With adequate funding, these resources could be explored and developed via joint ventures with Latin American countries and the EU.

Fifth, there are some areas in which the Caribbean's expertise can be valuable in its substantive engagement with Latin America and the EU. For example, in the area of agriculture, Trinidad and Tobago is a centre of excellence for cocoa production and Barbados has a sugarcane breeding facility where superior varieties of sugarcane are developed. The EU's science and technological advancement and innovation can be harnessed to boost relevant sectors and develop new areas of economic activity.

Sixth, the Caribbean holds an important key to the security of Latin America and the EU. By virtue of the Caribbean's location between the production of, and destination points for illegal drugs, the Caribbean is invaluable to Latin America's and the EU's national security. By deepening collaboration and strengthening relevant Caribbean institutions and systems, the sub region could play a substantial role in restricting the pro-



duction and flow of illicit drugs from Latin America to Europe. This role does not only apply to physical drug interdiction but also to the prevention of money laundering and related criminal activities.

Seventh, Caribbean countries possess a highly educated population, a history of outstanding leaders in the international arena and a legacy of excellent diplomatic representation on the global stage. This could serve well in leveraging CELAC's positions and joint positions with the EU and in global fora.

The Caribbean's engagement in EU-LAC relations is not without challenges. First, the relative elevated economic importance of Latin America vis-à-vis Caribbean to the EU; Latin America being more attractive for FDI and trade. Caribbean interests and agenda face the risk of 'diminishing' in the wider LAC framework.

Other challenges faced by the Caribbean in the Strategic Partnership stem from the Caribbean's perception of, and its participation in the CELAC framework. Selected challenges are outlined below. First, CELAC was seen by some Caribbean countries as potentially competing with existing institutions such as the Association of Caribbean States. Second, the wide scope of CELAC's agenda. One outcome of this is a high number of meetings, which results in an overburdened schedule for Caribbean member states. This is not only time-consuming, but it also places a huge human resource and financial cost on the Caribbean that they cannot afford. Third, uncertainty about CELAC's leadership. There are questions about which of the regional powers in Latin America will/could provide sustained leadership for CELAC. It is noteworthy that since CELAC's formation, it is the relatively smaller countries that have held the Chair of the organisation. This does not encourage the Caribbean's confidence in CELAC's sustainability and by extension its external partnership frameworks.

Many of the challenges identified relate to CELAC's status as a young organisation in its early stage of evolution. The Caribbean has much potential for adding value and engaging with CELAC and in the Strategic Partnership from a position of strength and not weakness.

[1] *The Caribbean refers to the Forum of the Caribbean Group of African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States (CARIFORUM). CARIFORUM consists of 17-member states, 15 from the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), plus Cuba and the Dominican Republic.*



The EU and CELAC: Putting into practice the commitment to sustainable development

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Adapting the bi-regional agenda to the major challenges of sustainable development and climate change and turning it into a powerful engine for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) is a challenge that both the European Union (EU) and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) are facing together. In the Joint Declaration of the II Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the EU and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) of July 2018, the leaders reiterated their commitment to the global challenges of the 2030 Agenda with shared but differentiated responsibilities depending on the needs, capacities and resources of each country. To this end, it will be necessary to design new cooperation instruments with a multilateral approach and a perspective of shared values, problems and solutions, linking them to mutually agreed mechanisms. Along these lines, the new joint Statement of the European Commission to the Parliament and the Council of April 16, 2019 entitled “Uniting forces for a common future” emphasises the need to modernise the partnership by renewing the cooperation instruments for a more effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

In order to put it into practice, it is vital to create broad alliances in favour of sustainable development in a multi-level and multi-sectoral dimension and to establish transparent accountability mechanisms. The exercise of incorporating the 2030 Agenda into the set of relations represents a challenge in terms of innovation and institutionalisation and requires political will. To this end, the mechanisms for identifying priorities in different spheres and at different levels must be reviewed in order to

incorporate pluralistic visions and to analyse in which themes and areas similar positions are shared and in which effort can be done to adopt common positions with respect to the global agenda.

