

Strengthening ties between Europe and Latin America: A joint vision at the EU-CELAC Summit

Adopted at the YEPP Council Meeting in Zagreb (23/09/2023)

Recognizing that:

- Regular contact between members of the European Parliament and Latin American members of parliament started in 1974 with the first of 17 biennial interparliamentary conferences, being was the first – and for many years the only – forum for institutionalised political dialogue between Europe and Latin America. ¹
- The holding of EU-CELAC summit is a significant event, as it has been eight years since the last one,² taking into account the importance to strengthen ties between Europe and Latin America, especially during Spain's presidency of the Council of the European Union.
- The current geopolitical context is undergoing significant changes, including the strategic competition between the US and China, Russia's aggression against Ukraine, and the emergence of the "Global South," leading to a multipolar and unstable world. ³
- Non-democratic regimes that are part of CELAC, such as Venezuela, Cuba, and Nicaragua, have a close relationship of military, economic, and geopolitical cooperation with Russia. Maduro, Ortega, and Díaz Canel have repeatedly expressed their support for Vladimir Putin's regime and its military activities against Ukraine, in violation of international law.
- Latin America plays a critical role as a significant supplier of lithium, a key element for electric vehicle batteries and renewable energy storage. Therefore, securing a stable supply of lithium from Latin America is crucial for the EU's efforts to transition to a greener economy, enabling the development and expansion of electric mobility and renewable energy technologies. ⁴
- Around 6 million people from the EU and LAC countries live and work across the Atlantic, contributing to their host countries' economies and integrating well within their communities. These shared values are deeply rooted in joint history, language, identity, and a commitment

¹ <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets/en/sheet/176/latin-america-and-the-caribbean>

² EU-CELAC summit, Brussels, 10-11 June 2015

<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/international-summit/2015/06/10-11/>

³<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/documents-publications/library/library-blog/posts/think-tank-reports-on-the-invasion-of-ukraine/>

⁴ Lithium, which is a key asset for Argentina https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/uruguay-and-argentina-key-partners-bring-eu-and-latin-america-closer_en

to democracy, human rights, the rule of law, and multilateralism, underscoring the significant cultural and diplomatic ties between Europe and LAC.⁵

Acknowledging that:

- For the first time since 2015, a slowdown in trade with China has been observed, which accounted for only 8% of the value of the region's exports, while sales to the European Union experienced a 26% growth, making it one of Latin America's main trading partners.⁶
- The EU, Latin America and the Caribbean are intensifying their cooperation on environment and climate action policies, working to foster the green transition, reach net zero emissions by 2050, better protect and restore critical ecosystems, support the most vulnerable countries in adapting to the effects of climate change, and increase collective climate and biodiversity finance.⁷
- Early ratification of the EU-Mercosur agreement is crucial to prevent other actors, such as China, from occupying the space that Europe is leaving open due to a lack of commitment, ensuring that Europe does not lose economic opportunities in various sectors.⁸
- The EU is a leading partner in Latin America and the Caribbean's efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), it is commendable that the EU is the largest provider of Official Development Assistance (ODA) to the region. For the period 2021-27, the EU has allocated over EUR 3.4 billion under its new financial instrument, NDICI-Global Europe, for country and regional programmes, demonstrating its commitment to supporting sustainable development initiatives in the region.⁹
- Redirecting investments towards a sustainable, inclusive, and resilient economy through the Common Framework of Sustainable Finance Taxonomies for LAC is crucial for meeting all agreed environmental and climate targets in Latin America and the Caribbean. This will ensure harmonization and interoperability with other taxonomies globally, helping mobilize cross border capital flows towards our common goals.¹⁰

⁵ Common values, identities, languages, and history: a genuine cultural and societal partnership https://www.eeas.europa.eu/latin-america-caribbean/common-values-identities-languages-and-history-genuine-cultural-and_en

⁶ Latin America increases its exports to Europe as trade with China slows down. <https://news.un.org/es/story/2023/01/1517792>

⁷ EU, Latin America and Caribbean step up cooperation on environment and climate action policies https://environment.ec.europa.eu/news/eu-latin-america-and-caribbean-step-cooperation-environment-and-climate-action-policies-2023-05-05_en

⁸ <https://www.eppgroup.eu/newsroom/news/stop-dilly-dallying-and-ratify-mercosur-agreement>

⁹ Finding new ways to cooperate: joining forces for a sustainable recovery https://www.eeas.europa.eu/latin-america-caribbean/finding-new-ways-cooperate-joining-forces-sustainable-recovery_en

¹⁰ EU, Latin America and Caribbean step up cooperation on environment and climate action policies https://environment.ec.europa.eu/news/eu-latin-america-and-caribbean-step-cooperation-environment-and-climate-action-policies-2023-05-05_en

YEPP calls on:

- The EU and member states to recognize Latin America and the Caribbean as crucial partners in achieving global environmental goals, and promoting the digital transition, while achieving a fairer and more sustainable social contract to address poverty, inequality, and violence in both regions.
- The EU, EU Member States, and the Delegation to Latin America to encourage the ratification of the EU-Mercosur agreement since it is crucial to unlock the full potential of the EU-Latin America partnership and maximize the benefits for both regions, acknowledging its potential to create new avenues for growth, job creation, and increased cooperation in various sectors.
- The EU to continue its commitment to supporting the Sustainable Development Goals by providing Official Development Assistance and allocating funds under its new financial instrument, NDICI-Global Europe, for country and regional programmes.
- The Council of the European Union to implement an agreement whereby the political relationship between the EU and CELAC is based on respect for human rights by its members. A commitment to the values of democracy and freedom should guide any political and commercial collaboration.
- Achieving a common position among the international actors participating in the EU-CELAC Summit, in which the participating countries condemn Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine.
- The Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union to promote a declaration by the participating countries in the EU-CELAC Summit that demands respect for Human Rights by its members.