



EU-LAC Foundation
Fundación EU-LAC

EU-LAC FOUNDATION'S NEWSLETTER

III EU-CELAC Summit, keeping alive the commitment to advance the bi-regional strategic partnership

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Introduction



Dr Adrian Bonilla

Executive Director, EU-LAC Foundation

The background to the current relationship between the European Union (EU) and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) dates back to the late 1980s and 1990s, when several of its states supported the re-democratisation efforts in the region and especially the peace processes following the civil wars in Central America. The first decade of this century was characterised by a time of prosperity in LAC, especially in South America. In those years, Latin America and the Caribbean also experienced several dynamics of regionalism. Probably the most significant was the establishment of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), which integrated the Rio Group, then composed of 24 countries, with the rest of the region's governments. CELAC thus became the reference point for producing common policies and visions with international counterparts. One of the most intense relations was that with the European Union.

Until 2010, six bi-regional summits were held. These dynamics took place in a scenario marked by a certain stability in the international order and by the moment of prosperity and social inclusion that Latin America and the Caribbean were experiencing. The EU-LAC Foundation is an initiative that arose in this context of rapprochement between the two regions, frequent meetings of Heads of State and Government and relative political stability. Since then, its activity has been defined by the agendas agreed upon by the highest governmental authorities.

Therefore, the holding of the III EU-CELAC Summit in July 2023, resuming the process interrupted in 2015, is of utmost importance. The bi-regional meeting at the highest political level focused on development issues. Consensus was established around the environmental, digital, and social transitions, which are necessary challenges to ensure a joint path towards the economic recovery of the two regions in human development logics based on the Sustainable Development Goals.

This newsletter introduces the reports of three of the events organised by the EU-LAC Foundation prior to the III EU-CELAC Summit: the EU-LAC Fora on Gender Equality, Knowledge, and Just Transitions. In addition, it invites to the EU-LAC Multi-actor Dialogue Forum, which will follow up on the agreements reached at the meeting of Heads of State and Government.

The Summit is the most significant event in the bi-regional relationship in recent years. The mere fact that it was able to take place and to have agreed on a substantive document of common policies expressed in the Final Declaration, shows the need of the 61 member governments of our Foundation to keep alive the commitment to sustain and advance in a relationship of strategic partnership, which is vital for all its members in the process of renewal of the international order we are living through.

News

The EU-LAC Foundation participates in the III EU-CELAC 2023 Summit

21 July 2023



The EU-LAC Foundation actively participated as an observer in the EU-CELAC Summit of Heads of State and Government on 17-18 July 2023 in Brussels. The meeting marked the resumption of high-level meetings between the two regions after an eight-year gap.

In the [Declaration](#) adopted, the EU and CELAC reaffirmed their long-standing partnership based on shared values and interests, as well as close economic, social and cultural ties. They also committed to deepening political dialogue and economic relations and to fostering people-to-people contacts and social relations.

[The EU-CELAC Roadmap 2023-2025](#) includes high-level bi-regional events and dialogues to address issues of mutual interest, such as economy and finance, health, security, drugs, connectivity, research and innovation, space policies, among others.

[More information!](#)

Participants at the EU-LAC Just Transitions Forum call to commit to advancing the green agenda and just digital transitions

31 May 2023



The participants in the Just Transitions Forum, held on 15-16 May in Barcelona, reflected on the state of the bi-regional agenda, the needs and challenges of more digitised societies, and the relevance of these transitions for the construction of more resilient, equitable and just societies. The event was organised with the support of the Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals (IBEI), the Diputació Barcelona, the "la Caixa" Foundation and the Club of Rome.

[More information!](#)

New Agenda to strengthen the European Union's partnership with Latin America and the Caribbean

07 June 2023



The High Representative and the European Commission adopted a Joint Communication setting out a New Agenda for Relations between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean. It proposes a modernised and stronger strategic partnership, through enhanced political dialogue, stimulating trade and investment, and fostering more sustainable, just and interconnected societies through Global Gateway investments.

[More information!](#)

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

15 June 2023



The VIII Ordinary Meeting of the Board of Directors of the EU-LAC International Foundation took place on 7 June in the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, where the organisation has its headquarters. During the meeting, the results of the activities carried out were presented to the member countries, as well as the planning of the events to be developed in the context of the III EU-CELAC Summit and its follow-up.