The EU and CELAC maintain a series of structured dialogues (social cohesion, migration, drugs, climate change, technology and innovation) in which they must define their respective responsibilities for the achievement of the SDGs, identifying interregional priorities that contribute to the different SDGs and building partnerships (with governments, civil society organisations and the private sector) for the formulation, implementation and evaluation of interregional cooperation. One of the major challenges emanating from the 2030 Agenda is the need to incorporate policy coherence for development (PCD) analysis. This approach has become a consubstantial element of development strategies that must be included at all levels of governance and obliges the different objectives to be tackled jointly and to analyse the effects and interactions of policies both internally and in their outward projection and contribution to global public goods. In order to define the strategies and political priorities of the bi-regional Development Agenda, it is possible to identify some of the strategic themes for aligning interregional cooperation with the SDGs:

The first objective of the 2030 Agenda is to put an end to poverty. However, the upturn in poverty and inequality caused by the crisis that shook both regions points to the need to promote a paradigm shift in the fight against poverty that, in addition to the



traditional redistributive logic, proposes a multidimensional development incorporating social participation with a parity-based approach. This requires Development models that are more stable and less vulnerable to changes in the economic cycle and that address phenomena such as the fourth industrial revolution and its effects on labour relations, the necessary transfer of knowledge and experience through public and private interaction or the need for sustainable social safety nets that can cope with demographic changes, all that with the full involvement of social agents. Based on the lessons learned from the past two decades in the fight against poverty and the factors that have led to an increase in extreme poverty in recent years, the EU and LAC, in collaboration with ECLAC, should re-elaborate a strategy leading to a bi-regional pact against poverty that will enable the goals of the 2030 Agenda to be achieved.

The 2030 Agenda puts inequality at the heart of the SDGs: Goal 10 to reduce inequality within and between countries and Goal 5 to reduce gender inequality are two mandates that must give rise to a precise set of measures. The EU-CELAC cooperation agenda should incorporate the fight against multidimensional inequality as one of the elements for analysing policy coherence in bi-regional relations. In addition to sharing experiences, lessons learned and good practices, procedures should be reinforced that privilege the fight against gender and race inequalities in a transversal manner. Against inequality, it is also crucial to support civil society organisations by establishing an inter-regional support and exchange network that contributes to raising awareness with empirical evidence on the causes and effects of inequality. The growing inequality also demands progressive tax reforms, the fight against fraud and money laundering with national and international measures. The EU and LAC can lead an anti-corruption pact and control tax havens to curb capital and tax evasion that erodes the taxation needed to sustain public policies. This should act in two ways: On the one hand, encouraging international persecution and the establishment of measures against havens that encourage evasion and, on the other, the improvement of transparency and tax control policies within countries through technical cooperation and exchange, as has already been initiated in some EUROsociAL programmes.

The EU and CELAC strongly supported the 2015 Climate Change Agreement and in its strategic priorities for EU cooperation with LAC, the environment and energy occupy a prominent place, but it is necessary to agree on measures and instruments in line with their various responsibilities that translate into resources, technology transfer and contribution to multilateral initiatives such as the Green Climate Fund. SDG 7 (affordable and sustainable energy), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), SDG 12 (responsible production and consumption), SDG 13 (climate action), SDG 14 (life below water), SDG 15 (life on land) are the international framework for cooperation between the EU and LAC and make them compatible with the Paris Agreement. Both the EU and LAC will have to maintain the intensity of the efforts they are making at the international negotiation level, aimed at concretising the commitments to implement the Paris Agreement and at elaborating the necessary institutional architecture and allocating the relevant resources. For an effective implementation of the environmental agenda, it is necessary to fully involve civil society. The EU and LAC can contribute through environmental education programmes, both in schools and for the general public, to promote the use of alternative energies and responsible consumption. A crucial aspect is protecting environmental defenders, supporting citizens' movements and raising awareness about the need for a change in the energy matrix and the negative consequences of inaction.

