



EU-LAC Foundation Newsletter

December 2014

Editorial: Paving the way towards an Agreement on Climate Change

Dear friends,

With the “Conference of the Parties” en Lima COP20/CMP10 in the background, the EU-LAC Foundation dedicates this edition of the newsletter to climate change. We believe that it is timely to address this issue in the framework of the EU-LAC Strategic Partnership and stress the potential of a joint action in this matter. In addition, we find ourselves on the verge of 2015, the deadline set for the materialisation of a legally binding agreement on climate change, applicable to all the parties of the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) to be implemented from 2020.

In this regards, our two regions can make an important contribution towards a positive outcome for 2015. It is worth emphasizing the fact that all the countries of the EU and LAC have expressed their will to adopt a global agreement, as referred in Article 15 of the Santiago Declaration of 2013, in which its adherence to the United Nations Framework Convention (UNFCCC) is reaffirmed.

The final three Annual Conferences of the Parts (COP of the UNFCCC) are hosted in our EU-LAC space: Warsaw in 2013, Lima in 2014 and Paris in 2015. This enhances the opportunity to attain greater coherence and continuity to the process, at the same time that it constitutes a unique opportunity to break the stalemate in the international commitment to this issue.

As recently argued by the European Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy Miguel Arias Cañete, on the occasion of the COP20 that is taking place in Lima between December 1 and December 12: “Lima is a crucial step for Paris where we have an opportunity to face the greatest challenge that our planet faces today”.

The EU-LAC Foundation has also made efforts in order to deepen the knowledge with regards to this issue. In the framework of the Meeting in Warsaw in November 2013, the Foundation has published the study **“The EU and Latin America and the Caribbean: Paving the road towards a new global climate change agreement in 2015?”** in which the researchers Guy Edwards and Timmons Roberts, from the Centre for Environmental Studies at the Brown University, explain how the Strategic Bi-regional Partnership constitutes a solid base to build a broad diplomacy on climate, as well as identify the potential cooperation options in the field.

Ultimately, we find ourselves in a crucial moment for the development of global consensus on this important issue, in which our Strategic Partnership can play a key role in propelling this process

and pave the way towards a Global Agreement on Climate Change.

We hope you enjoy reading this edition of the EU-LAC Foundation Newsletter!

- **TOPIC: Climate Change**
- **Activities of the EU-LAC Foundation**
- **Promoting young researchers**
- **Interview: Paul Oquist, Minister-Private Secretary of Public Policies of Nicaragua**

TOPIC: Climate Change

Camilo M. Gonsalves
Minister of Foreign Affairs,
Foreign Trade, Commerce and
Information Technology of St.
Vincent & the Grenadines

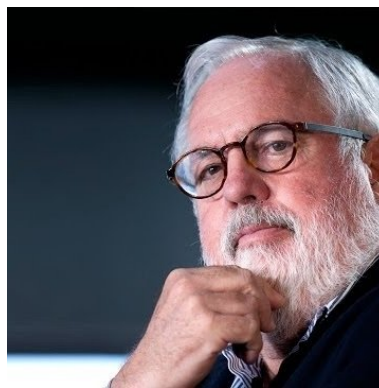


The EU, CELAC and SIDS – Last-Ditch Partners in the Multilateral Fight Against Climate Change

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) have talked ourselves hoarse over the years in various efforts to raise the alarm, put a human face on what was an esoteric scientific debate, and push multilateral negotiations towards a conclusion that would save lives and safeguard the very existence of nations.

In Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, whose experience is hardly unique among SIDS, our citizens have been battered by one hurricane, two droughts, and two floods over a four-year

Miguel Arias Cañete
EU Commissioner for Climate
Action and Energy



What role can the EU-CELAC partnership play in securing a global deal on climate change?

As we enter the final stretch of global climate negotiations, cooperation between the EU and Latin American and Caribbean States will be crucial if we are going to secure an ambitious, binding, global deal in Paris in 2015.

