



CLIMATE CHANGE IN TIMES OF COVID-19

Opinion Articles

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Introduction



It was expected that 2020 would be a year of great importance for climate action. Countries should have come together to assess their advancements and present new and more ambitious climate plans (NDCs), in line with the 2015 Paris Agreement, thus beginning a “decade of ambition”.

Several important events and international decisions for climate biodiversity and oceans were scheduled for this year. However, the COVID-19 pandemic swept the world leaving governments and businesses scrambling to save livelihoods, companies and jobs, which affected climate diplomacy, including the postponement of key summits and COP26.

Albeit this context could entail to put plans on hold due to the sanitary emergency, opportunities are emerging for the countries in the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean to incorporate climate friendly initiatives into their economic recovery plans with the aim of building a more sustainable and resilient future.

Building on the major EU and LAC role in the adoption of the Paris Agreement and the 2030 agenda on sustainable development in 2015, joint efforts are needed to ensure its effective implementation and a low carbon transition.

The European Green Deal launched by the European Commission in December 2019 outlines a comprehensive framework of regulations and legislation aimed at achieving the EU’s targets of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, and a 50% to 55% cut in emissions from 1990 levels by 2030. At the same time, Latin American countries have made substantial progress in responding to the challenges of fighting climate change and some countries have already developed specific climate change legislation as well as low emission strategies.

In this context this edition of the Newsletter of the EU-LAC Foundation brings together six articles that address different aspects of responding to the challenges of climate change in the era of COVID-19.

In the first article, Chilean Minister of Environment and President of COP25, Carolina Schmidt, comments on the main instruments Chile has been promoting in the fight against climate change, such as the updating of the national determined contributions, the sovereign issue of green bonds and the climate change law.

Jolita Butkeviciene, Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Directorate General for International Cooperation of the European Commission shares the perspectives of the political dialogue and technical cooperation between the European Union and the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean in the context of the pandemic.

Graham Watkins, Head of the Climate Change Department of the Inter-American Development Bank, contributes with a reflection on how multilateral development banks can support low-carbon and climate-resilient development, consistent with the Paris Agreement, as a response to COVID-19.

Ismo Ulvillla, from the Directorate General Climate Action in the European Commission, analyses the role of investment in the European green pact and its importance in economic recovery, and notes the European Union’s efforts to achieve more sustainable economic development models.

Lara Lazaro Touza and Gonzalo Escribano Francés, from Real Instituto Elcano, explain the opportunities generated by COVID-19 in relation to achieving climate neutrality and appreciate

the advisability of undertaking strategic cooperation between the EU-China-LAC.

Tania Guillén, Researcher at the Climate Services Centre of Germany, talks about the importance of science in the fight against climate change and the economic crisis generated by the COVID-19, addressing the role of science in the management of both crises, which are closely linked.

Adrián Bonilla

Executive Director
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Articles



NDC: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR GREEN RECOVERY

Carolina Schmidt

Minister of the Environment of Chile and President of COP25

Today we are facing difficult times, of that there is no doubt. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought us one of the greatest socio-economic crises the world has faced in centuries, affecting people's lives in many ways.

Certainty is what our citizens expect from leaders in times of crisis. To provide this certainty, leaders must show clear goals, with a long-term vision for our recovery plans and have cross-cutting support to this end.

We need to develop and implement plans to recover our economies and cope with the huge loss of jobs that this pandemic is bringing, to address the other global crises we continue to experience and which have not been quarantined: climate change and biodiversity loss.

Updating our Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) commitments should not be seen as an unnecessary distraction from the health crisis. On the contrary, presenting improved NDCs this year is more important than ever because NDC commitments really act as a beacon to guide a truly resilient and sustainable social and economic recovery from the COVID-19 crisis.

Globally, the first NDCs were launched five years ago. Today, there is a clear opportunity - and also real urgency - to raise our collective ambition by ambitiously updating our contributions, showing leadership and setting the goals for a Green Recovery.

Last April, in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, Chile presented its new updated NDC. And we did so with ambition (as recognized by different national and international organizations).

Chile is one of the 13 countries in the world that has done so and the only one in all of Latin America that has presented its NDC this year, as required by the Paris Agreement, and it has done so with the broad participation of the world of science, whose collaboration I would like to acknowledge and express my appreciation for.

Chile's new NDC sets an absolute, clear and unconditional indicator and target of 95 million tonnes of emissions equivalent by 2030. It establishes our *peak* emissions in 2025 and a maximum total budget to be emitted between 2020 and 2030 of no more than 1,100 million tons of CO₂eq.

Our new NDC establishes, for the first time in an NDC, a social pillar as the basis for an adequate implementation of our climate commitments, committing to the development of a fair transition strategy for the process of decarbonisation of the electricity matrix; and establishing clearly how each mitigation and adaptation commitment contributes to the fulfilment of sustainable development objectives: gender equality, water security, cost-effectiveness, nature-based solutions and indigenous peoples' knowledge with active and inclusive participation.

To promote climate action, Chile issued Sovereign Green Bonds whose high demand allowed us to access significant funding for sustainable projects. The Chilean Green Bond Sus-



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tainability Framework, certified by the Climate Bonds Initiative (CBI), the main organization specialized in defining global and verifiable standards for this type of instrument, provides us with the best criteria for sustainable investment selection: climate change; improvement of air quality; long-term low-carbon infrastructure; conservation of biodiversity and water resources, as well as reduction of water and energy consumption.

Our positive experience in issuing Sovereign Green Bonds (GSB) has brought social, environmental and economic benefits. It has allowed us to strengthen the joint work between the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of the Environment, thereby consolidating a vision of sustainable development for our country.

A total of 6.2 billion dollars was issued during 2019 and 2020. These green bonds obtained the lowest interest rates in history, being a concrete demonstration that investing in green projects is a beneficial action for the environment, for society and also for the economy.

We are working together with the Ministry of Finance to analyse new Sovereign Green Bonds to foster our economic recovery.

Both of these instruments, our new NDC and the Sovereign Green Bond Framework, respond to a long-term vision that will guide our post-COVID-19 economic recovery, and will allow us to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, as established in the Climate Change Framework Bill that we passed in Congress and which was approved by the Senate in general unanimously. This project was elaborated with wide and unprecedented citizen participation, and is signed by 15 Ministries confirming the cross-cutting commitment of the Chilean State to face climate change.

This is one of the reasons why the Presidency of the COP in Chile decided to bring the Ministers of Finance, Energy, Agriculture, Science and Transport to COP25 in Madrid.

We wanted to ensure an inter-ministerial and cross-cutting approach to coordinate and integrate all sectors with their different perspectives on each theme discussed during the Conference

It is essential that the private sector accelerates its transfor-

mation to sustainable production models. Chile, as the Presidency of COP25, has strengthened and extended the work of the High-Level Champions and climate action in the COP process. And in June we launched, together with the UK, the "Race to Zero" which seeks to mobilise a healthy, resilient and carbon-neutral recovery.

Achieving Carbon Neutrality by 2050 is a measure of great benefit to Chile. It requires an investment of between 40 and 50 billion USD, which can generate direct and operational savings, resulting in net benefits for the country of over 30 billion USD. And which, according to estimates we made with the World Bank, could result in a contribution of up to 4.4% of GDP by 2050.

These enormous economic benefits can be multiplied by 5 if we consider the socio-environmental benefits of implementing these measures, especially the reduction of our *black carbon* and emissions, decontaminated consequent reduction in diseases and costs to the Chilean Health System.

In our country, President Sebastián Piñera recently announced the plan "Paso a Paso Chile se Recupera" (Step by Step Chile Recovers), which has the special objective of lifting up our country safely and gradually and putting it back on track. It has an important pillar of public investment that will exceed 34 billion USD between 2020 and 2022, with an additional 4.5 billion USD. 30% of the new public investment will be allocated to sustainable mitigation and adaptation projects that contribute to accelerating our transition to low-emission, climate-resilient development and to mitigating and adapting our country to climate change, in accordance with the commitments made by Chile in its updated CND and Agenda 2030.

Because of the global COVID-19 crisis, we had to postpone COP26 until November 2021 in Glasgow, UK. This means that Chile will continue to hold the Presidency of COP 25 and, together with the European Union, through Euroclima+, will promote an intense climate action agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean, in areas such as renewable energies and fair transition, electro-mobility and the circular economy, carbon neutrality and transparency in the framework of the Paris Agreement, as well as the integration of science and gender into climate policies, capacity building in the forestry and agri-



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cultural sector, the involvement of indigenous peoples, youth and local governments in climate action, among other issues.

I would especially like to thank the European Union for its continued support and contribution to the various different projects and initiatives promoted by the Presidency of the COP25 over all this time, which has allowed us to promote with strength and conviction a more ambitious climate action, based on scientific knowledge and aligned with the objectives of the Paris Agreement and carbon neutrality by 2050.