The EU and CELAC should cooperate to strengthen socio-environmental protection systems and reinforce international self-regulatory mechanisms such as the Equator Principles, which have been adopted by 96 financial institutions in 37 countries to establish minimum standards for environmental protection applied to investments, or the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. On this basis, progress should also be made towards a common normative framework that establishes minimum standards for investments in decent work in accordance with the recommendations of the ILO and for responsible and sustainable production. Unilateral conditionality and protectionism that has prevailed in previous times must be transformed into a common agreed reference framework and establish a bi-regional Action Plan with monitoring instruments that allow for accountability to citizens. An-



other sector with great possibilities for cooperation is the protection of biological biodiversity. Although some cooperation programmes already exist, progress should be made towards a bi-regional strategy aligned with SDG 14 and 15 and with the United Nations Conventions.

Both the EU and LAC have incorporated the urban dimension into their regional agendas with the European Urban Agenda and the New Urban Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean. Cooperation between cities was incorporated into the EU's Agenda with LAC since the 1990s and contributed to establishing international networks of cities with the aim of giving voice to local actors and tackling transnational problems. Establishing an inter-regional urban agenda should be a contribution to the global sustainable development agenda and make cities actors promoting peace and global justice in a multi-level governance scheme with shared responsibilities. The construction of a new inter-regional urban agenda should be aligned with the respective regional agendas and expressed as a contribution to the global urban agenda adopted at the Habitat III Conference in 2016, as well as with the SDGs and the localisation process of these, very specifically the SDG 11 dedicated to the construction of Sustainable Cities. The LAC and EU commitments to the Global Urban Agenda should be strengthened by giving more prominence to the participation of cities in the 2030 Agenda through an interregional pact for sustainable urban development and resilient communities that includes local authorities in the design of cooperation policies and social participation mechanisms in a multi-level governance scheme.

One of the greatest challenges for the implementation of these and other dimensions of the 2030 Agenda is the ability to mobilise the resources needed to carry out the policies needed to achieve them. This is why compliance with the Addis Ababa Agenda adopted at the third Conference on Financing for Development in 2015 is an essential part of achieving the SDGs adopted that same year. The UN's Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2019 warns that there is a need to seek new sources of funding and mobilise public and private resources, and a long-term vision including the public and private sector is required. However, attention is drawn to the fact that by failing to curb growing inequality the credibility in the

multilateral system is undermined and that it will be necessary to promote changes in the global financial architecture. The conclusions and recommendations adopted at the ECOSOC Forum on Financing for Development held from 15 to 18 April 2019 call for concerted action to align the different sources of financing with the SDGs. The EU and LAC must commit themselves to these structural changes by incorporating them into inter-regional relations as an intermediate instrument to contribute to global governance capable of bringing the 2030 Agenda to a successful conclusion.



The Hungarian rediscovery of Latin America and the Caribbean

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Historical connections between Hungary and the LAC region

Hungary has had (relative to its size and geographical distance) strong ties with Latin American countries since the 19th century. During the colonial period, the most influential activities were that of the (in majority Jesuit) missionaries. After the independence of the Latin American countries, the biggest and most influential impacts were made by those Hungarians who arrived there, firstly, after the failed Hungarian revolution of 1848-49, secondly, after the world wars, and thirdly, after the 1956 Hungarian revolution against the Soviets.

The most important Hungarian personalities in Latin America (in my consideration) have been: János Czetz (Juan Fernando Czetz, 1822-1904), the founder of the Military College of Argentina; Ferenc József Debály (Francisco José Debali, 1791-1859), composer, orchestra conductor, and composer of the national anthem of Uruguay and that of Paraguay; László Bíró (Ladislao Bíró, 1899-1985) inventor and painter who settled in Argentina, and the inventor of the nowadays most widely used (ball point) pen, among others. And finally we should also mention the Benedictine monks (among others: Arnold Szelecz, Anzelm Horváth and János Markos) from Hungary, who founded the Colégio Santo Américo in São Paulo in 1951.

After the Second World War, during the communist area, Hungary was giving scholarships for several hundreds of Latin American students (mostly from counties of the Non-Aligned

Movement, namely Cuba, Ecuador, Venezuela) and was offering home for left-wing thinking refugees (mostly from Chile).