The stakes could not be higher. The IPCC's 5th Assessment Report confirmed that the longer we carry on disturbing the climate, the greater the risks we will face and the more costly it will become to adapt to the changes.

As a former Minister for Agriculture and Food, I am particularly struck by the threat posed to global food security by climate change. The IPCC's

Publications of interest:

Carrión Fonseca, Gloria et.al (2014), **"Transatlantic trade and investment partnership between the European Union and the United States: Challenges and opportunities for bi-regional relations between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean"**, EU-LAC Foundation, November 2014.

Edwards, Guy & Roberts, J. Timmons (2013), **"The EU and Latin America and the Caribbean: Paving the road towards a new global climate change agreement in 2015?"**, EU-LAC Foundation, November 2013.

Grabendorff, Wolf (2014), **"Realidad y ficción en las relaciones entre la CELAC y la Unión Europea."** in Adrián Bonilla ed. *La CELAC en el escenario contemporáneo de América Latina y del Caribe*. San José. pp. 175-192.

period. Lives have been lost to flash flooding.

An EU-CELAC partnership could play an indispensable, game-changing role in redefining this process. As SIDS have been the conscience of the climate change negotiations, the EU has been a practical embodiment of action; charting a course for change that has confounded the predictions of those who defend the status quo.

[Read the full opinion here...](#)

Christiana Figueres

Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.



Climate Neutrality—A Much Needed Long Term Vision

In December Peru will host a major climate conference. It is a moment in time for an ambitious, scientifically credible and clear vision on where the world needs to aim over the long haul.

Bold initiatives are certainly needed now to slow the growth in global greenhouse gas emissions before 2020, peak global emissions shortly thereafter and rapidly put in place policies capable of delivering clean and resilient development.

The long-term vision is climate neutrality as soon as possible in the second half of the century. There is ample

report spoke about the high risk climate change posed for 'crop yields, food security, and local economies in Central America, northeast Brazil, and parts of the Andean region', as well as in my native Southern Mediterranean region, and many other regions around the world.

[Read the full opinion here...](#)

Diego Pacheco

Alternate Head of the Bolivian Delegation to the UNFCCC



The Bolivian Position in the international climate change negotiations

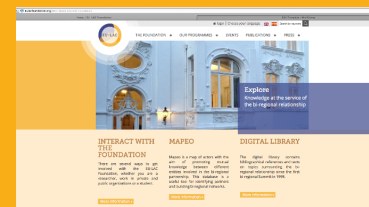
The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change establishes the objective of achieving to stabilize the emission of greenhouse gases on the planet, allowing the ecosystems to adapt to climate change in a natural way. This should be considered as one of the main rights of Mother Earth in the context of climate change. In addition, bearing in mind that one of the main priorities of our countries is to reach a sustainable development and food security; that is advancing in a complementary manner in the exercise of the fundamental human rights.

The developed countries have presented us the need of advancing to a new climate agreement in

Santiso, Carlos & Trinkunas, Harold (2014), "**Transparent Governance in an Age of Abundance, Experiences from the extractive industries in Latin America and the Caribbean** ", Inter-American Development Bank, October 2014.

Zerka, Pawel, Cristini, Marcela & Bermúdez, Guillermo (2014), "**The political economy of EU-LAC relations after the 2008 crisis**", EU-LAC Foundation, November 2014.

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*EU-LAC Foundation Open Call for Research Projects now open! Visit our 'tender page'.

EU-LAC Foundation's **NEW** Website

The Foundation has launched a new, more integrated, functional and dynamic website, with the intention of providing an overview of its activities, facilitate the search for information and serve as a platform for meeting and dialogue.

The new website includes, among other novelties, a **virtual library** with bibliographic references and relevant academics texts on

evidence from the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that global greenhouse gas emissions have to be zero or near zero by the end of the 21st century if we want to achieve the goal of holding a global temperature rise below 2 degrees C. And it is the best guarantee of ensuring that the poor and vulnerable are spared from ever more threatening impacts such as heat waves, crop failures, floods and water shortages that will increasingly threaten their lives and livelihoods; continued, unabated emissions pose an unacceptable risk of pushing our climate system toward potentially irreversible changes with highly damaging impacts to all sectors of society.

