



EU-LAC Foundation  
Fundación EU-LAC

EU-LAC FOUNDATION'S NEWSLETTER

# Shaping and Enhancing the joinder between Europe, Latin America, and the Caribbean: The CELAC-EU Summit

## Index

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Opinion Article.....	2
News .....	4
Recent Publications .....	9
Blog Articles.....	11
Upcoming events .....	13

## Opinion Article



### SHAPING AND ENHANCING THE JOINDER BETWEEN EUROPE, LATIN AMERICA, AND THE CARIBBEAN: THE CELAC-EU SUMMIT.

**Dr. The Hon. Ralph E. Gonsalves**

PRIME MINISTER OF ST. VINCENT AND THE GRENADINES –  
PRO TEMPORE PRESIDENT OF CELAC

The long-awaited summit between leaders of the Community of States of Latin America and the Caribbean (CELAC) and the European Union (EU) is scheduled for July 17th-18th, 2023, in Brussels. Representatives of the sixty States (33 of CELAC and 27 of the EU), almost one-third of the membership of the United Nations, and comprising some 1.2 billion people, will arrive at conclusions which are likely to impact the lives, living, and livelihoods of the people of these two regions and perhaps influence the unfolding human condition elsewhere.

Europe's initial contact with Latin America and the Caribbean over 500 years ago unleashed forces which altered, in irreversible ways, the political economy and society of our two regions. Through the fever of history, Europe re-made our America and itself: Colonialism, racism, native genocide, the enslavement of African bodies, globalised capitalism, technological advancements and the spread of Christianity transformed both our America and Europe, in an unequal joinder.

The reclamation of independence in our America between the 19th and 20th centuries, the end of slavery, and the evolution of a "creolised" civilisation of authenticity, historical legitimacy, and nobility have engendered in us a profound sense of self-mastery to engage the world, including Europe, in the interest of humanity and our own humanisation. "Our America" as envisioned by Toussaint L' Overture, Simon Bolivar, Jose Marti, and Marcus Garvey

is the construct of our times. Accordingly, CELAC, as the umbrella political vehicle of our America, is determined to shape and enhance our joinder with Europe, in a manner befitting of our respective civilisations, in peace, security, prosperity, and sustainable development **for all**.

We in CELAC appreciate that of all time, only the future is ours to desecrate; the present is the past; and the past, mischiefs galore. Europe understands, too, that in our quest to avoid the desecration of our future, the option of subordination-superordination is unavailable; a creative partnership of equals, without pre-conditions, with an agreed agenda and optimally satisfactory outcomes, efficaciously implemented on an on-going basis, is the only viable path forward. A truly "new world" between Europe and our America demands that we do not look forward to the past; the future is not behind us; elementally, it is before us.

In charting the way forward, CELAC realises that men and women make history but only to the extent that the circumstances of history and the contemporary condition permit them so to make. We do not, ourselves choose these circumstances; but we can, together, change them for the better, for all of humanity.

The agenda for a "new world" partnership between CELAC and the EU at the Brussels Summit in July 2023 necessarily includes seminal items: Social Inclusion-Poverty Reduction, Social Equality, Reparations, the relevant Sustainability

Development Goals; Climate Change, Biodiversity, Land Degradation; Health, Pandemics, and Wellness; Financing for Development, inclusive of the Bridgetown Initiative; Connectivity-Air, Sea and Digital; People-to-People linkages in Education, Culture, Sports; Investment and Economic Partnerships; Crime and Citizen Security; Political Dialogue on the contemporary issues of conflict, peace, mature diplomacy, and regional integration.

To be sure, both CELAC and the EU have their own priorities and emphases; that is understandable. Still, the urgent challenges extant in the contemporary circumstances globally, for Europe and our America, compel us to focus on an agreed bundle of matters to make a difference for the better, **for all** of our respective peoples.

The urgency of the contemporary human condition was put in a recent letter (April 03, 2023) to all Heads of Government of the member-states of the United Nations by the esteemed Secretary-General of the United Nations, our dear friend Antonio Guterres:

*“The multiple issues of the last three years have dealt a major blow to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) implementation efforts. Millions have been pushed into poverty. Inequalities have risen considerably. The rights of women and girls have been under siege. And the urgent and*

*existential business of averting climate change catastrophe has been undermined. Even before these crises hit, we were not on track to meet the goals of 2030. Many critical policy changes, innovations, transitions and investments have not advanced at the speed or scale required. And on every front -COVID 19, Climate Action, SDG Financing-the international community has not done enough to give the most vulnerable countries a fair chance.”*

The upcoming CELAC-EU Summit has the potential to contribute leadership, and more, to addressing of these intractable global challenges which impact all our 60 countries in the CELAC-EU nexus, and to tackle our own specific troubling concerns. The world is watching us; so, too, emphatically are the peoples in our America and Europe. We must not disappoint them.