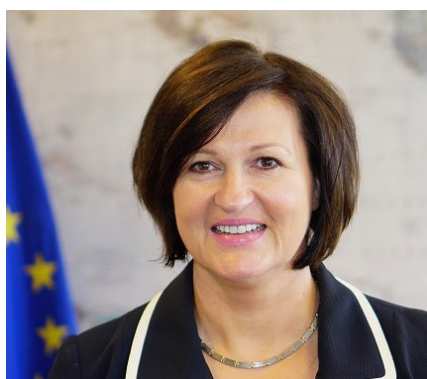
Although we still have a long way to go, the recent recognition of our country in the University of Cambridge's sustainability

ranking, as a leader in the Latin American region and 28 among 193 countries in the implementation of Agenda 2030 and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), reinforces our conviction that we are going in the right direction.

We have a great challenge ahead of us, without a doubt. But at the same time we have a unique opportunity to use this crisis to accelerate our transformation towards a more inclusive, healthier, low-carbon and resilient economy for future generations.



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POLITICAL DIALOGUE AND EUROPEAN COOPERATION WITH LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Jolita Butkeviciene

Director for Latin America and the Caribbean of the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation

For a few months now, Latin America has been the epicentre of the pandemic. The long months of lockdown that the inhabitants of many countries in the region have had to endure have not prevented the circulation of the virus, as is shown by the graphs of its evolution, both in terms of the number of cases, hospitalisation and deaths.

The pandemic hit the region at a time when its economy was entering a severe recession. The drop in Gross Domestic Product could reach 9.1 per cent for Latin America and the Caribbean and regional unemployment could fall by 13.5 per cent (5.4 per cent more than in 2019). There could be 45.4 million poorer people, giving a total of 230.9 million in 2020. This represents 37.3% of the Latin American population (ECLAC, 2020)¹.

Moreover, the downturn in the world economy is affecting the region due to the reduction in trade, tourism and remittances. All this contributes to a scenario of greater poverty, social inequality and economic recession.

The European Union is a strategic ally in the fight against climate change. The European Commission works strongly in collaboration with Latin American and Caribbean countries in the formulation and implementation of climate policies in line with the Paris Agreement, through various programmes such as EUROCLIMA+ and Latin America Investment Facility (LAIF), among others.

The activities developed within the framework of this bi-regional cooperation have also been affected by the pandemic. In the case of EUROCLIMA+, the following changes have taken place:

- Delays in the implementation of some of the cooperation projects. Activities have had to be rescheduled, missions cancelled, recruitment of experts postponed.
- Constraints on the movement of experts, which affect work in the field and, in particular, rural communities, where wireless connectivity is not good.
- Reorientation of resources and actions to attend to emergencies, providing food bags, security kits, seeds, mobile phones.
- Massive adoption of virtual modes for capacity building activities, such as training, courses and meetings.

As Kristalina Georgieva, Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund said, *"We live in exceptional times that require exceptional actions. We must not miss the opportunity to make this recovery a green recovery. What does this mean? Firstly, green investments, neither brown nor grey. Secondly, to seize the opportunity of low oil prices to move towards the elimination of fossil fuel subsidies and put a price on carbon. Thirdly, to imagine what investments we can promote that are geared towards green jobs and a more sustainable future, through the*

¹ <https://www.cepal.org/es/publicaciones/45782-enfrentar-efectos-cada-vez-mayores-covid-19-reactivacion-igualdad-nuevas>



*establishment of fiscal stimuli. We can do this.*²

In the European Union, we are firmly convinced that the recovery has to be green.

European Commission Vice-President Frans Timmerman said:

“We set a course to make Europe the first carbon neutral continent, but the virus has changed the world as we knew it. It would have been easy and even understandable to drop everything and throw our green ambitions out of the window. Because who has time to think about what the planet needs in ten years’ time, when our loved ones are sick or when we have to worry about whether you will still have a job next week? People’s priorities have changed.

As uncertainty grows, so does the pressure on governments to provide quick solutions. However, here we are, not only maintaining our ambitions, but duplicating the Green Pact. It was our growth strategy, and now it is also our roadmap out of this crisis, a lifeline for a better future.

Today we are in a very different place from where we were before and from where we expected to be, but the fact is that the Green Pact made sense before, and it makes even more sense now.”

In Latin America, the European Union’s EUROCLIMA+ Programme has been assisting Latin American countries since 2017 to facilitate dialogue and the implementation of climate policies:

EUROCLIMA+

EUROCLIMA+ collaborates with countries on climate governance. Through “Country Dialogues”, together with country representatives, priority needs are identified and services are delivered to support the implementation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), such as studies, consultancies and pilot projects. Among the six lines of action on which the Programme focuses, the line linked to **climate financing** is particularly rel-

evant at this juncture. Through this line, EUROCLIMA+ generates capacities and supports processes to access funds for climate projects.

On the other hand, many of the 60 current projects promoted within the framework of EUROCLIMA+ are oriented towards processes linked to a green recovery policy. In fact, from the Programme and at the request of the countries, initiatives linked to the provision of drinking water in cities, resilient food production, energy efficiency, sustainable transport and the protection of forests, biodiversity and ecosystems are being implemented, applying approaches to solutions based on Nature.

Since July 2020, EUROCLIMA+ has been cooperating closely with the NDC- Partnership Programme to facilitate a dialogue with interested countries to support planning in the implementation of NDCs and to analyse the impact of COVID-19 on NDC update plans. Specifically, EUROCLIMA+ has committed to finance the placement of technical experts in “green recovery” in the Ministries of Ecuador, Peru and the Dominican Republic, in the framework of a global “green recovery” initiative promoted by NDC-Partnership.

The EU cannot and will not act alone to ensure that the green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic is green: the virus knows no borders and attacks all nations, small or large, poor or rich, regardless of their political orientation.

The EU, as a global player, is committed to helping frame a global response through multilateralism and a regulated international order, with its partners in the United Nations, the World Trade Organization, the G20 and the G7. One of the main priorities is to restore trade flows and supply routes. Another is to ensure that no one is left behind, supported by effective development cooperation. The EU is committed to providing assistance to regions, countries and sub-national entities in need, including Latin America and the Caribbean.

As the EU institutions begin to plan and programme EU cooperation funds for the period 2021-2027, they will be guided by the EU Green Pact and green recovery as strategic objectives, both at national level and in the EU’s political dialogue with the Latin American and Caribbean region.

² Kristalina Georgieva. Managing Director IMF. Petesberg Climate Dialogue XI, April 2020. Free translation: <https://player.admiralcloud.com/?v=a80f0a20-7bea-42d5-87e2-b89664d3f542>



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COVID-19 IS OUR WAKE-UP CALL TO BUILD A SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE FUTURE

Graham Watkins

Chief of the Climate Change Division,
the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)

Latin America and Caribbean countries are facing a pandemic with myriad social and economic consequences. At the same time, we also have climate change enhanced fires raging in Brazil's Pantanal and hurricanes pounding the Caribbean. This complex situation shows that governments, the private sector, civil society, and multilateral development banks (MDBs) need to work together to support a sustainable recovery.

The consequences of COVID-19 in the region are tragic. It is the worst hit region, alongside Asia, with over 310,000 deaths. We estimate that we may lose up to 17 million formal and 23 million informal [jobs](#) this year and [2.7 million](#) companies will go out of business.

Our path out of the pandemic should make sure we create a new normal and shift from business as usual to sustainable economic development. Development banks have a vital role to play to support this shift by ensuring we do projects the right way, select the right projects, and help fix governance, financial, and institutional systems.

First, we need to do projects the right way. The traditional focus on climate change has been to measure and check emissions and make sure resilience to climate risks is baked in. While this approach matters, we need to go further. That's why the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) has just [released](#) a new Environmental and Social Policy Framework. This policy moves beyond measuring and reducing emissions to trying to avoid them. It also incorporates an exclusion list that limits the IDB's financing of fossil fuels to reflect country commitments to

the Paris Agreement. The new policy also requires assessing climate change and disaster risks and will apply a method for risk management that makes sure projects are resilient.

Second, MDBs can also help make sure we manage the climate crisis by doing the right projects. We decide which projects to support in response to demand from our clients. The most recent update to the IDB Group Institutional [Strategy](#) emphasizes the cross-cutting challenge of climate change and environmental sustainability. Our Corporate Results Framework (CRF) also [reflects](#) commitments to climate finance and sustainable land use. It refers to the need for the borrower to check and manage climate risk in projects. MDBs can support countries in ensuring long-term planning for [decarbonization](#) and adaptation. Planning includes ensuring stakeholder engagement and working with Ministries of Finance, Ministries of Planning, and Sector Ministries in prioritizing and executing projects.

Twenty-one [regional countries](#), including Chile, Costa Rica, and Jamaica, have announced their intention to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 and enhance the ambition of their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). MDBs can support countries with climate action by financing projects from these more ambitious NDCs. Projects range from climate resilient and low-carbon infrastructure, through enhancing social resilience, and improving health systems, to promoting education for a just transition. With that in mind, last August, the IDB approved a [US\\$200](#) million loan to The Bahamas to support small businesses, manage natural resources, and promote the Blue Economy.



