



EU-LAC Foundation Newsletter

June 2015

Editorial: A Citizens' Summit

Dear Friends,

The current edition of the EU-LAC's newsletter is published in the framework of the EU-CELAC Summit 2015 that will be held in Brussels next 10 – 11 June. This year's motto is "Shaping our common future: working for prosperous, cohesive and sustainable societies for our citizens". We conceive this as a Summit for and by citizens. For this edition we benefited from the contributions and perspectives of different stakeholders from civil society of both regions, as well as the current presidencies of the European Union, CELAC and CARICOM.

The 2015 Summit will be held at a time of economic and political changes, higher interdependences and global risks that affect both regions. It is taking place at a pivotal moment for global governance on subjects like the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (Post-MDG) or the potential achievement of a global agreement on climate change.

In this sense, this is the best time to promote civil society's participation in preserving and benefiting from shared values and interests, while fostering synergies and an open and participatory debate on the priorities of our societies. As an instance, some cross-cutting issues directly involving citizens from both regions, such as education, corporate social responsibility, gender equality and innovation have been included to be an essential part of the EU-CELAC intergovernmental process.

All in all, this Summit is of great interest for everyone, given that citizenship, social cohesion and the scope of inclusive societies have been at the core of the bi-regional agenda, strengthening the legitimacy of the process and bringing concrete benefits to the citizens. Therefore this opportunity is one that we cannot miss.

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

- **TOPIC: The Strategic Partnership, second EU-CELAC Summit**
- **Activities of the EU-LAC Foundation**
- **Promoting young researchers**

TOPIC: The Strategic Partnership, Second EU-CELAC Summit

Ricardo Patiño

Edgars Rinkēvičs
Latvia's Minister of Foreign

**Publications of
interest:**

Minister of Foreign Affairs and
Human Mobility of Ecuador



EU-CELAC: A bi-regional partnership to strengthen the development of our nations

The II EU-CELAC Summit will mark a milestone in the history of our strategic partnership: It will mean the beginning of a deep reflection over the future of bi-regional relations according to present realities and priorities on both regions. In order for new ideas, initiatives and guidelines for the construction of new bi-regional relations to emerge, this exercise, must be led by the Ministers of Foreign Affairs and the Chiefs of State themselves.

For these reasons Ecuador, holding the CELAC's Pro Tempore Presidency, expressed the EU the need to evaluate the current progress of the bi-regional relations and the results of the Action Plan in order to set the future of our bonds.

This initiative was very well received by the EU, that not agreed on the Ministers of Foreign Affairs to meet during the period of the Summits to evaluate the processes, but presented the project "A Partnership for the Next Generation" that will be approved on the Brussels' Summit in June 2015.

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

Affairs and currently holds the Presidency of the Council of the EU



The Second EU-CELAC Summit - The Way Forward

On January 1, 2015 Latvia for the first time assumed the Presidency to the European Council. The priorities of the Latvian Presidency are Competitive Europe, Digital Europe and Engaged Europe. The first priority aims to enhance the competitiveness and growth of the European Union, second - fully exploit the digital potential in the economy, but third - to reinforce the role of the European Union in the global arena. Taking into account that EU and Latin America are like-minded partners linked by an intensive political dialogue as well as strong historical, cultural and economic ties, third priority is directly linked with enhancing relationship with Latin America and the Caribbean. Therefore I am honored that exactly during Latvian Presidency Brussels on 10 – 11 June, 2015 will host II EU – CELAC summit.

Sustainable development, citizen security, climate and even fundamental freedoms, like human rights, are facing global challenges that can be tackled only in a close and strategic partnership of like-minded partners (...)

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

Carballo de la Riva, Marta y Echart Muñoz, Enara (2015) **"The issue of gender in relations between the EU and LAC: state of the art and opportunities for bi-regional cooperation.** EU-LAC Foundation: Hamburg.

Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe, (2015) **La Unión Europea y América Latina y el Caribe ante la nueva coyuntura económica y social** Naciones Unidas: Santiago de Chile.

EU-LAC Foundation and Red Forum Empresa (2015) **"Corporate social responsibility in the context of relations between the European Union and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States".** EU-LAC Foundation: Hamburg.

Luengo-Cabrera, José (2015) **EU-LAC: the other transatlantic partnership** European Institute for Security Studies: Paris.