[More information!](#)

Slovakia and Ireland ratify the Agreement establishing the EU-LAC Foundation as an International Organisation

25 May 2023 / 24 September 2023



On 18 May, the Slovak Republic became the 46th member to ratify the Constituent Agreement transforming the EU-LAC Foundation into an International Organisation, and the 25th EU member to do so. Similarly, on 13 September, the Republic of Ireland ratified the Agreement.

[More information here and here!](#)

The EU-LAC Women’s International Network holds the fifth interregional dialogue on care and caregivers

21 September 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 “Caring for those who care: good practices and challenges of protection and decent conditions for carers in the EU and LAC”. This event represented the fifth in a series of interregional dialogues promoted by the EU-LAC Women’s International Network on the challenges and opportunities for the construction of comprehensive care systems in the European Union, Latin America, and the Caribbean. Around 120 people from both regions attended the virtual event.

[More information!](#)

EU-LAC Foundation will co-organise events on food security, digital transformation, and energy transition

09 June 2023



As a result of the VI Annual Call for EU-LAC Co-organised Events on topics relevant to the bi-regional partnership, the EU-LAC Foundation will support the organisation of the “International Conference Food Security: Challenges and Opportunities for EU-LAC Relations”, together with the National University of the Third of February in Buenos Aires (UNTREF), the Centre for International Information and Documentation in Barcelona (CIDOB) and the Autonomous University of Barcelona (UAB).

In addition, it will work together with RedClara (Uruguay) and the Centro de Investigaciones Energéticas, Medioambientales y Tecnológicas - CIEMAT (Spain) on the event “Digital transformation as an enabler for the improvement of food security and clean energy transition”. It will also co-organise the project “Leaders of change for energy transition and digital transformation”, with the Ibero-American Union of Municipalities and the Municipality of Valdivia (Chile).

[More information!](#)

Discussions on the challenges of Raw Materials Trade between Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean

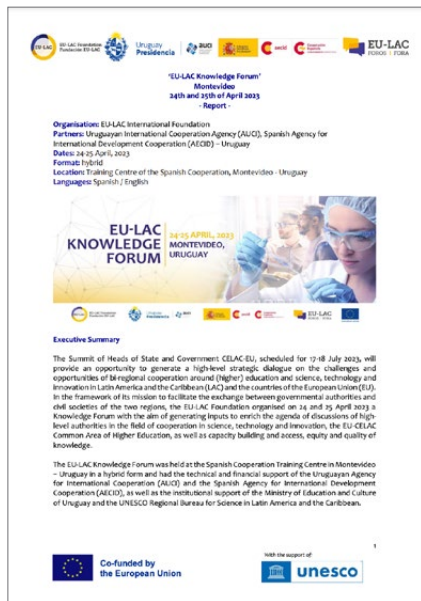
05 June 2023



The symposium “Challenges of Raw Materials Trade. Europe - Latin America, the Caribbean”, organised by the Institut des Amériques, the EU-LAC Foundation, the Agence française de développement (AFD) and the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE), took place in the framework of the Latin America and Caribbean Week on May 25-26 in Paris.

[More information!](#)

Recent Publications



EU-LAC Knowledge Forum Report

In the framework of its mission to facilitate the exchange between government authorities and civil societies of Latin America and the Caribbean and European Union countries, the EU-LAC Foundation organised on 24 and 25 April 2023 a Knowledge Forum with the aim of generating inputs to enrich the agenda of discussions of high-level authorities in the field of cooperation in science, technology and innovation, the EU-CELAC Common Area of Higher Education, as well as capacity building and access, equity and quality of knowledge.

The Forum brought together some 55 face-to-face and 50 virtual participants, mostly representatives of the student, academic and scientific communities, experts from international organisations specialised in the field and government representatives from LAC and EU countries. This report reflects, in synthesised form, the dialogues held during the Forum, as well as the information shared by experts through an ex-ante online survey.

 **See the publication!**

https://eulacfoundation.org/sites/default/files/2023-06/EU-LAC_Knowledge_Forum_Report_EN.pdf

EU-LAC Gender Equality Forum Report

The EU-CELAC Summit of Heads of State and Government offered the opportunity to generate a high-level strategic dialogue on the challenges and potential of bi-regional cooperation on gender equality in LAC and the EU. In this context, the EU-LAC Foundation organised a Gender Equality Forum on 11-12 May 2023 with the objective of generating inputs to the discussion agenda of high-level authorities in the field of women's political, economic, and social rights, political leadership, care, gender-based violence, sustainable peacebuilding, and security.