Consequences of the democratic change in Hungary

Following the regime change in Hungary (1989/1990), the priorities of the Hungarian foreign and security policy changed considerably. The newly elected, democratic Hungarian government announced the new “triangle of foreign politics”: Euro-Atlantic integration, friendly and stable relationship with the neighbouring countries, and finally, monitoring the situation of Hungarian (historical) minorities (in the neighbouring countries). These priorities were essential to all Hungarian governments until the country reached the long wished for “reintegration to Western Europe” through joining the OECD (1996), the NATO (1999) and the EU (2004). The first years in the EU were quite turbulent due to inner political and economic crisis, which led to the shutting down of most of the Hungarian diplomatic missions in Latin America. In 2009, merely four embassies were functioning (Mexico City, Havana, Buenos Aires and Brasília) in the region

Rediscovery of the LAC region

After the years of crisis, Hungary was rethinking its political and economic position in the world, being already deeply embedded into the European economic structure. The government realised that the EU’s 80% share in Hungarian trade makes Hungary vulnerable and uniquely dependent on the European



markets, so the decision was made to (re)open relationships to old partners in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Looking at the trade data of the Netherlands, the government realised that a Western European country (with roughly the same size that Hungary) could have much higher (trade) connections to non-EU regions while not questioning its place in the European integration. This led to the announcement of the “Opening to the South” (focusing on Latin America and Sub-Saharan Africa) and “Opening to the East” (focusing on Southeast Asia) policies. It was clear to everyone that the final objective (deeper trade and economic relations) could be achieved only through a diverse set of policies: cultural diplomacy, stronger diplomatic presence, and facilitation of market entry of Hungarian SMEs with competitive products into the target countries.

As concrete steps, Hungary reopened old and opened new diplomatic missions (mostly with commercial attachés) in Panama City, Bogotá, Quito, Lima, Santiago de Chile, Montevideo and São Paulo. The Hungarian government enhanced the existing scholarship programme of Stipendium Hungaricum and included many Latin American and Caribbean countries (such as Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay and Uruguay, while Chile is on the way). Several hundreds of students of these countries are applying every year to BA and MA programmes (in English language) in several different fields of studies with all costs covered (including tuition fee, accommodation and living costs). In 2018, more than 200 received the scholarship and started their studies.

Conclusion and future prospects

We all know that behind all diplomatic relations there are economic and political interests of the countries. To build stable and mutually beneficial relations there has to be a certain level of awareness and familiarity between the populations of the countries. This is the rationale beyond the importance of the student (and professor) exchange programmes: they bring the young generation together, facilitate the exchange of new ideas, help the participants to get to know each other’s culture, language and customs and to build long-standing contacts, which in the future could be the base of fruitful economic and business activities. Educational programmes are the best long-term investments into the future with better understanding of people and prosperity.



Astronomy as a framework of cooperation between the European Union, Latin American and the Caribbean

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Besides being the leading organisation for ground-based astronomy in Europe, ESO, the European Organisation for Astronomical Research in the Southern Hemisphere, is also a prime example of scientific cooperation with the Host State of its observatories, Chile. The basis of such cooperation was laid down less than one year after ESO was founded, when in November 1963 the Organisation and the Chilean Government signed the agreement under which ESO's first observatory would be built on La Silla, a mountain peak northeast of the city of La Serena. The agreement was updated and expanded in 1995, when the construction of another observatory, Cerro Paranal, was under way to host the Very Large Telescope (VLT), currently the most productive astronomical facility on the ground.

Looking in retrospect, an essential role of the 1995 agreement was to recognise the potential of Chile to benefit from the presence of ESO in the country for the development of its scientific community, transitioning from being the privileged platform for observational astronomy that it continues to be, to becoming a partner of European astronomy, and indeed of worldwide astronomy through similar agreements with other international observatories.

The achievements of Chilean astronomy in these past two decades are nothing short of impressive. Guaranteed access to world-class facilities in Chilean territory has stimulated the growth in size and quality of Chilean research groups, leading to many exciting discoveries, and attracting renowned scientists (both Chilean and foreign nationals) from abroad who have further contributed to the development of those groups. Cooperation agreements with the international observatories have provided funds for the development of astronomy pro-

moting professional astronomy as well as educational and outreach activities addressed to a wider public. In parallel, the Chilean Government has committed increased resources to consolidate the national scientific community as part of a strategy to enhance the international standing of the country in science and technology. Numbers speak for themselves: since the turn of the century the number of professional astronomers at Chilean universities has undergone a seven-fold increase, and the number of university departments hosting active researchers in astronomy has increased from two, both located in the capital city of Santiago, to the current thirteen, of which eight are located outside of Santiago, mostly in the North of the country where the international observatories operate. Astronomy, together with seismology and oceanography, is one of the outstanding examples of Chile benefitting its condition of "natural laboratory", in which exceptional natural conditions promote the existence of scientific communities linked to them.