## News

### Gender equality at the centre of the Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean bi-regional agenda

19 May 2023



On 11 and 12 May, the EU-LAC Foundation, via the EU-LAC Women's International Network (WIN), the German Federal Foreign Office, the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation (MAEC), the Argentinean Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship and the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs, together with the Red Unidas and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), co-organised the EU-LAC Gender Equality Forum in Berlin. The Forum, in a hybrid format, provided a working space for more than 140 representatives from Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe representing civil society organisations, academia and international organisations. The event is part of a series of civil society initiatives organised by the EU-LAC Foundation ahead of the European Union (EU)-Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) Summit to be held in July 2023.

[More information!](#)

### Dialogue Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe: Recalibrating our strategic partnership

17 May 2023



On 28-30 April, the Dialogue “Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe: Recalibrating our strategic partnership” was held in Cartagena, Colombia, jointly organised by the EU-LAC Foundation and the European External Action Service (EEAS), with the support of the Spanish Cooperation Training Centre (AECID).

[More information!](#)

## EU-LAC Foundation invited to learn about its work during the Long Night of the Consulates 2023

15 May 2023



On Tuesday 9 May, the EU-LAC Foundation had the pleasure to participate in the “Long Night of the Consulates 2023”, an initiative in the headquarters city of the International Organisation, the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg.

[More information!](#)

## EU-LAC Foundation and the Federal Republic of Germany sign Headquarters Agreement

11 May 2023



On 11 May, the Headquarters Agreement between the EU-LAC Foundation and the German Government, represented by the Executive Director of the EU-LAC Foundation, Dr Adrian Bonilla and the Minister of State, Dr Tobias Lindner, was signed at the German Federal Foreign Office in Berlin. The ceremony was also attended by the President of the EU-LAC Foundation, Leire Pajín, the Deputy Director General for Latin America and the Caribbean of the European Union External Action Service, Javier Niño, and the State Councillor of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, Almut Möller.

[More information!](#)



## EU-LAC Foundation, AUCI and AECID with the support of the EU and UNESCO strengthen science, technology and innovation system

10 May 2023



On 24 and 25 April, the EU-LAC Foundation, the Uruguayan Agency for International Cooperation (AUCI) and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) in Uruguay co-organised the EU-LAC Knowledge Forum at the AECID Training Centre in Montevideo, Uruguay.

[More information!](#)

## The Women's International Network EU-LAC holds the third interregional dialogue on long-term care gender-transformative systems

13 April 2023

On April 13, 2023, the EU-LAC Foundation, the Global Alliance for Care, the National Institute of Women of Mexico (INMUJERES), UN Women for the Americas and the Caribbean and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) successfully held the dialogue “Long-term care: good practices and challenges for building comprehensive care systems in the EU and LAC”.

[More information!](#)



**Representatives of research centres and decision makers from Latin America and the Caribbean and Europe discussed shared interests and priorities of the EU-CELAC partnership**

**18 April 2023**

On 3 and 4 April 2023, the EU-LAC Foundation and the Carolina Foundation convened around 65 representatives of European, Latin American and Caribbean research centres and high-level political authorities for a dialogue entitled ‘Perspectives and proposals for renewing the strategic partnership between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean’. The face-to-face meeting was held at

the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation in Madrid, in view of the EU-CELAC Summit of Heads of State and Government to be held on 17-18 July 2023 in Brussels.

[More information!](#)



**Saint Vincent and the Grenadines ratifies the Agreement that establishes the EU-LAC Foundation as an International Organisation**

**17 April 2023**

Saint Vincent and the Grenadines deposited its instrument of ratification of the Constituent Agreement that establishes the EU-LAC Foundation as an International Organisation on the 16h of April 2023, thus attesting its commitment to promoting the partnership between the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean.

[More information!](#)



## EU-LAC Foundation joined the COLAC Capitals Meeting in Brussels

12 April 2023



On 28 March, the Executive Director of the EU-LAC International Foundation, Dr Adrián Bonilla participated in the meeting of the Working Group for Latin America and the Caribbean (COLAC Capitals) of the Council of the European Union in Brussels. Furthermore, he attended a couple of working meetings to discuss the Foundation's activities in 2023.

[More information!](#)

## Participants of the II EU-LAC Journalists Forum exchanged on the role of the press and bi-regional relations in Sweden

28 March 2023



Press professionals from Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and the European Union (EU) exchanged views on the situation they face in both regions and the possibilities for collaboration during the II EU-LAC Journalists Forum, held in Stockholm on March 23 and 24.