[Read the full opinion here...](#)

2015, arguing that the times have changed provided that 20 years have passed since the signing of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. If the developed countries had met their commitments of reducing gas emissions and had launched the planned actions of financial provision and the transfer of technology, we would, at this point, surely not be listening to the apocalyptic previsions of the IPCC regarding the virtual global warming. The truth is that the responsible of the climate change that were identified in 1992 did not do anything, and now they push all the countries to do something to solve the increasing global temperature.

[Read the full opinion here...](#)

the bi-regional relationship, a section for the contest "**Two regions a Picture**" to select the image that best represents the links between the European Union Latin America and the Caribbean, and a window to **Interact with the Foundation** and get involved in their programmes.



Latin American Autumn in Hamburg

the EU-LAC Foundation promotes the first edition of this festival in Hamburg dedicated to Latin America & the Caribbean. On until 21 of December 2014. Check the full programme of activities [here](#).

 [Forward to Friend](#)

Mariana Panuncio

Mariana Panuncio
Director for Climate Change of
the Latin America and Caribbean
Programme of WWF



**World Wildlife Found
Latin America and the
Caribbean can tell the
world that it is possible**

Andrzej Blachowicz

Managing Director of Climate
Strategies



Closer than ever? Staying focuses and engaging in a constructive dialogue

The international community seems to be inching forward in bits and pieces towards a "successful" outcome at Paris COP21. The European Union – despite its internal differences – managed to

to fight climate change

Latin America and the Caribbean do not negotiate as a group in climate summits. Nevertheless, the LAC region shares a common vulnerability to climate change and the leadership potential to face it. The region has the chance to be a driving force at the Conference of the Parties of the Framework Convention of Climate Change (COP) that will take place in Lima, where its countries have the possibility to speak as one, in a constructive and purposeful way. And the good news is it has enough credibility to do so. In spite of the many challenges that wait to be addressed, it has shown prominent efforts in adopting ambitious measures to fight climate change.

Now it is Peru's turn. The amazonian country will preside one of the most important climate summits in history: this event will define the grounds of the new climate deal that will be negotiated in Paris 2015. This task is essential because Paris 2015 has been set as the deadline to reach a new binding global agreement that replaces the Kyoto Protocol and defines climate change regulations from 2020 onwards.

[Read the full opinion here...](#)

agree on an ambitious climate and energy package; China and the US – two world's largest emitters – made an announcement specifying the peaking year and its emission reduction target, respectively. THE (so much expected) DEAL to be reached in Paris at the end of 2015, if it is to make a real impact, needs to have mitigation targets that aim to appropriately address the key objective of the UNFCCC – to avoid dangerous climate change, as well as lay down clear implementation strategies such that the outcomes are both fair and effective.

We are realists and know that Paris will most likely deliver only elements of such a deal – with lots of further work to be done in the years to come. However we strongly believe that we can do something to IMPROVE THE QUALITY of the deal. Our vision is to create a science-policy interface – an informal dialogue where top-class academics and analysts present their vision how to overcome major roadblocks before Paris. 'Crowdsourcing' innovative policy solutions, so to speak.

[Read the full opinion here...](#)

Ricardo Rojas Quiroga

Director of the Joint Mechanism of Mitigation and Adaptation of the Plurinational Authority of the Mother Earth of Bolivia and responsible for Natural Resources and Earth in the Centre for Peasant Research and Development.



Promoting the integral development in balance with Mother Earth

The Plurinational State of Bolivia is pioneer in promoting a new vision of development based on Live Well in harmony with Mother Earth as an alternative for the commodification of the environmental functions, the unsustainable growth and the accumulation of wealth. In the process of institutionalising this vision of development, the President of Bolivia, Evo Morales, adopted the Mother Earth and Integral Development to Live Well Framework Law- Nr. 300, which establishes an oriented vision to guarantee the continuity of the regeneration capacity of components and life systems of Mother Earth, retrieving and strengthening local and ancient knowledge.