ESO is at the lead of building some of the largest astronomical facilities on Chilean land. This started decades ago in La Silla where we still operate two middle-size but extremely productive optical telescopes and host a number of smaller dedicated projects. The VLT system in Paranal and the Atacama Large Millimetre/submillimeter Array (ALMA) – a partnership between ESO, North American and East Asian institutions are both unique facilities in the world. The next ESO project, the ELT, will dwarf all previous optical telescopes with its almost 40-metre diameter primary mirror. The investments provided by ESO member states to erect this unique set of astronomical observatories are in excess of 3 BEUR. Projects in existence or under development from other international agencies most likely equal or even exceed this figure.



Whereas Chile has developed in these past decades a scientific community that is now on a par with those of countries in Europe and North America with a much longer tradition in astronomy, the strategic focus now includes also the engineering specialties applicable to world-class astronomical facilities. This is not only because of the opportunities of involvement in the construction of advanced facilities such as telescopes and instruments systems, but also because some of the required technologies are also applicable to other fields of activity of great relevance for Chile, such as the mining industry or the exploitation of agricultural resources, to name just two. In that respect, ESO is willing to continue the close collaboration with Chile in the era of the construction of the ELT, which is bound to become the largest telescope in the world when it enters operation by the middle of the next decade.

After more than fifty years of successful partnership between ESO and Chile, it is good to reflect on the reasons of this success. These include of course the unique natural conditions for astronomical observations of the desert of Atacama: low cloudiness, extreme dryness, low atmospheric turbulence, and virtually no artificial sources of light pollution. However, other important reasons come into play: the political and legal support that Chile offers to ESO; a state policy favoring investments in astronomy in the country and the preservation of the natural conditions; a good level of infrastructures; well-qualified professionals for scientific, technical, engineering, or administrative work at the observatories; and, particularly for Europe, a strong commercial, cultural, industrial, and diplomatic presence. All those factors stimulate ESO to look forward to another half-century of cooperation with Chile - at least!

EU-LAC Foundation's Activities



Reflection Forum 2018

Representatives from the Foundation Members, academics and practitioners gathered for a dynamic dialogue in Bruges about “Why should the EU be of relevance for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)? And why should LAC be of relevance for the EU?”.

[...]

Conference: Coffee Worlds

The conference of the historian Christiane Berth was organised by the Instituto Cervantes of Hamburg with the support of the Foundation and the Honorary Consulate of El Salvador in Hamburg.

[...]



Conference: States-Nation, History and Universities. What history is learned in universities in Latin America and the European Union and what stories should be encouraged?”

The Conference was organised by a consortium between the University of Alcalá of Spain and the Autonomous University of Chile and co- financed by the EU-LAC Foundation.

[...]



Long Night of the Consulates 2018

The EU-LAC Foundation participated for the sixth consecutive year in this event in Hamburg.

[...]

The EU-CELAC agenda in times of global interregionalism

The event was organised by the Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB) and co-funded by the EU-LAC Foundation.

[...]



XXXVI International Congress of the Latin American Studies Association

The EU-LAC Foundation supported the Congress, which was focused on the topic "Latin American studies in a globalised world".

[...]



International Colloquium IdA- EU-LAC Foundation: Sustainable Cities in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean as a driver of social transformation

The Colloquium was co-organised by the Institute des Amériques (IdA) and the EU-LAC Foundation in collaboration with the French Development Agency (AFD).

[...]





II EU-LAC Youth Days: Meeting of organisations that aim to promote youth volunteering between the EU and LAC

This event was organised by the EU-LAC Foundation and the Government of Aragon, Spain.

[...]