[More information!](#)

## Recent Publications



### [Read the publication!](https://eulacfoundation.org/sites/default/files/2023-04/Publication%202022%20PDF.pdf)

<https://eulacfoundation.org/sites/default/files/2023-04/Publication%202022%20PDF.pdf>

### Éducation, Numérique, Cohésion Sociale et Politiques Publiques: Regards croisés Europe-Amérique latine-Caraïbes

The symposium “Education, digital technology, social cohesion and public policies” was organised by the Institut des Amériques, in collaboration with the Europe - Latin America and Caribbean Foundation (EU-LAC), the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE) in the framework of the Latin America and Caribbean Week.

Overall, 2020 and 2021 were irrevocably marked by the closure of educational institutions, to different extents, to limit the spread of Covid-19. In the schools, universities, professional and economic spheres, all-digital technology has been largely imposed, without transition, with its successes and failures. This episode, which has led to an unprecedented digitalisation of societies, will mark a technological milestone.

The time has come to take stock of the situation in order to transform yesterday’s difficulties into tomorrow’s opportunities. Faced with this challenge, the Institut des Amériques, the EU-LAC Foundation and the Agence française de développement intend to contribute to the comparative, transamerican and transdisciplinary reflections through their annual symposium.

At the educational and academic level, the acceleration of distance learning in both Europe and Latin America has indeed led to a renewal of opportunities for scientific cooperation and the partnership development between institutions in both regions. More generally, the widespread use of online webinars, symposiums and events organisation suggests new dynamics of collaboration, dialogue and scientific exchange between Europe and Latin America. In the future, digital technology seems to be an unavoidable way to strengthen the links between the two regions. However, although digitalisation represents an undeniable tool of influence, it cannot be efficient without jointly considering the reduction of fractures, new methods of regulation and evaluation, and economic positioning in a highly competitive world.

In this context, the symposium had the aim to fuel the debate through four workshops. Each of them will approach the issue of the complex and close links between education, digital technology, social cohesion and public policies: from the soft power issues steering public policies to the challenges of inclusion and the professions of tomorrow, not forgetting the economic factors necessary for the development of innovations.



### 3rd EU-LAC Youth Days

The III EU-LAC Youth Days were organised by the EU-LAC Foundation in collaboration and with the support of the European Union. They were held at the Faculty of Arts of Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic, on 15-16 November 2022, in a hybrid format to facilitate virtual access to the sessions.

In continuity with the successful first two editions held in Quito (Ecuador, 2015) and Zaragoza (Spain, 2018), this third edition of the EU-LAC Youth Days resumed the process of exchange and dialogue between young people from both regions.

The EU-LAC Foundation is an international organisation based in Hamburg (Germany), composed of the European Union (EU) and its Member States, the EU itself, and all the Latin American and Caribbean countries that make up the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC).

Its mission is to strengthen the bi-regional strategic partnership by promoting dialogue and knowledge exchange between civil society and government decision-makers on priority issues for both regions, including youth. The overall objective of the III EU-LAC Youth Days was to provide a platform for constructive and meaningful dialogues involving young people from both regions in the reflection on the future of bi-regional relations between Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union, and thus contribute ideas for the future. In this framework, common challenges and opportunities linked to issues such as youth participation, advocacy and engagement, education, employment, social inclusion, and green and digital transitions were discussed.

This activity was part of the European Year of Youth 2022, which highlighted the importance of European youth in building a more prosperous, sustainable and inclusive future and, therefore, was also aligned with the initiative of the Latin American and Caribbean Youth Council of CELAC. It also coincided with the new Youth Action Plan (YAP) in EU external action (2022-2027) launched in October 2022, which seeks to build a strategic partnership with young people and create spaces and opportunities for them to participate in policy formulation and decision-making.

#### English version:

[https://eulacfoundation.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/FinalReport%20EU%20LAC%20Youth%20Days\\_Prague.pdf](https://eulacfoundation.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/FinalReport%20EU%20LAC%20Youth%20Days_Prague.pdf)

#### Spanish version:

[https://eulacfoundation.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/InformeFinal\\_JornadasJuventudEULAC\\_Praga.pdf](https://eulacfoundation.org/sites/default/files/2023-02/InformeFinal_JornadasJuventudEULAC_Praga.pdf)