In this context, one of the development pillars of this country vision is the construction of the Joint Mechanism of Mitigation and adaptation for the integral and sustainable handling of the forests and Mother Earth, presented by Bolivia in The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change as a holistic and integral proposal allowing the objectives of reducing forest degradation and reducing poverty to advance, strengthening the livelihood of local populations in the framework of a mitigation and adaptation approach to climate change, opposing the proposal for Reducing the Emissions from Deforestation and degradation of forests (REDD+) based on green economy.

[Read the full opinion here...](#)

Activities of the EU-LAC Foundation

The EU-LAC Foundation Publications

POLITICAL ECONOMY AFTER THE 2008 CRISIS AND THE EFFECT OF THE TTIP ON EU-LAC RELATIONS

Pavel Zarka (editor; demoSUROPA), Marcela Cristina,
Guillermo Bermúdez (FIEU)

THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF EU-LAC RELATIONS AFTER THE 2008 CRISIS

Fondación de
Investigaciones
Económicas
LatinoamericanasGloria Carrón Fonseca
with the collaboration of:
Francisco Mendoza and Enrique Alenzi

Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership
between the European Union and the United States:
Challenges and opportunities for bi-regional
relations between the EU and Latin America and
the Caribbean



In October, the EU-LAC Foundation published two studies that entailed [The Political Economy of EU-LAC Relations after the 2008 Crisis](#) and the effect of the [Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership \(TTIP\)](#) on EU-LAC relations. The first study assessed the impact of the global economic crisis of 2008 on political relations between the European Union and Latin America and Caribbean. Major findings concluded that the crisis has had a significant influence on the economic dynamics, making the EU a slightly less important trade partner for LAC. Developments in LAC present both challenges and opportunities, such as the increased presence of China in the region, and the emerging middle-class, which presents a potentially wider market for European exporters and investors. At the global level, the study points towards the creation of the CELAC, as well as important global trade and investment initiatives, such as the TTIP, as positive side-effects of the crisis. This, the TTIP, is assessed by the second study, which analyses the effect this trade and investment initiative has on EU-LAC relations. According to this study, the TTIP negotiations can generate opportunities, as well as challenges for LAC. It is suggested that LAC should work together in order to strengthen their position in the world, and by this making the TTIP an engine for economic integration between the LAC region, the EU and the U.S. If managing to coordinate efforts, TTIP can create capacities and opportunities for all LAC countries to face the challenges that globalisation can represent.

Workshop EU-LAC Foundation - GIGA SOCIAL PROTESTS & DEMOCRATIC RESPONSES: ASSESSING REALITIES IN THE EU AND LATIN AMERICA



Latin-American and European experts gathered on the 10th of October at the initiative of the EU-LAC Foundation and the German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GIGA) in Hamburg to analyse the nature of social protests registered in recent years in a number of cities of the European Union and Latin America, and to reflect upon these movements that have found their significance through social media.

The workshop “Social Protests and Democratic Responses: Assessing realities in the EU and Latin America” counted with the participation of the Foundation’s president Benita Ferrero-Waldner and GIGA’s acting director, Bert Hoffmann.

The executive director of the EU-LAC Foundation, Jorge Valdez, stirred the discussion supporting the idea that protests in public areas and their management by local authorities underline the vitality of democracy, but they also underline “the public discontent with the solution democracy offers to their problems and aspirations”.

Other participants of the workshop were: Donatella della Porta, from the European University Institute; Yamina Welp, from Zentrum für Demokratie Aarau; Moises Arce, from the University of Missouri; Felipe Burbano de Lara, from FLACSO- Ecuador; Camilo Cristancho, from the Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona; Thorsten Faas, from the German University of Manguncia; and Antônio Sampaio, from the International Institute of Strategic Studies in the United Kingdom.