Seminar: Latin American and the European Union Relations: A renewed political alliance?

The event was organised by the European and Ibero-American Academy of Yuste Foundation and supported by the EU-LAC Foundation and the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB).

[...]



II EU-LAC Awards Ceremony

EU HR/VP Mogherini and Ex-Minister Castaneda of El Salvador, in presence of the President of the Foundation, Leonel Fernández, presented the EU-LAC Awards to celebrate bi-regional relations.

[...]

Seminar: Local alliances for global challenges

The event was organised by the Euro-Latin American Alliance for Cooperation between Cities (AL-LAs), the Union of Ibero-American Capital Cities and the Complutense University of Madrid and co-funded by the EU-LAC Foundation.

[...]





Programme for Junior Diplomats from Central America & the EU

The programme had the participation of representatives from 18 Central America, Mexico, Haiti and the EU countries.

[...]

Seminar “Labour market inclusion of young women in Latin America, the Caribbean and the EU: From good practices to innovative policies”

The seminar was co-organised by the EU-LAC Foundation and the Programme EUROsocial+ and was held in Mexico City..

[...]



Conference: Across the Atlantic- trade between the EU and Latin America

The conference was organised by the EU-LAC Foundation in collaboration with the Instituto Cervantes in Berlin and with the GIGA Institute in Hamburg.

[...]

Opening Ceremony Latin American and the Caribbean Fall Festival

The 5th edition of the Festival was organised by the Foundation in cooperation with the Senate of the City of Hamburg.

[...]





Book Presentation with the author: 'The Girl who watched the Trains leave'

The Consulate General of Uruguay in Hamburg, the EU-LAC Foundation and the Cervantes Institute organised the presentation of the book.

[...]

LACalytics 2018 Conference

The LACalytics-programme is organised by IFAIR (Young Initiative on Foreign Affairs and International Relations) and co-funded by the EU-LAC Foundation and the German Federal Foreign Office.

[...]



**FORTALECIENDO LA COOPERACIÓN UE-ALC:
COMPARTIENDO EXPERIENCIAS
PARA DESARROLLOS
PRESENTES Y FUTUROS**
IFAIR Impact Group 'LACalytics' Policy Paper Series, vol.2



Conference: The Port of Barranquilla and the Ports of the Magdalena River in Colombia

The EU-LAC Foundation and the Instituto Cervantes organised the conference held by Mr. Alfredo Carbonell, Executive Director of Asoportuaria.

[...]

Conference: Sephardic Women in Latin America

The EU-LAC Foundation and the Instituto Cervantes organised the Conference held by Dr. Pilar Romeu Ferré.

[...]



PROGRAMME

12:30 - 12:35	Chair's Welcome Dr. Jan Yves Remy, Deputy Director, SRC
12:35 - 12:45	Greetings Ambassador Daniela Tramacere Head of the Delegation of the EU to Barbados OECS, CARICOM/CARIFORUM
12:45 - 1:05	Introduction and Overview Ambassador Paola Amadei Executive Director, EU-LAC Foundation
1:05 - 1:25	Report Presentation Dr. Dave Seerattan, Co-Author and Lecturer, IIR
1:25 - 1:45	Report Review Dr. Wendy Grenade, Head of GSSW
1:45 - 2:05	Open Discussion
2:05 - 2:10	Vote of Thanks Dr. Kai Ann Skerrie Trade Research Fellow, SRC

BIOGRAPHIES



Dr. Dave Seerattan is an economist studying developing and Caribbean economies for over twenty years, particularly the financial sector in emerging economies. He is presently a Lecturer in International Money and Finance and the MSr Global Studies Coordinator at the Institute of International Relations, as well as OIC at the Caribbean Centre for Money and Finance at UWI, St. Augustine. He has researched and published in areas such as financial innovations, financial regulations, financial market microstructure, global foreign exchange markets, mutual fund performance in the Caribbean, fiscal reforms in the Caribbean and business strategy and competitiveness in the Caribbean.