Third, MDBs have a key role in helping to fix institutional contexts. A fundamental challenge to climate action is that organizations beyond those responsible for climate plans must own and execute those plans. Our work in the region shows how long-term strategies can support a just transition to net-zero emissions. This can help countries avoid becoming locked into expensive carbon-intensive pathways. With renewable energy now cheaper than fossil fuels in many countries, [US\\$ 90 billion](#) worth of assets are at risk of becoming stranded in the region's power sector.

Additional fundamental challenges include the regulatory and governance barriers that increase costs and decrease effectiveness of climate solutions. Improving regulations can remove price barriers and help drive transformational change. Changing taxes and subsidies can increase fiscal revenue to help support governments through recovery. IDB supported improvements to fiscal policy and regulations can help create institutional arrangements for sustainable finance.

This means delivering finance that supports Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) investments and ensures that projects consider and manage climate risks. This is important in fiscally constrained governments who urgently need private

finance investment to recover. A key lesson learned from the last fiscal crisis is that we must change financial and institutional systems to make sure that recovery is sustainable in the long-term.

The IDB and other MDBs can support low-carbon and climate resilient development that is consistent with the Paris Agreement as a response to COVID-19. This includes ensuring MDB investments are low-carbon and climate resilient and support country plans for decarbonization and adaptation.

MDBs must play their role in ensuring a long-term impact by helping countries introduce sustainability into institutions. A final role of development banks is supplying the knowledge to carry out changes for a more sustainable world and promote myriad co-benefits including reducing inequality and pollution.

There is strong public support for a sustainable recovery. Scores of countries and cities across the region and Europe are very interested in this agenda. A sustainable recovery can be the bridge between getting countries onto a path towards sustainable and inclusive development while advancing global climate and biodiversity commitments. Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe can be the engineers to construct that bridge.



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ROLE OF INVESTMENT IN THE EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL AND ITS IMPORTANCE ON THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY

Ismo Ulvila

Principal Administrator, DG Climate Action,
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The COVID-19 pandemic is above all a human tragedy. Governments around the world are tackling its impacts on health, the economy and society. Equally, it is their responsibility to draw lessons from the crisis in order to prepare for future threats and protect their citizens from external shocks. Yet the recovery from COVID-19 is also an opportunity for governments to seize the opportunity and to show they are capable of addressing such challenges by building more inclusive and resilient societies. While containment measures remain in place to minimize loss of life, the existential threats of climate change, biodiversity loss, excessive use of resources and pollution on land and at sea urgently require long-term planning and commitment. That's why the European Union (EU) continues to back the full implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Climate Agreement and internationally agreed biodiversity goals remain crucial to help better equip the world for future systemic shocks.

The economic recovery from the crisis and the transition to a more sustainable, socially just, resilient and climate-neutral economy can and must go hand in hand. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity that we cannot allow to slip through our fingers. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), over the next two years, governments around the world will seek to spend around EUR 10 trillion - *borrowed from future generations*, so it's clearer than ever that the choices we make today will define tomorrow's world. After all, the 2050 climate neutrality target is just one investment cycle away. The massive investment needed to revitalise our economies must lighten the burden, not increase it. The recovery plans the EU is putting in place are a historic

opportunity to 'build back better' modernize society and invest in climate resilience, digitalisation and smart solutions, rather than falling back on the carbon economy of the last century.

The European Commission (EC) with the support of the leaders of EU countries has reconfirmed its commitment to a "green, digital and resilient" recovery and embedded necessary criteria in its proposals. The public investment in the recovery will respect the green oath of doing no harm. Every euro from the "Next Generation EU" programme and the enlarged EU budget will be used to get Europe back on its feet, and to accelerate the twin green and digital transitions to help build a fairer and more resilient society. The Commission is proposing that 30% of the EU budget be spent on climate action across all policy areas.

The EU has identified some areas where immediate actions to support the recovery could benefit the climate, create jobs in renovating buildings, enhancing electric mobility and investing in renewable energy investments. Technology will be key to driving these initiatives. In the longer term, the European Green Deal and the digital transformation agenda are the backbone of a growth model for a more sustainable, inclusive, resilient and future proof EU economy.

The EU remains committed to its 2050 climate neutrality objective and is proposing to raise its ambition by upping its 2030 target to cut greenhouse gas emissions to at least 55% below 1990 levels. We encourage all Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to match our ambition. We will also redouble our efforts to ensure our long-



term drive to decouple resource use from economic growth by promoting the transition to a circular economy and fighting biodiversity loss. Protecting and restoring ecosystems and reducing air, land, and water pollution will boost our resilience and improve our health and wellbeing. Our policy response addresses the particularly trying situation for young people, and supports their active participation in the labour market and society more broadly. This intergenerational pact is particularly important as the youth will bear the consequences of climate change and will carry the burden of the debt arising from the investment our recovery demands.

The EU urges all international partners to put in place low-carbon policies and green national recovery strategies to encourage investors, businesses, workers and consumers to embrace more sustainable models. The EU stands ready to engage with international partners on directing investment into environmentally sustainable economic activities. For instance, this might include applying similar frameworks for sustainable finance and taxonomy principles as those now in force in the EU. This we must do on an equal footing; not exporting 'our' standards, but forging 'global standards' together in our quest to support open and fair trade, the rules-based order, multilateralism and global solidarity.

The EU development assistance and cooperation frameworks with third countries and other external policies to stimulate this recovery will put fairness and climate-consciousness at their core. The EU welcomes opportunities to reflect climate change issues in the dialogue with recipient countries, International Financial Institutions, the private sector and other stakeholders.

Climate change is a global problem requiring a global response. As such, the external chapter of the Green Deal Communication sets out the EU's global ambition for leadership in tackling climate and environmental challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic and associated challenges are a stark reminder that we should better equip ourselves for future systemic shocks, and must therefore learn the lessons from this crisis and prepare the necessary recovery measures that will put our societies and economies back on a path to sustainable growth.

As part of its menu of existing policies and the Green Recovery, the EU will in the short term promote green measures to drive jobs and growth while contributing to a climate-neutral, resilient and circular economy. In parallel, support for innovation, research and deployment of sustainable technologies will be expanded through coordinated action at EU and global level to avoid investments that lock in carbon use into the future. The EU remains committed to the principles of the Paris Agreement and will continue to increase the ambition of its National Determined Contribution (NDC) and Long-Term Strategy. The policies set out above will encourage a shift in public and private finance from carbon-intensive activities to low-carbon and resilient development, mainstreaming climate in the financing strategies of public and private financiers.

The European Green Deal identifies dozens of policy areas where EU climate legislation will be improved or developed in the coming years. We've set our path to climate neutrality target by 2050, and we're determined to reach that destination in the interest of the planet and future generations.



THE COVID-19 EXIT STRATEGY: FAST-TRACKING AND MAINSTREAMING NET ZERO AMIDST WICKED GEOPOLITICS³

Lara Lázaro Touza

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Gonzalo Escribano Francés

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 Programme, Real Instituto Elcano;
 Lecturer, Universidad Nacional de Educación
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The COVID-19 exit strategy could resemble that of the 2008 global financial crisis, where only 16 per cent of the funds disbursed via stimulus packages were 'green'. Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions experienced a strong rebound after the 2008 crisis despite increasingly ambitious climate commitments and temporary emission slowdowns. Alternatively, the COVID-19 exit strategy could accelerate the low-carbon transition by front-loading and mainstreaming net-zero roadmaps through green stimulus packages, greener budgets, and climate neutrality conditions in bailouts.

Existing trends prior to the COVID-19 pandemic showed that the economics of transition were increasingly attractive, with renewables being the cheapest source of power in many locations around the world. The materiality of climate risks was

being acknowledged by investors, with large-fund managers stressing the importance of climate-proofing portfolios. Companies were realizing that their ability to retain the social license to operate and access finance would be enhanced if they offered lower-carbon goods and services. Furthermore, renewable-energy sources (RES) companies have fared better during the COVID-19 pandemic than their fossil-fuel counterparts, with some analysts warning about an impending disruption to the fossil fuel regime. The climate and energy legislation was never so comprehensive, having increased 20-fold globally since the 1990s, and society's concern about climate change was high.

Headwinds to fast-tracking and mainstreaming a Paris-compatible development model will, however, be significant after COVID-19. The world's track record in reducing emissions since 1990 is poor, with GHG emissions having increased

³ A longer version of this article that focuses on the EU, the US and China was first published as Lázaro Touza, L. and Escribano Francés, G. (2020), The COVID-19 exit strategy: fast-tracking and mainstreaming Net Zero amidst wicked geopolitics. Oxford Energy Forum. 123: 56



over 40 per cent since 1990⁴. Per capita GHG emissions are more than three times those that would be compatible with the temperature goals enshrined in the Paris Agreement (i.e. limit global mean temperature increases to well-below 2°C (striving for 1.5°C) compared to pre-industrial levels. Current low fossil fuel prices can entice a high-carbon rebound, as was the case after the 2008 global financial crisis. Higher transaction costs for renewable projects and disruptions in the supply chain can stall short-term RES project deployment. Pressure mounts to rescue high-emitting sectors, despite calls for ‘green’ conditionality including net-zero roadmaps and evidence that investing in renewable infrastructure and clean research and development delivers not only significant climate-positive impacts but also higher long-term multipliers⁵.