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TransFormation Forums

ONE OF THE MAIN BOTTLENECKS FOR GROWTH IN LATIN-AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN IS THE LACK OF QUALIFIED PERSONNEL



The Panamanian Minister of Labour, Luis Ernesto Carles, closed on the 22nd October in his country, the series of international forums on job training that was held during this year in different Latin-American countries at the initiative of the Inter-American Development Bank and with the support of several organizations among them the EU-LAC Foundation.

Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru, along with Panama, were the hosting countries where experts in education and employment have discussed from a national and regional perspective how the lack of job training affects the productivity, and thus addressing one of the main bottlenecks that affects growth in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Experts compare Latin-American labour market to a jigsaw in which the pieces do not fit together; in other words, there is a mismatch between workers’ skills and the needs of the productive sector, which have a negative impact on the capacity for growth and development.

[Read more...](#)

Roundtable at the EU-LAC Foundation MINISTER OQUIST EXPLAINS THE POSITION OF NICARAGUA IN THE NEGOTIATIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE



The Minister Private Secretary of National Policies in Nicaragua, Paul Oquist, took the opportunity of his working visit to Germany to visit the EU-LAC Foundation and participate in a roundtable on Climate Change negotiations co-organised with Nicaragua's Embassy in Berlin.

Mr. Oquist, which already represented his country at the failed Copenhagen Conference in 2009, shared with students from the University of Hamburg and other experts on the topic, some intricacies of the negotiations that once again will be tested in December, during the forthcoming Conference of the Parties, the so-called COP21, in Lima.

The Minister, great expert of the United Nations system, where he has held important roles, advocated the need to reach a credible pact in terms of objectives and implementation mechanisms and considered premature to foresee what will happen in Paris by 2015.

[Read more...](#)

Promoting Young Researchers

**EU FOREIGN POLICY TOWARDS LATIN AMERICA AND THE
CARIBBEAN: between inter-regionalism and selective
bilateralism**

By Mayra Viviana Lozano, Institut des Hautes Études de l'Amérique latine- Sorbonne Nouvelle, France

Executive Summary

The dynamics of regional integration and the institutionalisation of EU-LAC relations seem to be two processes that evolves along. The EU has expressed its support to the Latin American integration initiatives since the beginning, occupying a central place in the institutionalised European Union –Latin America & Caribbean relations.

Nevertheless, since the 2000's a new kind of relations has emerged, such as the signature of two Free Trade Agreements with Colombia and Peru in 2011, the rapprochement with Brazil or the establishment of bilateral Association Agreements with México and Chile. This seems to mark a new orientation of the European Union towards a bilateral approach, despite its discourse prompting regional integration and intra-blocs action. This trend is nonetheless questioned by punctual bi-regional actions, such as the signature of an Association Agreement with Central America in 2012.

Therefore, this research study aims to explain to what extent it is possible to say that European foreign policy towards Latin America has progressively abandoned the promotion of regional integration through inter-regionalism, pursuing a strategy of “selective bilateralism”.

To answer this question, this paper analyses the in-depth trends of the evolution of EU foreign policy towards the Latin American region through its three main dimensions (political dialogue, economic relations and cooperation for development) in order to identify and expose factors that possibly explain and justify the supposed deviation from inter-regionalism towards a bilateral approach.

[Read the full paper here \(in French\)...](#)

INTERVIEW PAUL OQUIST, Minister-Private Secretary of Public Policies of Nicaragua



“Without implementation means, there shall not be a global

agreement on climate change in Paris”

The negotiations on climate change get with the celebration of the COP20 in Lima into a decisive moment, but the path until the adoption of a global agreement at the summit that will be held at the end of 2015 in Paris appears to be tortuous. The minister-private secretary of Public Policies of Nicaragua, Paul Oquist, assures in the interview he gave to the newsletter of the Foundation EU-LAC on the occasion of his visit to the Foundation headquarters last October that his country will work constructively, although he warned that “there shall not be an agreement without means of implementation”.

[Read the complete interview...](#)

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