Dr. Wendy C. Grenade holds a Ph.D. and MA in International Studies from the University of Miami, with concentrations in Comparative Politics and International Relations. She has published several scholarly articles on regional integration, Caribbean-EU relations and security. Dr. Grenade is currently a Lecturer in Political Science, and the Head of Department of Government, Sociology and Social Work, the University of the West Indies, Cave Hill campus. Prior to joining the faculty at UWI she lectured at the Florida Atlantic University and was a Research Associate at the European Union Centre, University of Miami.

Book presentation: The Caribbean in the EU-CELAC Partnership

The study published by the Foundation was presented in the Cave Hill School of Business, The University of West Indies (Barbados).

[...]

Visits to the Caribbean

Paola Amadei, Executive Director of the EU-LAC Foundation, undertook two missions to the Caribbean, in which she met with Ministers and personalities.

[...]



Presentation of the Report "Latin America - The political year 2018"

The Foundation, in cooperation with the OPALC (CERI-Sciences Po) and the Ibero-American Institute organised the presentation of the publication in Berlin.

[...]

Book Launch EUROsociAL

The Foundation participated in the launch of the book "More young people in business", in the presence of the Minister of Labour of Peru and numerous authorities.

[...]





Forum 'Proposals and Recommendations for EU-LAC Cultural Initiatives'

More than 60 experts and cultural managers from both regions met in Lisbon to make proposals and reflections to carry out EU-LAC cultural initiatives.

[...]

Portugal, Central America and the Caribbean Forum

Ptaola Amadei, Executive Director of the EU-LAC Foundation, participated in the Forum organised by the Institute for the Promotion of Latin America and the Caribbean (IPDAL).

[...]



Long night of the consulates 2019n

The EU-LAC Foundation participated for the seventh consecutive year in this event, hosting the representation of Belgium, Bolivia and Honduras and showcasing the cultural diversity of the EU, Latin America and the Caribbean through several cultural activities and degustation of local product

[...]

Transformation of the Foundation into an International Organisation

On May 17th, 2019 the 1st Ordinary Meeting of the Board of Governors of the EU-LAC International Foundation took place, which was established as an international organisation after reaching the necessary threshold of ratification from its members for the Constitutive Agreement to enter into force.

[...]





Presentation of the Book “Sustainable cities: the motor of social transformation in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean” from the 2018 Colloquium with the Ida

[...]

XIX Congress of the International Federation for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (FIEALC) “Latin America and the World: spaces for encounter and cooperation

The Congress encouraged critical reflection on historical and socio-economic processes, literary trends, linguistic changes and cultural phenomena from the first contacts to the analysis of trends in recent times.

[...]



Young Researchers

Diego Durán Cruz

New Multilateralism in External Relations between the European Union and Latin America: Opportunities and Challenges for Transregionalisation

In light of the growing presence of political, economic and social integration endeavours within the international and interregional contexts, the diversification of external relations for states - and the significance that it entails - has increased and significantly contributed to a more constructive participation of actors that were traditionally not active in multilateral dynamics. Thus, through infra and interregional multilateralism fostered by integration platforms, a growing number of states pursue their national interests and reflect political commitment to joint institutional visions and actions at the regional level. Either determined by land connection, identity, trade zones or common values (amongst further considerations, which will be revised throughout this inquiry), this regionalist institutionalisation has also thrived in a multi-polarised and multi-sectorial practice of International Relations (IR), which shows that no longer states exclusively but also regions play a significant role - more significantly so when their advancements become institutionalised. Furthermore, ever since the end of the late 20th century bipolarisation, this practice is characterised by a widely adopted discussion upon which regions are connected and under which considerations. The conceptualisation of the borders of regions, traditionally geography-based, now also relies upon the level of interdependence, identity, level of institutionalisation, commercial interests, amongst others.

Albeit regions are defined as socially constructed spaces between the global and the national level¹, the evolving classification of the criterion that defines them has been accompanied by states' consistently evolving interest and search for platforms upon which they become institutionalised. For this reason, multilateralism has been adopted in

the agendas of not only countries but also regional and international organisations. Integration, nonetheless, does not come out of the blue nor does it exist with no particular purpose.