Forthcoming Events:

4 June, Brussels

Meeting of the Euro – Latin American Parliamentary Assembly (EuroLat)

4 June, Paris

Symposium "European Union- Latin America and the Caribbean: Crossed looks on the Climate Challenge"

4 June, Brussels

"Urban development and public space: culture as a driver for cities"

31 May - 7 June, France

Latin America and the Caribbean Week in France

8 - 9 June, Brussels

2nd EU - CELAC Academic Summit

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Immigration of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas. Currently holds the Presidency of CARICOM



Reflection on expectations for the II CELAC- EU Summit and how the potential of the strategic partnership CELAC-UE could be maximised for the Caribbean countries

The truth is that the reasons for the coming together of the Latin American and Caribbean States (now, the Community, CELAC, using the Spanish acronym) and European Union (EU) some sixteen years ago in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in the institutional relationship now called the CELAC-EU have not changed that much. This is evident in the anticipated outcomes of the upcoming summit in Brussels, and the process towards them remains challenging.

The theme of the Brussels Declaration (“Shaping our common future: working together for prosperous, inclusive, cohesive and sustainable societies for our citizens”), the Political Declaration (“A partnership for the next generation”), and the areas of focus for the related Action Plan on this occasion include the very issues on which the relationship had its genesis in 1999 – among them in no particular order, education and higher education, employment, promotion of social inclusion and cohesion, citizen security, migration, sustainable development, environment, climate change, biodiversity, and energy (...)

Atondo

Member of the European Parliament and Co-President of the the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly (EuroLat)



Countdown to the EU-CELAC Summit

We are on the eve of the II European Union – Latin America and Caribbean Summit, that Brussels will host on 10th and 11th of June. The timing could not be more interesting: an Europe that laboriously tries to get out of the crisis is the host to a Latin America that faces its own challenges in the economic and political spheres, all this in a turbulent global context whose challenges compromise both regions.

This Summit is the opportunity to go beyond the protocolar pictures and declarative commitments, to boost the bi-regional partnership producing concrete and tangible results. Despite the unquestionable difficulty of this goal, I believe that there is a window of opportunity to achieve it.

First of all, the European, Latin American and Caribbean Heads of State and Government will count with a series of valuable inputs from other institutional settings and civil society. On the days before the Summit, between 4th and 9th of June, several meetings of trade unions, businesses, women, members of parliament and

10 June, Brussels
5th EU - CELAC Business Summit

10 - 11 June, Brussels
EU-CELAC Summit



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EU-LAC Declarations

Summit Declarations and Actions Plans:



2013 Santiago Declaration

2013-2015 Santiago Action Plan



2010 Madrid Declaration

2010-2012 Madrid Action Plan (Spanish)



2008 Lima Declaration

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

academics of both continents will take place. (...)

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

Juan Francisco Ballén

Deputy-minister for foreign trade policies at the Ministry of Foreign Trade of Ecuador



The Importance of Ecuador's participation in the Polos de Competitividad activity for the Bi-regional Integration Between the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean

As an introduction, it is important to point out that for Ecuador the development of productive sectors with high levels of competitiveness, innovation and internationalisation are vital elements in the National Strategy for Productive Matrix Change (EN-CMP), promoted by the national Government as part of the National Plan for Good Living (NDP) 2013-2017, always with an emphasis on the establishment of a united, fair and inclusive economy, while operating on markets where the human being is always the axis and the end of Ecuadorian society.

Evidently, this new model of economic development based on knowledge and skills should count on a scheme to promote and support productive and non-

Claudia Calvin Venero

Founder of mujeresconstruyendo.com and Executive Director of the Mexican Council on Foreign Relations



Women: Key factor for the consolidation of the EU-CELAC agenda

It will be impossible to build a future of prosperity, inclusion, democracy and development if the presence and participation of women is not considered in a proactive and assertive way. This is a fact for all countries as well as for international relations, and strategic partnerships, such as the EU-CELAC.

Women are half the population of the planet, however our presence in decision-making and policy making processes, economic participation, media and global fora do not reflect this. Our reality remains invisible in many of these spaces and thus the decisions taken on them only serve to accentuate the differences and inequalities that characterize today the situation of women in the world.

Far too little has been done to incorporate and to mainstream the gender perspective in international decision-making processes, and to include it in the international fora and strategic partnerships agenda. It is time to change the approach,



2006 Vienna Declaration (Spanish)



2004 Declaration of Guadalajara



2002 Madrid Commitments (Spanish)

1999 Rio Declaration

speculative entrepreneurship, formed by entrepreneurs and businesses characterised by an ethics based on respect for Nature, labour rights, commitment to quality and excellence in the products offered to the consumer, and responsible tax return practices as an essential element for corporate social responsibility. (...)

