



III High-level Seminar

*Now more than ever
the European Union and Latin America &
the Caribbean are two strategic partners:
Why does the EU need this alliance?*

29 September 2022

venue:



with the support of:



Introduction

The current context presents a **very complex international scene**, aggravated by the recent Russian invasion of Ukraine. Geopolitics, which was already shifting power hubs to other parts of the planet, has left the European Union focused on its own internal tensions and its closest neighbourhood. However, globalisation is, to all intents and purposes, undeniable and the **challenges** we face are common and must be faced by all. The fight against climate change, the protection of human rights or security are just some of them.

To tackle these challenges, there are two highly effective tools. One of these is **integration**, conceived as the mechanism for generating collective policies that address the problems faced by the whole community. In the case of the EU, there are several recent examples of the effectiveness of this integration: in their joint response to the pandemic through the European vaccination plan or financial support to the most affected Member States; and in the recent crisis caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine, through the joint response in financial, humanitarian, political and defensive support to Ukraine, and sanctions against Russia. The other key tool to address global challenges is **multilateralism**, which in recent years has been hit by dangerous unilateral events, extreme nationalism or bipolarity between the US and China. It is necessary to strengthen international institutions as a driver of multilateralism capable of meeting the challenges of a hostile world.

It is not the best time in Latin America and the Caribbean for the process of regional integration. The COVID 19 pandemic highlighted throughout the world, and especially in the region, its shortcomings and inequalities, as well as the need for structural reforms to achieve its recovery through fairer and more equitable sustainable economic and social growth.

Latin America and the Caribbean and the EU stand for a similar democratic values framework. Integration and multilateralism are part of our mutual universe, so that the partnership between the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean has a duty to deepen their alliance.

The current context makes it necessary to rethink the foundations of this bi-regional partnership. To this end, it is necessary to speed up the two transformations at the heart of the current European policy: **green and digital transformations**. The Euro-Latin American area has unlimited possibilities in both fields.

To address all the issues outlined above, and to highlight the huge potential and unique opportunity that Latin America and the Caribbean represent for the European Union, and vice versa, it is proposed that a meeting be held at the European Parliament in Brussels as a space for dialogue and sharing of ideas and proposals between experts from both sides of the Atlantic on the topics raised in the programme.

Programme:

15:00 Opening session

Javi López, Chair of the Delegation to the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly, European Parliament

Special opening intervention: Why the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean need each other?

Myriam Ferrán, Deputy Director-General, DG International Partnerships, European Commission

Ramón Jáuregui, Chair of the Euroamerica Foundation

15:45 First session – Integration and multilateralism: keys to Latin American & Caribbean recovery and development cooperation with the European Union

Ignacio Corlazzoli, Manager in Europe, Asia and the Middle East at CAF – the Development Bank of Latin America

Pablo Ariel Grinspun, Ambassador of Argentina to the European Union – Argentinian pro-tempore presidency of CELAC

Eric Parrado, Chief economist and general manager of the IDB's Research Department (online).

Introduced and moderated by: **José Ignacio Salafranca**, Vice-Chair, Euroamerica Foundation

16.45 Second session – The green transition as a goal and digitalisation as a tool. How the transition can be achieved in three strategic sectors: agriculture, energy and aeronautics. Experience in Latin America

Guest of honour: **Andrea Meza**, Deputy Executive Secretary, Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), United Nations

Jorge Rodríguez Romero, Head of Global Environmental Cooperation & Multilateralism Unit, European Commission, DG Environment

The green transition in the energy sector: **Luis Cabra**, General Director for Energy Transition, Technology, Institutional and Assistant to Repsol's CEO

The green transition in the aeronautics sector: **Ricardo Rojas**, Senior Vice-President. Head of Constituent Assembly at Airbus & National Representative, Airbus Operations, Spain

Introduced and moderated by **Claudio Vallejo**, Director Latam Desk Europa, LLYC

18:00 Closing remarks:

Javier Niño, Deputy Executive Director for the Americas, European External Action Service (EEAS)

18:30h. Networking cocktail

- panelists in alphabetical order -