Sectoral plans for decarbonization are yet to be fully fleshed out. Globally, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) offer just headline climate action targets. Integrated Energy and Climate Change Plans in the EU provide more detailed indicative (i.e. not necessarily legally binding) decarbonization goals. The US is expected to pull out of the Paris Agreement in November 2020, largely rendering its NDCs unattainable at present. China has not clearly signalled that its second NDCs will be more ambitious. Countries in Latin America like Brazil are only symbolically in the Paris Agreement. A gradual but inexorable decarbonization path is still resisted by fossil fuel producers who warn about the challenges of decarbonizing mass markets and high-emitting sectors. At the individual level, bridging the gap between concern and climate action will require awareness campaigns, clear information on low-carbon alternatives, internalizing externalities via price signals, competitive prices for low-carbon goods and services, and compensating losers, especially more vulnerable ones.

For a global green recovery to materialize, a coordinated and simultaneous response is sorely needed. The geopolitical context is, however, fraught with difficulties. The US is not cooperating with the international community on a number of issues

that require coordinated and simultaneous responses (e.g. the COVID-19 pandemic). In China, the pressure mounts to support jobs and growth even at the expense of environmental and climate goals, but China has emerged as one of the torchbearers of climate governance, in the expected absence of the US. In fact, China is acutely aware of the need to step up its climate ambition at home and abroad if it wants to be admitted as a legitimate partner in the global green governance space.

Europe will strive, once again, to lead by example through an unprecedented recovery package with green strings attached, a greener Multiannual Financial Framework (2021–2027), and the European Green Deal, Europe’s ‘man on the moon’ project. Latin America is, at the time of writing, one of the regions that has been worst affected by COVID-19. While the attractiveness of investing in renewables in some Latin American countries like Chile, Brazil, Mexico, Argentina and Colombia are at the top end of the scale according to Bloomberg’s New Energy Finance Climatescope⁶, not every country in the LAC region is prepared to step up its climate ambition or leadership role. However, there are institutional linkages and an overall ideational convergence across some countries that could help forge a greener recovery post COVID-19. Stronger links could in turn strengthen the international climate regime. In a fragmented leadership space, enhancing international cooperation for a green COVID-19 exit strategy might be the way forward in fast-tracking and mainstreaming the low-carbon transition.

For instance, climate change features prominently in the EU-LAC relationship in summits, policy dialogues and bi-lateral agreements. There is also significant technical cooperation (e.g. through programmes such as EUROCLIMA+, LAIF, etc.). Additionally, within EU Member States, climate interaction between for example Spain and LAC is characterised, among other, by a long-standing institutional cooperation network through the Red Iberoamericana de Oficinas de Cambio Climático (RI-OCC). This is mainly a technical cooperation forum that gathers regularly on the side-lines of the COP which could be further enhanced⁷ building on the privileged dialogue and understanding it enables. A more strategic alliance with heightened political

4 Ge, M. and Frederich, J. (2020), 4 Charts Explain Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Countries and Sectors. WRI. 6/2/2020.

5 Hepburn, C., O’Callaghan, B., Stern, N., Stiglitz, J., and Zenghelis, D., (2020), Will COVID-19 fiscal recovery packages accelerate or retard progress on climate change? *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, graa015, <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxrep/graa.015>

6 BloombergNEF (2019), [Emerging markets Outlook 2019](#).

7 Edwards, G. and Lázaro Touza, L. (2016), [The Paris Climate Agreement could positively disrupt Latin America’s development](#), Real Instituto Elcano. 27/01/2016



backing could foster increased ambition in the submission of the second round of NDCs ahead of COP 26, following on the footsteps of countries like Chile⁸.

However, the economic fallout of the pandemic is expected to limit the ambition of NDCs. In Latin America for instance countries that are more dependent on oil and gas are also some of the most ill-prepared to face the COVID-19 crisis⁹. Hence the extent to which stronger EU-LAC leadership will emerge is uncertain. Given the above geopolitical landscape, a stronger EU-LAC cooperation¹⁰ for a green recovery and for climate action

is arguably needed at a time where science¹¹ is urging us to act more rapidly and decisively than ever before.

While COVID-19 might be sending us a postcard from a future in which renewables account for higher percentages of power, and oil and gas producers suffer from geopolitical power shifts, it seems as though the pandemic will enhance pre-existing trends rather than radically changing energy and climate geopolitics.

The likelihood of fast-tracking and mainstreaming the low-carbon transition globally could improve if stronger EU-LAC cooperation is forged by pressing ahead with a green recovery of unprecedented scale. Increased EU climate funds could help in this endeavour by enabling the achievement of conditional NDC commitments, helping fast-track the pathway to net zero.

8 Chile has presented in 2020 its [second NDC in which it embraces absolute rather than relative emission reductions and increases its climate efforts by over 27% compared to Chile's first NDC](#). Should countries undertake similar efforts, the 2oC goal would be within reach.

9 Escribano, G. (2020), [Energía y COVID-19 en América Latina: un impacto heterogéneo por sectores y países](#). *Real Instituto Elcano*. ARI 55/2020 - 27/4/2020.

10 That together accounts for around half of global GHG emissions.

11 WMO (2020), [United in Science](#). United Nations.



EU-LAC Foundation
Fundación EU-LAC



THE IMPORTANCE OF SCIENCE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST CLIMATE CHANGE

Tania Guillén Bolaños

Researcher at the Climate Service Center Germany (GERICS) and PhD candidate at the University of Hamburg, Germany

Chapter scientist and contributing author of the IPCC special report "Global warming of 1.5°C"

We currently live in a world that faces several crises, including global warming and the pandemic produced by the coronavirus COVID-19. Both crises have some parallels, for example: the inequalities produced by the global economic system are increasing; multilateralism and international cooperation play an important role in addressing them; and, not least, both have demonstrated the challenges and consequences of not addressing risks in a systemic way.

In addition, science and the scientific community play a vital role in understanding the causes of the two crises and the measures needed to deal with them. In the case of COVID-19, the progress made in methods of sharing information efficiently and rapidly between research groups allowed the virus to be studied more quickly, which in turn provided information for dealing with it.

The climate and health crises also share causes: the overexploitation of natural resources, and the increase in extensive agriculture and livestock farming which degrade and fragment natural ecosystems and generate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, which account for 25% of global emissions. In turn, environmental degradation increases the emergence of diseases transmitted from animals to humans.

Although such parallels exist, there are also key aspects that differentiate the two crises. The most important is perhaps the temporary aspect, for example -if we exclude the economic crisis generated by the pandemic, which will take a few years to be overcome- clinical trials are already underway so that a vaccine against COVID-19 is expected to be available next year, which offers the hope that mortality and contagion related to the virus will decrease dramatically in the short term. However, there is

no universal solution to global warming. Different actions have to be taken in all sectors and at all levels of our economies and societies, both to reduce global emissions and to address the negative effects already observed in all regions of the planet.

Climate change science

At the end of the 1950s, a record of the concentration of carbon dioxide (CO₂) in the atmosphere, which is one of the main GHGs, was established. Since then, data collected at the Mauna Loa station in Hawaii have provided real and continuous data that represent an invaluable source of information. The records have confirmed the correlation between the increase of CO₂ in the atmosphere, the observed increase in global average temperature and the burning of fossil fuels.

Alongside the records of observed emissions, and in order to be able to compare the magnitude of change of GHGs concentration in the atmosphere (on millennia or even larger scales), methods have been developed to analyse the composition of the air, for example from bubbles in ice sheets in Greenland and Antarctica.

In addition, climate models, which attempt to reproduce interactions in the climate system and are key to the study of global warming, have been further developed and becoming increasingly complex in recent decades. The models in their early form included only precipitation and CO₂ emissions. They now consider components related to chemical interactions, aerosols, surface runoff, vegetation, among other elements.

Along with the development of climate records, methods and models that help generate information on the magnitude



of changes (mainly related to temperature and precipitation indices) and the effect of these changes on natural and human-modified systems (e.g., biodiversity, agriculture), methods have been developed to assess how these changes may impact different sectors of today's society and what changes are needed to avoid further global warming. Currently, research related to climate change includes various fields of science, from pure science (physics, mathematics, chemistry, etc.) which helps improve knowledge about the climate system itself; natural science (biology, ecology) which helps understand the impacts generated by the changes observed in the climate system; and social and economic science, which seeks to identify the impacts, changes or new policies needed to overcome the climate crisis, considering the involvement of broad sectors of society. This confirms that the climate crisis, is not only an environmental crisis, but a crisis that will affect all sectors of society and therefore demands comprehensive and ambitious solutions.

IPCC - Science for decision-making

The United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), established in 1988, is the body responsible for regularly assessing the scientific literature related to climate change.