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

women and men participating in these spaces must include this perspective clearly in the meetings, agreements and decisions carried out. The next meeting of the 61 heads of state of EU-CELAC may be key to set a precedent of this magnitude.

What does this mean specifically? (...)

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

Timothy Ferdinand

Current Chairman of the Caribbean Regional Youth Council (CRYC)



EU-CELAC Summit: A youth perspective

For any young person to truly appreciate the context of an EU-CELAC framework, he or she must have some understanding of the history and ongoing experiences of the two regions. More importantly, one must have the capacity to peer into future shapes of our development – both through the visionary lens of our current CELAC leaders and through the eyes of the ordinary citizen- additionally, one must also understand the role and interests of the European Union (EU).

The Latin American and Caribbean community (CELAC) was formed in December of 2011, with the purpose of deepening Latin American integration. Therefore, any contribution by the EU to the

Laurence Whitehead

Senior Research Fellow at Nuffield College, Oxford University



The Second Academic Summit: on injecting substance into the bi-regional Association

The Bi-Regional Summit process linking the EU to Latin America and the Caribbean has been in operation since 1999, but it was not until January 2013 that the first Academic Summit was held. In the ensuing two and a half years considerable energy has been devoted to strengthening and deepening the higher education component of the relationship.

The EU-LAC Foundation as entity responsible for supporting the bi-regional cooperation towards the establishment of a common space in higher education, and a Permanent Academic Forum has been created to

enhancement of that mission will serve the interest of our leaders. This, according to calls made at the inaugural CELAC meeting will obviously translate into encouragement and facilitation of increased regional trade, economic development, and further economic cooperation among members in defending their growing economies.

There are however, three things that can be considered barriers to improving multinational cooperation from a youth perspective.(...)

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

identify priorities and develop strategies in fulfillment of the Santiago Summit mandate. The culmination of these efforts will be on display at the forthcoming Bi-Regional Summit to be held in Brussels in June 2015. The state level meeting of the 61 participating members will be preceded by a second successive Academic Summit, together with a Business Sector counterpart, and equivalent events for mayors, legislators, and civil society representatives. (...)

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

Evija Pudane

International Relations Manager at CleanTech Latvia



Bilateral relations through common research and innovation - Challenge or Joy?

Small and medium enterprises are the cornerstone and driver of Latvian economy and their global competitiveness which is based on simple management structure, ability to response quickly, make flexible decisions. Small domestic market is a major challenge for the most of Latvian companies, directing them to become more global and to take up the challenge and compete in global economy.

What makes the Latvian companies and organisations competitive in the world? It is the positive attitude and the desire for new challenges, ability to take the responsibility, creativity in solving different problems and the will to open up new horizons. Talented, creative, analytical and ambitious are the crucial characteristics of successful business owners in a small economy like Latvia. (...)

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

Activities of the EU-LAC Foundation

Quito Declaration: Young people request education and decent employment to EU-CELAC Heads of State and Government



Young people from the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean held a meeting last April in Quito, at the initiative of the EU-LAC Foundation, to discuss the causes and consequences of youth unemployment, a situation that is affecting 29,1 million.

Conclusions of the workshop, which took place at the Andina University, were reflected in the [Quito Declaration](#), a document that will be presented by representatives of the CELAC-EU Youth to the Heads of State and/or Government during the EU-CELAC Summit next June in Brussels.

The EU-CELAC Youth Days about Decent Employment and Education, the first of this kind, were organised by the EU-LAC Foundation, with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, country that currently holds the Pro-tempore Presidency of CELAC.

Experts from the International Labour Organisation, European organisations and the academic world, have shared their experiences with the participants.

Speaking to reporters in the margins of the workshop, the President of the EU-LAC Foundation, Benita Ferrero-Waldner said that youth unemployment rates are untenable in some countries and highlighted the importance of initiatives to improve the economy through investment programmes, which, in the medium term, could drive to economic growth and job creation.

[Read more...](#)

Check out the video [here!](#)

The EU-LAC Foundation Publications

“The issue of Gender in relations between the EU and LAC: State of the Art and Opportunities for Bi-regional Cooperation”

“Corporate Social Responsibility in the Context of Relations between the European Union and the Community of Latin

American and Caribbean States”



In May the EU-LAC Foundation launched two studies, [“The issue of Gender in relations between the EU and LAC: State of the art and Opportunities for bi-regional cooperation”](#) and [“The Corporate Social Responsibility in the context of Relations between the European Union and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States”](#). These two issues were included in the EU-CELAC Santiago Action Plan.