## Blog Articles

### Bi-regional CELAC-EU dialogue on research and innovation

CHRISTIAN GONZALEZ

5 APRIL 2023



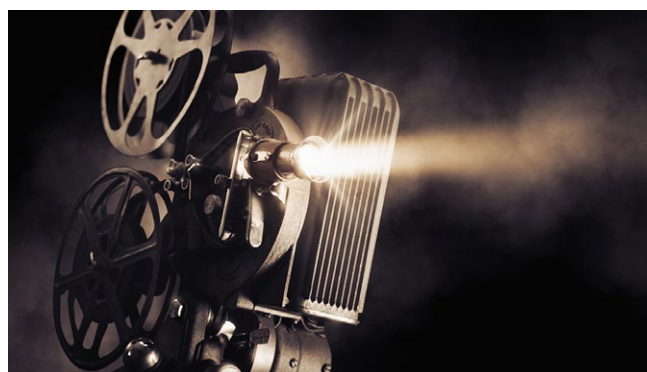
Expectations for strengthening cooperation between the EU and the Latin American and Caribbean region have been boosted after a complex period of the COVID-19 pandemic and a necessary economic recovery in both regions. In a geopolitical context of war in Ukraine, that restates the importance of counting on Europe's strategic allies, the Spanish presidency of the Council of the EU during the second half of 2023 will seek to consolidate far-reaching initiatives with the Global Gateway and crystallise the already strategic partnership with CELAC. Undoubtedly, the bi-regional relationship is historically complex, although, in the field of science and research, cooperation has been kept apart from antagonistic political positions. This dialogue has been continuous and supported by cooperation actions, even in times of the pandemic. The eighth Meeting of the CELAC-EU Joint Initiative on Research and Innovation (JIRI) in October 2020 was proof of the importance of this mechanism for both regions.

[!\[\]\(ec9132f1d27c8919987d92907322654d\_img.jpg\) Continue reading](#)

### Transnational historical memory and the role of cinema

ANDRÁS LÉNÁRT

13 MARCH 2023



The French historian Pierre Sorlin, one of the first experts who explored the common ground between history and cinema, wrote in his book *The Film in History: Restaging the Past*: "... the subject of our interest is, roughly speaking, the study of the cinema considered as a document of social history that, without neglecting the political or economic base, aims primarily at illuminating the way in which individuals and groups of people understand their own time." Over the last 130 years, the role of cinema has changed fundamentally, becoming an integral part of cultural history, able to reveal the state of a society with increasing accuracy. Today, with the multiplication of streaming platforms, the possibility of accessing films has been freed from any obstacle, creating a responsibility we have never seen before.

[!\[\]\(626ce8ac21792b9405bfddfea8e0c96a\_img.jpg\) Continue reading](#)



## Outlook for the next CELAC-EU summit: is the goal of a strategic partnership still valid and realistic?

DETLEF NOLTE

2 FEBRUARY 2023



The experience of United States unilateralism and protectionism under the Donald Trump administration, the growing dependence on China as an economic partner and competitor, problems with the supply of medical equipment during the COVID-19 pandemic, and most recently the Russian invasion of Ukraine have all strengthened the quest for strategic autonomy in the EU. Such strategic autonomy entails having the ability to act and cooperate with international and regional partners wherever possible, while

being able to operate autonomously when necessary. Hence trade policy has not only the objective to acquire better access for European companies to foreign markets but is also an instrument to diversify sources of supply to Europe. Latin America plays a part in this.

[📄 Continue reading](#)

## Upcoming Events

### Meeting of Intergovernmental Organisations

Event co-organised by the EU-LAC Foundation and the Iberoamerican Institute of the University of Salamanca

**Date and Place:** 02 June 2023, Salamanca, Spain



International intergovernmental organisations have the potential to increase the coincidence and intersection of themes, strategies, agendas, and specific actions under shared objectives. From there, the EU-LAC Foundation calls a meeting to discuss priority issues, common concerns, and possible scenarios for coordinated action.

[More information on our website!](#)

### Child care: good practices and challenges for the construction of comprehensive care systems in the EU and LAC

Event co-organised by the EU-LAC Foundation, INMUJERES, the Global Alliance for Caregiving, UN Women for the Americas and the Caribbean and ECLAC

**Date and Place:** 08 June 2023, Online

This meeting is the fourth in a series of inclusive inter-regional dialogues of the EU-LAC Women's International Network, organised with the aim of making visible policies, regulations, initiatives and actions for the construction of comprehensive care systems that promote gender equality and identify opportunities and strategies for greater articulation between actors in both regions on the issue. The dialogues offer a space for exchange with representatives of civil society networks and organisations, academic experts and international organisations specialising in the issue, as well as government representatives.

[More information on our website!](#)

### VIII Ordinary Meeting of the Board of Governors of the EU-LAC Foundation

Event organised by the EU-LAC Foundation

**Date and Place:** 07 June 2023, Hamburg

The VIII Ordinary Meeting of the Board of Governors of the EU-LAC International Foundation will be held on 7 June 2023.

During this first ordinary meeting of 2023, the members of the Board of Governors are able to adopt the decisions and resolutions necessary for the proper operational and programmatic functioning of the Foundation, in accordance with the provisions of the Foundation's Constitutive Agreement, which came into force on 17 May 2019.

During the meeting of the Board of Governors, various reports on activities and audits will be presented to the Board, as well as the progress of the actions to be carried out in the framework of the transformation of the Foundation into an international organisation.

**Participation by personal invitation only**



**EU-LAC Foundation**  
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