The first IPCC report, in 1990, laid the foundations for the creation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC, 1992), which was agreed upon within the framework of the Rio Convention (1992), along with two other key environmental conventions: the Biodiversity Convention and the Convention to Combat Desertification. The UNFCCC establishes the promotion and support of scientific research as one of the countries' commitments.

Since the first IPCC report, there has been increasing certainty about the influence of human activity on global warming. In its last report (2014), it was already stated (with at least 95% certainty) that humans are responsible for more than half of the global warming recorded since the 1950s.

Each IPCC report has also been a milestone in the international negotiations of the Conferences of the Parties (COPs), which take place every year under the UNFCCC. For example, as mentioned above, the first report (1990) was the basis for the creation of the UNFCCC and the fifth (2014) laid the

foundations for the negotiations to reach the Paris Agreement, which aims to limit global warming, compared to pre-industrial levels, "to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels".

Due to the little or limited research available on the impacts and trajectories of the 1.5°C limit until then, during COP21 (Paris, 2015), the IPCC was invited to produce a report on the impacts and trajectories for limiting global warming to 1.5°C, which is the limit considered to be "the safest", especially for the most vulnerable countries (including small island states).

The IPCC produced this report and it was approved in October 2018. Among the main messages of the report are: (1) we have already reached a global average temperature increase of 1°C from pre-industrial levels; (2) the observed warming already generates effects (mostly negative) on the various natural and social systems; (3) further increases in global average temperature would generate greater impacts (including the loss of ecosystems that are vital for human survival); (4) and not least, it is still possible to prevent warming to 1.5°C because the already emitted emissions do not yet commit us to that threshold; but (5) the climate action required must be ambitious, immediate and involve all sectors of society. In short, it is imperative to limit and halt the climate crisis to avoid further negative consequences, mainly for the most vulnerable populations and ecosystems.

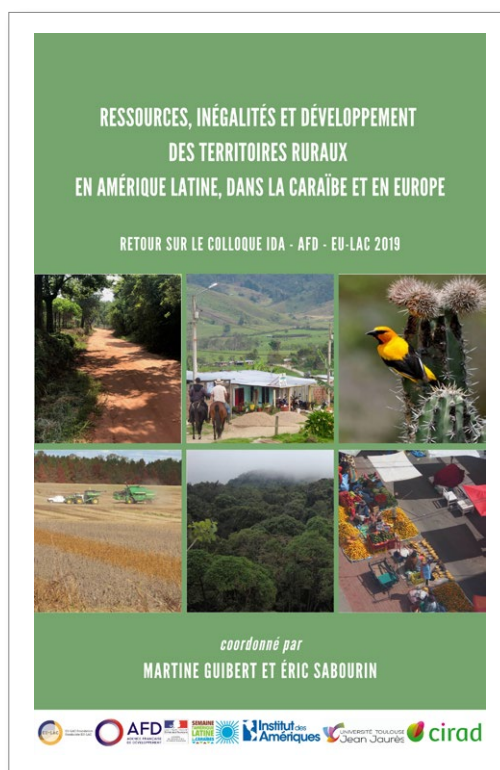
Science for action

Both the climate and health crises confirm the importance of informed decision-making based on the latest scientific evidence. While it is true that science may not yet have all the answers to address and manage both crises, it must serve as a beacon to guide decisions and help prevent further negative effects in the short, medium and long term.

It is important that both crises cannot be handled in isolation.

It is important that both crises are not handled in isolation. For example, it is imperative that decisions and investments made in the short term for economic recovery from the COVID-19 economic crisis are consistent and build a low-carbon and resilient future to the effects of climate change.

Publications of the Foundation



Depending on the author, the article is written in French, Spanish or Portuguese

<https://eulacfoundation.org/en/documents/resources-inequalities-and-development-rural-territories-latin-america-caribbean-and>

RESOURCES, INEQUALITIES AND DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL TERRITORIES IN LATIN AMERICA, THE CARIBBEAN AND EUROPE

Every year since 2012, the EU-LAC Foundation organises with its strategic partner, the Institut des Amériques (IdA), and supported by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the French Cooperation Agency (AFD), an international colloquium as part of the Latin America and Caribbean week in France. The Colloquium is focused on a topic of importance for the EU-Latin America and the Caribbean Association, and invites distinguished experts from the EU and LAC to present and discuss the results of recent analyses and participate in the formulation of policy recommendations.

In 2019, the central theme of the event was “Resources, Inequalities and Development of Rural Territories in Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe”, coordinated by Martine Guibert (University Toulouse 2 - Jean Jaurès and UMR CNRS LISST/Dynamiques rural) and Éric Sabourin (CIRAD and University of Brasilia). The general objective of this conference was to address, from a comparative geographical perspective, the problems related to rural territories and their economic and ecological sustainability.

This book presents a large part of the contributions presented during the two days of the colloquium, with twelve articles organised in four thematic parts.

**English version:**

<https://eulacfoundation.org/en/documents/eu-lac-webinars-covid-19>

Spanish version:

<https://eulacfoundation.org/es/documentos/seminarios-web-eu-lac-sobre-covid-19>

EU-LAC WEBINARS ON COVID-19

The publication of this report is the result of the EU-LAC Foundation's commitment to fulfilling its objective of "encouraging further mutual knowledge and understanding between both regions" and "fostering fruitful exchanges and new network opportunities among civil society and other social actors". The challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic are overwhelming for both regions, but they are also an opportunity to further develop the strategic partnership between the regions EU-LAC, by taking advantage of the digital and technological world in which we find ourselves.

In this sense, the content of this report presents a written recopilation of the six COVID-19 webinar series organised by the EU-LAC Foundation that took place from 27th April until 15th June. The objectives were (i) to exchange different perspectives on the challenges faced by the EU and LAC regions in the face of the pandemic, (ii) to reflect on the role and actions of regional organisations and the possibilities for more active cooperation between the EU and LAC and (iii) to identify common elements of a shared action agenda of governmental and civil society organisations for the processing of the pandemic.

The six webinars saw contributions from a group of experts from regional bodies, United Nations agencies, multilateral development banks, EU-LAC governments, academia, think tanks, media and non-governmental institutions from the regions of LAC and the EU. This report does not focus on the individual contributions but is organised according to the main topics discussed in each of the webinars. All the information contained here was compiled from the webinars; the link to access the full recording is available at the end of each webinar.

The EU-LAC Foundation greatly appreciates the work of its interns Andressa Timm Bauer, a Brazilian Master's student and DAAD scholarship holder for Democratic Governance and Civil Society at the University of Osnabrück, and Laura Sophie Thoma, a German graduate in Cultural Studies and Political Science at Leuphana University in Lüneburg. They listened carefully to the webinars, compiled the content and wrote the final report.

**English version:**

<https://eulacfoundation.org/en/documents/potential-green-bond-markets-latin-america-and-caribbean>

Spanish version:

<https://eulacfoundation.org/es/documentos/el-potencial-de-los-mercados-de-bonos-verdes-en-am%C3%A9rica-latina-y-el-caribe>

THE POTENTIAL OF GREEN BOND MARKETS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

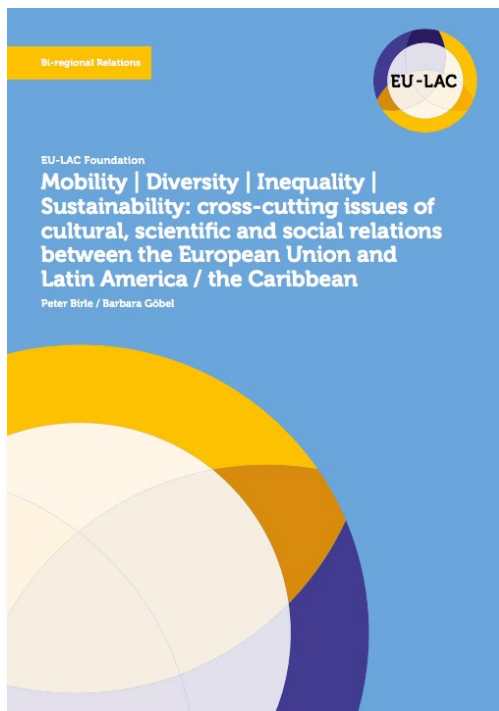
The publication of this study is part of the EU-LAC Foundation's continued commitment to supporting the partnership agenda between Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, involving the participation and inputs from civil society and other social actors in one of its priority areas: **Climate Change**.

The countries of both regions have been the driving force of and have adopted the Paris Agreement on Climate Change, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The revised Chapter 2 of the EU-CELAC Action Plan (Brussels, 2018) indicates the need for the "optimization and scaling up of existing and upcoming networks and programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean, taking advantage of the opportunities offered by investment facilities, as appropriate". In addition, promote triangular cooperation to leverage contributions of other actors and resources, as well as innovative sources and mechanisms for additional funding".