The Forum brought together 81 face-to-face participants and 56 virtual participants - representatives of civil society networks and organisations working on gender equality and the rights of girls and women, as well as LGBTIQ+ people, experts, academics, members of cooperation agencies and international organisations specialised in the field, and government representatives from LAC and the EU. This report synthesises the exchanges that took place during the Forum, as well as the information shared by experts through a previous online survey.

 **See the publication!**

https://eulacfoundation.org/sites/default/files/2023-06/Report_EU-LAC_Gender_Equality_Forum_EU-LAC_final.pdf





EU-LAC Just Transitions Forum Executive Report and Rapporteur's Report

The objective of the EU-LAC Just Transitions Forum, held on 15-16 May 2023 in Barcelona, was to generate a space for debate and reflection for experts, researchers and other civil society actors on the challenges and opportunities of bi-regional cooperation in the areas of climate change adaptation and mitigation; just energy transition; and inclusive digital transformation. In addition, it aimed at formulating recommendations for public policy decision-makers participating in the EU-CELAC Summit of Heads of State and Government.

As part of this project, two publications were produced: an executive report with the objective of guiding the actions of decision-makers, and another report detailing the main proposals and suggestions addressed to EU and CELAC Heads of State and Government, based on the topics discussed.

[See the publication!](https://eulacfoundation.org/sites/default/files/2023-06/EU-LAC%20Just%20Transition%20Forum%20Report_EN_1.pdf)

https://eulacfoundation.org/sites/default/files/2023-06/EU-LAC%20Just%20Transition%20Forum%20Report_EN_1.pdf

Opportunities for bi-regional cooperation to advance in an inclusive, quality-based, and sustainable transformation of the education sector

The EU-LAC Foundation is pleased to present in this publication the three winning essays of the III EU-LAC Essay Competition on the Bi-regional Partnership. The open call for essays was launched in August 2022 with the aim of encouraging young authors to reflect on ways to strengthen collaboration between Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union in the area of education. In particular, to jointly address the challenge of advancing a sustainable transformation of the education sector for the benefit of our societies, ensuring equal access and quality of education, and turning educational institutions into agents of change for the social, ecological, and digital transformations of our time.

For the call, the term “education” was understood in a broad sense to include primary and secondary education, technical and vocational education and training, higher education and lifelong learning.

[See the publication!](https://eulacfoundation.org/sites/default/files/2023-07/Web_III_Essay_Contest_EN.pdf)

https://eulacfoundation.org/sites/default/files/2023-07/Web_III_Essay_Contest_EN.pdf





Perspectives and proposals for renewing the Strategic Partnership between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean

The event “Perspectives and proposals for renewing the strategic partnership between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean”, organised by the Carolina Foundation and the EU-LAC Foundation, aimed to generate new impulses, and stimulate joint reflections on the revitalisation of the bi-regional strategic partnership. It also generated exchanges on the effects of global challenges for the bi-regional political, economic, social, and environmental agenda and the identification of convergences in shared interests, values and principles among the actors that make up the bi-regional partnership.

During the day and a half of dialogue, around 60 participants from LAC and EU research centres studying central aspects of the bi-regional agenda gathered together, along with the presence of high-level authorities from the two regions and regional organisations, including Josep Borrell, High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy; and Keisal Peters, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and President of CELAC.

 **See the publication!**

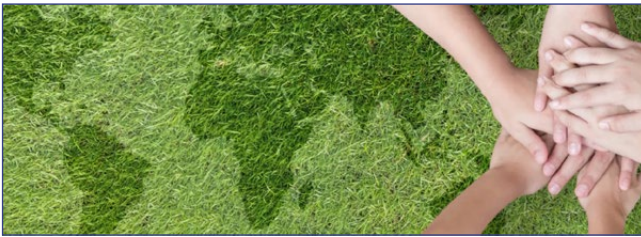
https://eulacfoundation.org/sites/default/files/2023-07/Report_Madrid_Meeting_April_EN.pdf

Blog Articles

EU-LAC partnership: An opportunity to materialize principles

Carlos Alvarado. Former President of Costa Rica. Professor at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

21 August 2023



The European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean (EU-LAC) partnership often remains overshadowed in discussions about regional alliances. This is primarily due to considerations of scale and influence across various dimensions. When governments and businesses contemplate partnerships, their initial thoughts typically gravitate toward either the USA or China, given their considerable global presence, and not that often to the EU-LAC connection. Despite the aforementioned, the regional relationship between EU and LAC, with its considerable scale, derives its strength from shared values and ideas. The widespread support for democracy, as well as for the international system and human rights, is notable.

