



## **Report of the XII Reflection Forum 2021 "Contributions of the bi-regional strategic partnership to shape a greener recovery".**

19 and 20 April 2021

### **Executive Summary**

The *XII Reflection Forum 2021*, organised by the EU-LAC Foundation with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, took place on 19-20 April 2021.

Following its mandate to foster debates on issues that are priorities for the EU-CELAC Strategic Partnership and to encourage input to the intergovernmental process from the economic, academic and other sectors of civil society, the EU-LAC Foundation organises annual Reflection Fora.

Due to the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, for the second year in a row the Reflection Forum had to be adapted and held in a virtual format.

The specific objectives of the Reflection Forum are (i) to provide an informal platform for discussion between officials and academic and other civil society experts on EU-LAC relations, (ii) to discuss the progress and challenges of bi-regional relations and (iii) to nourish the analyses with new insights, as well as to propose recommendations for action.

Discussions in the Reflection Forum are governed by the "Chatham House Rule", and the format aims to generate an atmosphere characterised by mutual respect and trust, thus facilitating an open and informal exchange of approaches and arguments among participants, in a truly bi-regional perspective.

The specific theme of the XII Reflection Forum was: **"Contributions of the bi-regional strategic partnership to shape a greener recovery"**. This theme was agreed in the Work Programme 2021, approved by the Board of Governors, under item 4.1.

The XII Reflection Forum brought together 91 delegates from 46 members of the Foundation (23 LAC Members and 23 EU Members, including the EU itself). In addition, a group of 10 experts from international institutions and universities from the EU and LAC was convened to actively participate and provide their own input to the discussions and to animate the dialogue with the participants. The selection of the experts took into account the complementary knowledge and perspectives of the Forum's themes. A list of all participants can be found in Annex 1.

The inauguration included welcoming speeches by **Leire Pajín**, President of the EU-LAC Foundation, who explained the topics chosen to be discussed and reflected upon over the two days of the Forum and their relevance. **Ambassador Mauricio Escanero**, Head of the Mexican Mission to the EU, representing the co-presidency of the Foundation on behalf of the PPT CELAC, then highlighted the importance of taking advantage of the challenge of post-Covid-19 recovery as an opportunity for sustainable development. **Claudia Ginterstorfer**, Head of the Regional Division of the Americas



– European External Action Service (EEAS), representing the EU co-presidency, stressed that the forum came at an opportune moment, given the urgency and relevance of a socio-economic recovery that does not rebuild the model of the past, but builds better for the future. Finally, **Dr Stanislav Raščan**, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, underlined that the strategic partnership with LAC is derived from historical ties and also focuses on common axes of future action, such as environmental challenges and the need to transform the way we produce and consume, interacting with nature.

The opening session was followed by presentations by **Andrea Meza Murillo**, Minister of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica, who stressed the importance of multi-level articulation between different sectors and levels of government, and with society, academia, the private sector for the achievement of the green transition, **Dr Lučka Kajfež Bogataj**, Climatologist at the University of Ljubljana and former vice-chair of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, who discussed the importance of science-based policies, since "there is no vaccine for climate change", which is irreversible, which is continuously worsening, and against which every year, every decision, every green stimulus counts; by **Dr. Allan Lavell**, International Consultant and researcher at FLACSO Costa Rica, winner of the United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction, who articulated the need for foresight and anticipation and integrated, inclusive, participatory governance to not always promote transformations after crises, and commented on inequity as a factor of vulnerability in LAC that must be addressed in the recovery. **Jose Javier Gutierrez Blanco-Navarrete**, Deputy Director General of International Organisations, in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain, who stressed the coincidence between the EU and LAC of the green agenda as a basis for recovery, which should include multi-sectoral measures against climate change and the mobilisation of public and private resources.