To effectively combat climate change, it is urgent and necessary to fund mitigation and adaptation efforts at various levels. In recent years, green bonds have increasingly stood out as a funding instrument for green projects that contribute to tackling climate change. The success of the green bond market to raise capital for the implementation of the 2030 agenda is stimulating strong interest in a growing number of countries to develop national green bond frameworks that link international good practice to local priorities

In this context, the study presented in this publication is the result of a call launched by the EU-LAC Foundation for a study on the potential of the green bond market in Latin America and the Caribbean - including comparative aspects with the European market - in the framework of the guidelines of a study carried out by the European Commission in 2016 on the development and functioning of the green bond market in Europe.

This study, led by EAFIT University and with the participation of Hill Consulting and Get2c, analyses the incentives and barriers to the expansion of the green bond market in Latin America and the Caribbean. To this end, 4 case studies were deepened to exploring aspects related to the regulatory framework and governance structures, standards, accountability, policies and programmes, actors and sectors. The report also presents a set of recommendations on how to measure the environmental and social impacts derived from projects financed through green bonds.

**English version:**

<https://eulacfoundation.org/en/documents/mobility-diversity-inequality-sustainability-cross-cutting-issues-cultural-scientific-and>

MOBILITY, DIVERSITY, INEQUALITY, SUSTAINABILITY: CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES OF CULTURAL, SCIENTIFIC AND SOCIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

This study deals with bi-regional relations between the European Union (EU) and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) in three dimensions which, unlike economic and trade relations, are not normally the focus of attention: exchange on cultural, scientific and social issues. At the heart of the study is the question, how the cross-cutting issues of mobility, diversity, inequality and sustainability have been addressed in the political dialogue and concrete programmes between the EU and LAC since the institutionalization of bi-regional relations in 1999.

This document is the result of an in-depth analysis of the issues considered here as cross-cutting themes, based on the experience gained during the implementation of the European Union Programme EULAC Focus: Giving focus to the Cultural, Scientific and Social Dimension of EU-CELAC relations.

The programme was implemented by a group of nineteen relevant entities committed to the development of bi-regional relations from the EU and LAC. But the effort to produce this synthesis of the most relevant lessons learned in the areas of Mobility, Diversity, Inclusion and Sustainability, is thanks to Dr. Peter Birle and Dr. Barbara Göbel from the “Ibero-Amerikanische Institute”, a Think Tank based in Berlin.

The Foundation’s interest in publishing this document is directly related to its mission and objectives, in particular “to contribute to the strengthening of the EU-LAC bi-regional partnership process with the participation and contributions of civil society and other social actors”. In this case the contributions are made for two experts from academic community that participated in the drafting of this work.

In the context of the global health emergency resulting from the terrible consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, which dramatically worsens the relationship between the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean, the EU-LAC Foundation considers the publication of this study relevant in order to strengthen the on-going bi-regional partnership.

**English version:**

<https://eulacfoundation.org/en/documents/revisiting-bi-regional-relations-eu-latin-american-dialogue-and-diversification>

Spanish version:

<https://eulacfoundation.org/es/documentos/revisando-las-relaciones-birregionales-di%C3%A1logos-entre-la-uni%C3%B3n-europea-y-am%C3%A9rica-latina-y>

REVISITING BI-REGIONAL RELATIONS: THE EU-LATIN AMERICAN DIALOGUE AND DIVERSIFICATION OF INTERREGIONAL COOPERATION

This collective book presents the papers submitted to discussion at the panel “The Euro-Latin American dialogue and diversification of interregional cooperation” during the 9th Congress of CEISAL that took place in Bucharest in July 2019. The focus of this panel was on discussion of the evolution, state-of-the art and paradigmatic changes in EU-Latin American (and, to some extent, Caribbean) relations, and the identification of pathways for strengthening these collaboration efforts in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals. The contributions approach these topics of EU-Latin American dialogue and cooperation from different perspectives, including the overarching bi-regional, multilateral framework, traditional bi-lateral cooperation, as well as alternative, sub-regional or even local (city-driven) networks.

Many current bi-regional processes are analysed and reflected throughout the book. For instance, the role of the social dimension in EU-Latin American and Caribbean cooperation and dialogue; general perspectives of EU-LAC cooperation and its evolution during a period of 30 years; the two Scandinavian countries, Sweden, an EU member state, and Norway, a member of the European Free Trade Area (EFTA), and their respective approaches to cooperation with Latin America; the contribution of the EUROsociAL and Socieux programmes as examples of EU-initiated development cooperation with Latin American and Caribbean countries; the role of subnational units in interregional cooperation; and some perspectives on Euro-Latin American dialogue and international cooperation about the necessary changes to jointly achieve the SDGs.

EU-LAC Webinars

“European Union/Latin America and the Caribbean relations in the context of the COVID-19: pandemic, crisis and opportunities for bi-regional cooperation”

Webinar co-organised by EU-LAC Foundation, Institut des Amériques, Carolina Foundation and Latin American Studies Association Association

09 JULY 2020

This Webinar was introduced and moderated by **Susanne Grätius**, Professor at the Autonomía University of Madrid and President of the Europe-Latin America Section of LASA, and was attended by **Adrián Bonilla**, Executive Director of the EU-LAC Foundation; **Carlos Quenan**, Vice-President of the Institut des Amériques of the FAP ALCUE; **José Antonio Sa-**

nahuja, Director of the Carolina Foundation and Professor of International Relations at the Complutense University of Madrid; and **Miriam Saraiva**, Professor at the State University of Rio de Janeiro, as panelists.

<https://vimeo.com/438507786>

WEBINAR

Las relaciones Unión Europea / América Latina y el Caribe ante la COVID-19: pandemia, crisis y oportunidades para la cooperación birregional

9 DE JULIO DE 2020 - 16:30 horas (España)

PARTICIPAN



Adrián Bonilla
Director ejecutivo
Fundación EULAC



Carlos Quenan
Institut des Amériques
FAP ALCUE



José Antonio Sanahuja
Fundación Carolina
Catedrático UCM



Miriam Saraiva
Profesora asociada
UERJ



Susanne Grätius
Profesora UAM
Sección EU-LA LASA

MODERA

ORGANIZAN



EU-LAC Webinars

“How do we prepare for the gradual and selective exit from confinement in domestic work?”

Webinar co-organised by the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security of Argentina, the Superintendence of Labour Risks of Argentina, the Office of the International Labour Organization Southern Cone, the EU-LAC Foundation and the European Union Programme EUROsociAL+

14 JULY 2020

This Webinar was opened by **Fabio Bertranou**, Director of the ILO Office for the Southern Cone of Latin America; **Adrián Bonilla**, Executive Director of the EU-LAC Foundation; **Laure Rogés**, DEVCO representative of the European Union; and **Daniel Pérez**, National Director of Employment of Uruguay.

The seminar was moderated by **Maribel Batista**, Senior Specialist in Workers' Activities of the ILO Office for the Southern Cone, and was attended by **Carmen Brites**, Secretary of the Union of Auxiliary Staff of Private Households of Argentina (UPACP) and Vice-President of the International Federation of Household Workers (IFHW). On the employer side, **Mabel Lorenzo Sánchez**, President of the League of Housewives, Consumers and Users of Uruguay (LACCU); **Camila Jordán**, Director of Labour of Chile; **María Gema Quintero Lima**, Vice-Dean of the Degree in Labour Relations and Employment of the University Carlos III of Madrid. Also participating were **Lucía Gándara**, from the Single Union of Domestic Workers of Uruguay; **María Cotal**, from the National Federation of Household Workers of Chile; and **María del Mar Ortolano**, Coordinator of the Labour Court for the staff of Private Households of the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security of Argentina.

The closing ceremony was led by **Francesco Maria Chiodi**, Social Policy Coordinator of the European Union Programme EUROsociAL+.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nveX3nV7oi0>



COVID-19: ¿Cómo nos preparamos para la salida gradual y selectiva del confinamiento en el trabajo doméstico?

Las medidas de seguridad y salud en el trabajo, el papel del diálogo social y los acuerdos sectoriales en Europa y el Cono Sur.

Fecha: 14 de julio de 2020
Hora: 11 am Argentina y Uruguay • 10 am Chile • 16 hrs Europa



EU-LAC Webinars

“The challenges of Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe during the post-pandemic period”

Webinar co-organised by the Institute of International Studies of the University of Chile, Friedrich-Alexander University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, the European and Regional Studies Programme (ECSA) of Chile and the EU-LAC Foundation.

11 AUGUST 2020

The poster features logos for Universidad de Chile, FAU, pee, and EU-LAC. It includes a map of Latin America and Europe with a virus icon, and text detailing the event date (11 AGOSTO), time (11.00 HRS. CHILE - 17.00 HRS. ALEM.), transmission (zoom and LIVE), and registration link (https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_8KugpJSSoarQz0w4NF_DQ). Below the main text, it lists the panelists and moderator with their names and affiliations.