Just as in the case of European integration, numerous Latin American countries (as will be revised throughout), often following the institutional example of the former, have established platforms for dialogue that aim to strengthen cohesion and foster integration dynamics. Despite the various institutional attempts that both regions have historically developed, both at the intra and interregional levels, the current international political scenario seems to more significantly pave the way for a reassessment of such multilateral endeavours. For they could be a means to overcome common challenges and find more effective, sustainable and long-lasting joint solutions through a reconstructed and updated association.

Ultimately, these political events will be analytically juxtaposed to the multilateral developments in the two adjacent regions – Latin America and the European Union – in which the impacts of these outcomes were correlated to direct political, economical and social outputs and influences that all the actors involved exert on one another. This will allow to find points of encounter that aim to explain the evolving framework of multilateralism between the European Union and Latin America that could thrive in transregionalisation. Essentially, this work aims to shed light on the convenience and, more significantly, the salient necessity of a joint EU- Latin American action to strengthen the transregional framework through a renewed approach to multilateralism. This in order to effectively, efficiently, sustainably and based on common institutional values and visions, tackle the effects and consequences of the aforementioned events.

[...]

The selection of the Young Researcher project is done through a call published on the EU-LAC Foundation social networks and website.

Publications



EU-LAC FOUNDATION

Catherine Paquette (2019).

[The Sustainable City, a key driver for social transformation in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean.](#)

Institut des Amériques, Agence Française de Développement, Fundación EU- LAC: Paris.

EU-LAC Foundation (2019).

[Why should the European Union have any relevance for Latin America and the Caribbean?.](#)

EU-LAC Foundation, Hamburg.

EU-LAC Foundation (2018).

[Clusters and cluster policy: Opportunities for collaboration between the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean.](#)

EU-LAC Foundation: Hamburg

EU-LAC Foundation (2018).

[Translation to Spanish of the Study 'Emigrant politics in Latin America and the Caribbean' \(2018\).](#)

EU-LAC Foundation: Hamburg

EU-LAC Foundation (2018)

[Forging Bonds with Emigrants: Challenges for Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean](#)

EU-LAC Foundation, Hamburg.

EU-LAC Foundation & ECLAC (2018)

[The European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean: Convergent and sustainable strategies in the current global environment](#)

ECLAC, Santiago de Chile.

Pinot de Villechenon, F. [et al.] (2018)

[Latin American SMEs, and training programmes for their internationalization](#)

EU-LAC Foundation, Hamburg.

EU-LAC Foundation (2018)

[Financing the Transition to Renewable Energy in the EU, Latin America and the Caribbean](#)

EU-LAC Foundation, Hamburg.

Renzi, María R. [et al.] (2018)

[Good practices and innovations for the inclusion of young women in the labour market in Latin America, the Caribbean and the EU](#)

EU-LAC Foundation, Hamburg.

EU-LAC Foundation (2018)

[Case studies on Circular economy models and integration of Sustainable Development Goals in business strategies in the EU and LAC](#)

EU-LAC Foundation, Hamburg.

EU-LAC Foundation & IFAIR (2018)

[Strengthening EU-LAC Cooperation: Sharing Experiences for Present and Future Developments.](#)

EU-LAC Foundation, Hamburg.

Events of the Foundation

June, 2019.

Dialogue on the Construction of a CELAC-EU Higher Education Area.
Quito, Ecuador.

June, 2019.

Dialogue on Renewable Energy and the Energy Transformation.
São Paulo, Brazil.

July, 2019.

Presentation of the Atlas of Colombia's Industrial Geography.
Bologna, Italy.

July, 2019.

Ceremony of celebration - Transformation of the EU-LAC Foundation into International Organisation.
Rome, Italy.

July, 2019.

Presentation of the Study "Good practices and innovations for the inclusion of young women in the labour market in Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union".
Barcelona, Spain.



September-November 2019.

2019 Latin American and the Caribbean Fall Festival.
Hamburg, Germany.

September, 2019.

Seminar "Youth and citizen participation in the EU and LAC" with GIGA Institute.
Hamburg, Germany.

October, 2019.

World Encounter of Circo Social, Successful Experiences in the Work with Youth in Situations of Social Vulnerability.
Buenos Aires, Argentina.

November, 2019.

In-betweeners in turbulent times: migrants in the epicentre of crises in Europe and Latin America.
Seville, Spain.

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