[Continue reading](#)

Accelerating progress towards the 2030 agenda: Three ways to close Gender Gaps

Bibiana Aído Almagro. Representative of UN Women Colombia

5 June 2023



In 1949, in her essay “The Second Sex,” Simone de Beauvoir appealed: “Never forget that a political, economic or religious crisis will be enough for women’s rights to be called into question. These rights are never taken for granted. You must remain vigilant throughout your lives”[i]. Her words make more sense today, in 2023 when in the wake of the socio-economic crisis generated by the COVID-19 pandemic and the advances of backlash movements, we are witnessing how the gender equality agenda has been affected and how in many countries, the inequality gaps between men and women are widening.

[Continue reading](#)

Upcoming Events

10th Latin American and Caribbean Autumn Festival: “10 years together”

Date and Place: 1 September - 15 November, Hamburg



The Festival celebrates its first decade with a wide-ranging programme of activities including music, literature, theatre, poetry, art, film, among others. The event brings the public closer to the cultural richness of Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the region’s relationship with Germany and the EU. It also highlights the creativity and contribution of Latin American and Caribbean communities in Hamburg and Germany. The Latin American and Caribbean Autumn is a festival conceived by the Hamburg Senate following the interest of the group of Latin American and Caribbean Consuls accredited in the city, and since 2017 it is coordinated by the EU-LAC Foundation.

The official inauguration took place on 20 September at the Hamburg Rathaus. Welcoming remarks were given by Dr Andreas Dressel, Senator of Hamburg and President of the Ministry of Finance, Dr Adrián Bonilla, Executive Director of the EU-LAC Foundation and Dr Ana Peña, Consul General of Peru in Hamburg.

[More information on our website!](#)

EU-LAC Multi-Actor Dialogue Forum on Just Green Transition, Inclusive Digital Transformation, and Social Cohesion

Date and Place: 4 October 2023 at the Universidad Nacional Costa Rica, in San José (and online)



The EU-LAC Foundation, in collaboration with the School of International Relations of the Universidad Nacional, Costa Rica, invites you to the EU-LAC Multi-actor Forum. The meeting aims to bring together leaders of civil society organisations, academics, international organisations, and governments to discuss and follow up on the outcomes of the recent EU-CELAC 2023 Summit. The Forum will focus on the Summit agreements on bi-regional cooperation on key aspects of Just Green Transition, Inclusive Digital Transformation and Social Cohesion, with a cross-cutting focus on gender equality and knowledge societies.

The Multi-actor Dialogue Forum is a high-level event included in the [EU-CELAC Roadmap 2023-2025](#), and has been organised in coordination with the [I Ministerial Summit on Environmental Sustainability](#), scheduled for 5 October in San Jose.

[More information on our website!](#)

1st EU-LAC – UNED Pontevedra Days

Date and Place: 16-17 October 2023, in Vigo, Spain and online



The EU-LAC Foundation, in collaboration with the School of International Relations of the Universidad Nacional, The Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia (UNED) and the EU-LAC Foundation invite to the EU-LAC - UNED Pontevedra Days “Relaunching EU-CELAC bi-regional cooperation: Financial flows, funding mechanisms and inequalities”. The aim of the event is to bring together experts from the scientific community, international organisations, and governments to follow up on the priorities and commitments made during the 3rd EU-CELAC Summit; as well as to discuss financing, economic growth, climate change and inequalities, and to reflect on the measures or actions that should be planned and implemented from an economic, political and social perspective.

[More information on our website!](#)

3rd edition of the “Training and Updating programme for Young Diplomats on the EU-CELAC strategic partnership”

Date and Place: 13-17 November 2023, in Berlin



The EU-LAC Foundation and the German Federal Foreign Office have joined forces for the development of a new edition of the training programme for foreign service officers from the countries of the European Union, Latin America, and the Caribbean, as well as the European External Action Service. The initiative builds on the training experiences carried out by the Foundation between 2014 and 2022 in both regions, which become even more relevant in the context of the follow-up to the 3rd EU-CELAC Summit of Heads of State and Government.

[More information on our website!](#)



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