Panelistas:

- Adrián Bonilla**
Director Ejecutivo
Fundación EUIAC
- Paulina Astroza**
Programa de Estudios
Europeas Universidad
de Concepción
- Gian Luca Gardini**
Friedrich Alexander
Universität
Erlangen-Nürnberg
- Paz Milet**
Instituto de Estudios
Internacionales
Universidad de Chile

Moderadora:

- Beatriz Hernández**
ECSA Chile

This Webinar was introduced and moderated by **Beatriz Hernández**, President of the European and Regional Studies Association (ECSA) in Chile, and was attended by **Adrián Bonilla**, Executive Director of the EU-LAC Foundation; **Paulina Astroza**, Director of the European Studies Programme at the Universidad de Concepción; **Gian Luca Gardini**, holder of the Chair of International Business and Society Relations with a focus on Latin America at the Friedrich-Alexander University of Erlangen-Nuremberg; and, **Paz Milet**, Academic and Researcher at the Institute of International Studies University of Chile, as panelists.

<https://vimeo.com/446873705>

EU-LAC Webinars

“Why should the European Union be relevant for Latin America and the Caribbean?”

Webinar co-organised by CRIES and the EU-LAC Foundation

2 SEPTEMBER 2020

This Webinar was introduced and moderated by **Andrei Serbin Pont**, Executive Director of the Regional Coordination of Eco-Economic and Social Research (CRIES), and was attended by **Marisa Bircher**, former Secretary of Foreign Trade of Argentina and member of Fundación Argentina Global; **Carlos Quenan**, Vice-President of the Institut des Ameriques and FAP ALCUE; **Adrián Bonilla**, Executive Director of the EU-LAC Foundation; **Susanne Gratius**, Professor at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid and President of the Europe-Latin America Section of LASA; and **Anna Ayuso**, Senior Researcher at the CIDOB Research Centre, as panelists

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BkLXPvO2ieY>




MIÉRCOLES 02 DE SEPTIEMBRE DE 2020
VÍA ZOOM


09:00


11:00

CEST
16:00


16:00

¿POR QUÉ LA UNIÓN EUROPEA DEBERÍA SER DE RELEVANCIA PARA AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE?

PANELISTAS

Marisa Bircher



Fundación Argentina Global (Argentina)

Carlos Quenan



Institut des Ameriques (Francia)

Adrián Bonilla



Fundación EU-LAC

Susanne Gratius



Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. (España)

Anna Ayuso



CIDOB (España)

MODERADOR



Andrei Serbin Pont
CRIES (Argentina)

INSCRIPCIÓN
<https://forms.gle/RbMVjUcRVaCKxKZ86>

EU-LAC Webinars

“Challenges and innovations to promote volunteering in the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean during the post-COVID-19 period”

Webinar organised by the EU-LAC Foundation

14 SEPTEMBER 2020

This Webinar was opened by **Santiago Rojas**, Director of International Relations and External Cooperation and Acting Secretary General of the National Youth Secretariat (SNJ) of the Government of Paraguay, and **Adrián Bonilla**, Executive Director of the EU-LAC Foundation.

The seminar was moderated by **Eunice Rivas**, representative of the Technical Secretariat of Planning of Paraguay, and was attended by **Daysi Hume**, President of the National Council of Volunteers (CONAVO) of Paraguay; **Rocío Vergara Chalhoub**, National Coordinator of the United Nations

Volunteers (UNV) programme; **Stefany Paez**, Coordinator of France Volontaires in Ecuador; **Rolando Kandel**, Deputy Director Fundación SES and VicePresident for the Americas of the Coordinating Committee for International Volunteer Service Organizations (CCIVS); and **Sofía Mejía**, Volunteer Programme and Global Campaign Manager, Habitat for Humanity International, Latin America and the Caribbean Office, as panelists.

<https://vimeo.com/458062989>



EU-LAC Foundation
Fundación EU-LAC

WEBINARIOS EU-LAC SOBRE COVID19:

DESAÍOS E INNOVACIONES PARA PROMOVER EL VOLUNTARIADO EN LA UE Y AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE EN LA ÉPOCA POST COVID19



Ministerio de
RELACIONES EXTERIORES



Secretaría
TÉCNICA DE PLANIFICACIÓN DEL DESARROLLO ECONÓMICO Y SOCIAL

INAUGURACIÓN

LUNES, 14 DE SEPTIEMBRE
16:00H CEST / 10:00H PARAGUAY

INSCRIPCIÓN PREVIA
(LINK EN LA PUBLICACIÓN)

PANELISTAS



Felipe Salomón
Ministro - Secretario Ejecutivo de la Secretaría Nacional de la Juventud de Paraguay



Daysi Hume
Presidenta del Consejo Nacional de Voluntariado de Paraguay



Sofia Mejia
Gerente de programas de voluntariado y campaña global Hábitat para la Humanidad Intern., Oficina ALC



Rocío Vergara
Coordinadora nacional, Programa de Voluntarios de las Naciones Unidas, Ecuador



Adrián Bonilla
Director Ejecutivo de la Fundación EU-LAC



Rolando Kandel
Director adjunto Fundación SES y vicepresidente para América de CCIVS



Stefany Paez
Responsable de France Volontaires en Ecuador



Eunice Rivas
Moderadora
Directora de Focalización Territorial, STP Paraguay

LOS/AS PANELISTAS HABLARÁN EN ESPAÑOL, SIN INTERPRETACIÓN

Events

“LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN-EUROPEAN UNION ENTREPRENEURIAL FORUM: RETHINKING A COMMON FUTURE”

Following the declarations made at the Business Forums (October 2017-Mexico City and June 2018- Antigua-Guatemala) within the framework of the AI-Invest 5.0 programme, this forum seeks to generate a rich exchange of opinions on the challenges caused by the COVID-19 in the relationship between LAC-EU and, in particular, to explore the opportunities of the entrepreneurial sector. In this way, the purpose of this event is to create an appropriate space to rethink the proposals of public policies for sustainable development and integration of both regions and to know the voice of the private sector in this matter.

In order to address the issue in its entirety, the event will have three virtual panels on: I-Strategic vision for the future of the EU-LAC relationship; II-Challenges and opportunities for the private sector of both regions in terms of trade, investment and technological exchange; III-Opportunities for bi-regional cooperation in the field of green economy digitalization and sustainability.



Date and place: 10 November 2020, through the Virtual Platform.

Time: 9-12 Bolivian time.

Co-organizers: CAINCO, EUROCHAMBRES, ECLAC and EU-LAC Foundation.



Co-organisers: Institute des Amériques, Agence Française de Développement, Ministère de l'Europe et des Affaires Étrangères and EU-LAC Foundation.

“WOMEN IN MOVEMENT IN LATIN AMERICA, THE CARIBBEAN AND EUROPE”

Women of Latin America and the Caribbean were never docile beings neither submitted to a patriarchal domination. Despite their subordinate position, they developed their action, including a certain empowerment for some of them. This series of webinars wishes to analyze through three aspects how this process happened, in comparative perspective with Europe.

Inauguration. 6th November, via the Virtual Platform; from 15h-16h (Paris time).

Webinar 1. Women get organised. 6th November, from 16h-18h (Paris time); Scientific coordinator Lissell Quiroz (CY Cergy Paris Université).

Webinar 2. Gender, urbanism and public policies; 13th November, from 16h-18h (Paris time). Scientific coordinator: Diana Burgos-Vigna (Université Paris Nanterre).

Webinar 3. Violence against women: from assessment and action. 27th November, from 16-18h (Paris time). Scientific coordinator: Karine Bergès (CY Cergy Paris Université).

Events

Webinar on progress
SAVE THE DATE

Circular Economy in the COVID-19 era: Challenges and Opportunities

co-organised by the Government of Slovenia and EU-LAC Foundation

24th November 2020
15-17 pm (Central European Time)

REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA
MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

EU-LAC EU-LAC Foundation
Fundación EU-LAC

WEBINAR ON PROGRESS...SAVE THE DATE!

“Circular Economy in the COVID-19 era: Challenges and Opportunities”, jointly co-organised by the Government of Slovenia and EU-LAC Foundation. And with the participation of expertises from Brazil, Chile and Slovenia, as well as representatives from regional and/or multilateral bodies such as the European Commission and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), among others, to share the best examples among both regions. The event will take place on 24th November 2020, via virtual platform, in the timeframe of 15-17 pm (Central European Time).

EU-LAC Instituto Cervantes Hamburg Consulado de Chile

Otoño Latinoamericano y del Caribe 2020

PRODUCCIÓN ARTÍSTICA E INTERCAMBIOS CULTURALES EN TIEMPOS DE COVID-19

28.10.2020 | 08.11.2020

@lateinamerikaherbst #LACHerbst lac_herbst
<https://eulacfoundation.org/>

“LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN AUTUMN 2020: ARTISTIC PRODUCTION AND CULTURAL EXCHANGES IN TIMES OF COVID-19”

The “Latin American and Caribbean Autumn” is a Festival that aims to improve the visibility and knowledge of Latin America and the Caribbean in Hamburg by creating a programme of activities of various categories that allows the interested public to participate in the discussion of social, economic and political issues and at the same time brings the public closer to the cultural richness of this region.