The purpose of the first study is to analyse the state of the art on Gender in the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean from a bi-regional and action-oriented perspective. It focuses on three thematic areas: political participation of women, elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls and economic empowerment of women and their participation in the world of work. The second study reports the progress of the countries of the European Union (EU) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) in the construction of their NAPs or in the integration of CSR in their public policies, and propose some guidelines for a piece of bi-regional cooperation within each zone and between the two regions studied.

Conference- Workshop Venture Programme competitive Districts' and internationalisation project

Hamburg, 29/04/2015



Invited by the EU-LAC Foundation, entrepreneurs, political leaders and experts on local innovation and competitiveness from 10 Latin-American and Caribbean and 7 European countries held a meeting

last April in Hamburg to share experiences concerning the development of competitive districts (clusters and its background) and to assess the first results of the competitive districts' project "Polos de competitividad" which is developed by the Foundation's venture programme in partnership with the Italian region of Lombardy.

The Mayor of Hamburg, Mr. Olaf Scholz, opened the conference, by highlighting the effectiveness of industrial policies aimed at improving territories' development, complementarity and competitiveness, regardless of the existing administrative divisions in each country; however Mr. Scholz also pointed out that these are long-term processes.

"Growth depends on our ability to innovate" and "a key element of our innovation strategy is to conduct a successful policy of cluster, because this is the only way to engage and retain companies and skilled workers" claimed Mr. Scholz, who mentioned that Hamburg has been chosen as the model region for cluster policies by the European Commission.

The Mayor informed the participants, among them the Ecuadorian Vice-Minister of Trade, Mr. Juan Francisco Ballén, saying that there are currently eight clusters in Hamburg, including aviation, logistics, IT and life sciences, without excluding future new clusters since "we see a great potential in creative industries, health industry and renewable energy", he said.

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EU-LAC Foundation Global Governance Forum 2015

Madrid, 30/04/2015



The EU-LAC Foundation is continuously seeking to explore convergence points between the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean to deepen their cooperation and develop joint strategies oriented towards guiding the multilateral process. Along these lines, the EU-LAC Foundation selects annually a topic of the global agenda and promotes the dialogue of key bi-regional stakeholder on the subject in question.

In 2015, the Global Governance Forum has explored development cooperation in the post-Millennium Development Goals framework. Fifteen years after the adoption of the MDGs, a new scheme for development cooperation will come to replace them and broaden their scope to not only to include developing countries but also to set out globally oriented goals.

Parallel this process is the “graduation” of the greater part of Latin America from receiving EU Official Development Assistance (ODA). As the continuous economic growth in the LAC region positions most countries in the middle-income category, the EU will channel its development assistance to low-income and “fragile” countries, and partner with “graduated” countries for the financing of development projects through, for instance, triangular cooperation and other cooperation schemes.

[Read more...](#)

Promoting Young Researchers

El estado de situación de las relaciones UE-ALC desde el ámbito multilateral de la diplomacia de cumbres: el replanteo del vínculo estratégico a partir de la creación de la CELAC en el marco de la crisis europea

By Maria Pilar Garcia Plorutti, Bologna University in Argentina

Abstract

Since the I EU-LAC Summit held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 1999, there have been already carried out seven bi-regional summits organised every two years (Madrid 2002, Guadalajara 2004, Vienna, 2006, Lima, 2008, Madrid, 2010 and Santiago de Chile, 2013). However, considering the development of the summit process, both advances and setbacks can be seen from a look in retrospect as well as challenges and opportunities in a projective way in the evolution of the existing strategic relationship between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean. Based on the relevance of this Strategic Partnership for global governance, it is therefore necessary and appropriate an analysis on the state of play of EU-LAC relations from the cyclical changes that have taken place at regional and international level, affecting one way or another the development of this process. Hence, the research objective for this thesis is to analyze the current situation of the EU-LAC relations from a social constructivist theoretical approach, considering on the one hand, the financial and economic crisis that has hit the EU forcing to rethink its role as *normative power*, and on the other hand, the creation of a new regional integration scheme, the CELAC. Indeed, focused on the process of the last three summits -5th EU-LAC Summit, Lima 2008, 6th EU-LAC Summit, Madrid 2010 and 7th EU-LAC Summit or I EU-CELAC Summit, Santiago 2013- it will be considered if there are any changes in the factors of power and conditions of asymmetry that have long comparatively characterized the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean, and therefore if it is then possible a rethinking of the terms in which so far it has been conceived this Strategic Partnership.

[Read the full paper here...](#) (Spanish)

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