The EU-LAC Foundation has been coordinating this programme since 2017, and together with various local bodies, such as the Instituto Cervantes in Hamburg and the Lateinamerika Verein (LAV; Business Association for Latin America, based in Hamburg), they are coordinating an agenda marked out by topics of interest to Latin America and the Caribbean and in the relations it has with the European Union, particularly Germany. It also aims to create cooperation links with all the organisations that share its vision and objectives.

Given the health crisis that both regions are currently suffering from, this 2020 edition will focus on “Cultural Exchanges and Artistic Production in Times of COVID-19”, adapting its celebration to the virtuality demanded by health safety and prevention measures.

Coordinated by the EU-LAC Foundation, in collaboration with the Hamburg Senate, the Instituto Cervantes in Hamburg and the Chilean General Consulate in Hamburg.

Events



Date and place: 9 December 2020,
University of Salamanca, Spain, depending on
changes in dates due to the health crisis.

EU-LAC MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS: “MULTILATERALISM AND BI-REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS”

The bi-regional relationship with a view to building a better multilateralism is a concern that emerged strongly during the COVID-19 crisis, where we found important partners working, either from the Ibero-American sphere, from development financing programmes in the region, or from its intergovernmental nature, on these issues. This moment is an opportunity to re-examine the advantages and potential of the EU-LAC bi-regional strategic partnership to place multilateralism as the viable architecture, from a perspective of shared values, problems and solutions.

International intergovernmental organisations still have an unexploited potential to increase the overlap of issues, strategies, agendas, specific actions. Hence the proposal of the EU-LAC Foundation to bring them together to discuss priority issues, common concerns and possible scenarios for coordinated action.

In this context, the objective of this meeting is to contribute to the reflection among the distinguished representatives on the impacts of the pandemic on the instruments of multilateralism, economic relations and the ways of dialogue and cooperation in the framework of the bi-regional relationship. Likewise, to discuss the opportunities, ways and instruments to improve the possibilities of multilateralism to face the consequences of the COVID-19. To this end, this meeting aspires to be an opportunity for open discussion and proposals regarding the opportunities to contribute, from the framework of the bi-regional space, to a multilateral agenda with new incentives and instruments to make it effective.

Announcements



“CYCLE OF MASTERLY LECTURES ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EUROPE, LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN IN THE CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL ORDER” DURING THE MONTHS OF NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2020.

Organised by the EU-LAC Foundation
and with the participation of the following
leading academics:

Juan Tokatlian, Plenary Professor and Director of the Department of Political Science and International Studies at Torcuato Di Tella University in Buenos Aires (Argentina).

Gian Luca Gardini, holder of the Chair of International Business and Society Relations with a focus on Latin America, at Friedrich-Alexander University of Erlangen- Nuremberg (Germany)

Susana Gratius, Professor at Autonoma de Madrid University (Spain) and President of the Europe-Latin America Section of LASA

Paulina Astroza, Director of the European Studies Programme at University of Concepción (Chile).

Guadalupe González, Professor at the Center for International Studies at the Colegio de México.

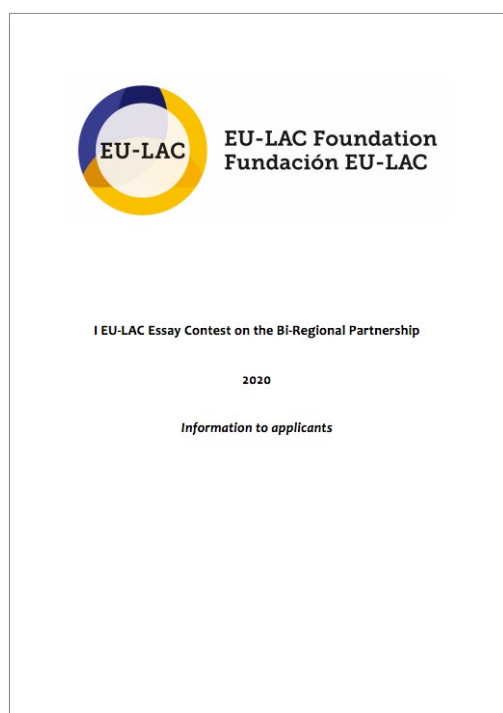
Tenders

The EU-LAC Foundation, in its strategy of making visible and promoting the EU-LAC bi-regional relationship, has two fundamental purposes:

a. To contribute to the strengthening of the bi-regional partnership process between the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean, involving the participation and inputs from civil society and other social actors.

b. To promote mutual knowledge, and improving the mutual visibility of the bi-regional partnership.

In response to this maturity, and also recognizing the potential of the bi-regional dialogue between the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean, the EU-LAC Foundation presents the following calls:



I EU-LAC ESSAY CONTEST ON THE BI-REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP

The EU-LAC Foundation Essay Competition aims to receive essays on global and/or sectorial topics concerning the bi-regional partnership, especially academic papers aimed at increasing visibility and promoting mutual understanding.

For the 2020 edition, the theme chosen was *The New Multilateralism in the Age of COVID-19 from the perspective of European Union-Latin America and Caribbean relations*. The awarding of prizes for the essays is supported in particular by a grant from the European Union and the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The deadline for submission of essays is 3 November 2020.

Link to the Document:

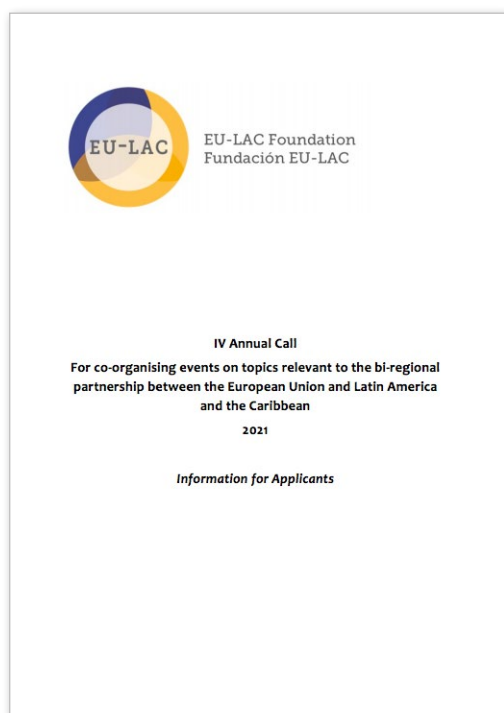
https://eulacfoundation.org/sites/eulacfoundation.org/files/files/Essay%20Contest%202020EN_19_08.pdf

More Info:

<https://eulacfoundation.org/en/tenders>

E-mail for enquiries: call@eulacfoundation.org

Tenders



IV ANNUAL CALL FOR CO-ORGANISING EVENTS ON TOPICS RELEVANT TO THE BI-REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNION AND LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN 2021

The main purpose of this call is to receive proposals for the co-organisation of events, resulting in a publication, on topics of relevance to the bi-regional partnership, especially those aimed at contributing to the fulfillment of the Foundation's mandate in particular in the following priority areas: higher education; sustainable and inclusive economy; climate change; culture; and multilateralism and foreign policies.

Eligible events, **up to a maximum of four**, are: seminars, colloquiums, conferences, panels, round tables, including in virtual form, where experts, academics, officials, decision makers, civil society actors and other stakeholders from the EU and LAC regions discuss issues relevant to the bi-regional partnership. Events aimed at strengthening or promoting bi-regional networks on priority issues will also be considered.

The Foundation will receive proposals for events until **4 December 2020**

Link to the Document:

<https://eulacfoundation.org/sites/eulacfoundation.org/files/files/Call%20cof%20events%202021EN.pdf>

More Info:

<https://eulacfoundation.org/en/tenders>

E-mail for enquiries: call@eulacfoundation.org

Tenders

UPCOMING:

Call for proposals for “The study on progress and challenges of policies promoting women’s labour participation in Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe in the context of post-pandemic economic recovery”



UPCOMING:

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR “THE STUDY ON PROGRESS AND CHALLENGES OF POLICIES PROMOTING WOMEN’S LABOUR PARTICIPATION IN LATIN AMERICA, THE CARIBBEAN AND EUROPE IN THE CONTEXT OF POST-PANDEMIC ECONOMIC RECOVERY”.

The EU-LAC Foundation together with the European Union Cooperation Programme EUROsociAL+ launch this initiative with the overall purpose of strengthening the dialogue between Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean on the most effective policies to promote gender equality in the labor market, taking into account the post-pandemic context. In this sense, the specific objectives of this call will be:

- Elaboration of a study on lessons learned from (i) policies that have succeeded in improving the rate of women’s participation in the labor market (ii) policies that have succeeded in reducing the gender pay gap.
- Holding of a bi-regional seminar to discuss and present the progress and challenges of the main policies analysed in the study.

More information soon available at:

<https://eulacfoundation.org/en/tenders>

More Info:

<https://eulacfoundation.org/en/tenders>

E-mail for enquiries: call@eulacfoundation.org



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