On the second day the working session started with presentations by **Felice Zaccheo**, Head of Unit, Directorate General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) of the European Commission, who commented on some EU-LAC cooperation initiatives and mechanisms that solve more immediate problems and at the same time contribute to green objectives, **José Javier Gómez**, Officer of the Climate Change Unit, UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), who gave an overview of the lights and shadows of LAC in terms of socio-economic recovery and green transition, and presented opportunities for the big push for sustainability in the region, **Sebastián Nieto Parra**, Head of the Latin America and Caribbean Unit at the OECD Development Centre, who took stock of the pre-crisis socio-economic situation in LAC, the interconnection between the environmental issue and development, and discussed innovative solutions for sustainability, and **Adrien Vogt-Schilb**, Senior Economist in the Climate Change Division of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), who spoke about the benefits in GDP growth and job creation that the green transition in LAC can generate, and highlighted the importance of a tailor-made dialogue with each productive sector, understanding their challenges, showing them how the green agenda helps them to face their particular challenges and benefits them concretely.

After these initial presentations to provoke debate, the Forum's registered participants, EU-LAC delegates and experts held plenary discussions, asking for the floor via chat.



The two days' discussions were based on the Forum's guiding questions:

### 1st session - 19 April

- How can climate change policies best be integrated into economic recovery policies?
- What are the experiences of LAC and EU countries?
- What strategies and capacities need to be mobilised?

### 2nd session - 20 April

- How can the EU and LAC strengthen their partnership to shape greener recovery and promote sustainable development?
- How can international cooperation best contribute to meeting these challenges?

Among the **conclusions of the 1st session**, the following can be highlighted:

- The post-Covid-19 recovery is **both a challenge and an opportunity** for a sustainable, inclusive and fair relaunch, fully integrated with the green agenda.
- The ecological transition must **involve all sectors** of government, the private sector, productive forces and society in a **cross-cutting, integrated and coordinated manner**.
- The ecological transition must be systematised in **long-term action plans and comprehensive legislative frameworks** in order to be solid and sustained.
- **International commitments must be translated into national and local legislation and practices**, adapted to their realities and implemented in collaboration with the various actors on the ground.
- The limited **fiscal space in LAC countries** for recovery must be alleviated with **innovative solutions**, such as debt-for-nature swaps and through the issuance of green bonds.
- Decarbonisation and energy transition, priorities for action, must also be complemented by a **change in production and consumption patterns in various sectors**, promoting the circular economy, transitions in agriculture and livestock farming as well as in industry.
- The **green transition** is compatible with a **competitive growth** agenda, as it generates employment, resilience to external shocks, economic activity, and more than offsets the investments for transformation.
- The green transition has to be done with **the citizen and the community at the centre**, and with an **inclusive and gender approach**, assisting non-green sectors in their adaptation, so as not to generate further socio-economic inequality or leave anyone behind.
- **Biodiversity protection** is one of the priorities for action in the two regions, with a common target of protecting at least 30% of the Earth's surface by 2030.
- The involvement of the **economic and financial sector**, in both the private and public spheres, is **key** to the green transition, and a major challenge, especially in LAC.



As for the conclusions of the **2nd session**, the following can be highlighted:

- The green transition is a **priority for both regions**, as shown by the EU's European Green Deal and LAC's Escazú Agreement. It should also be one of the central axes of bi-regional cooperation.
- The **EUROCLIMA+ programme**, the flagship programme of EU-LAC cooperation on the green agenda, has achieved resounding successes and has recently been adjusted to the present context and should be continued and also complemented by other initiatives.
- EU and LAC countries agree on the perception that **multilateralism** is the best approach to transnational challenges such as green recovery and the fight against climate change, at regional, bi-regional or global level.
- The **training of skilled professionals** to lead the green transition is an urgent need where EU-LAC cooperation can be intensified and very beneficial.
- **Youth** are highly vulnerable to the socio-economic crisis driven by Covid-19 and should be targeted by EU-LAC cooperation and included in the green transition.
- The **circular economy** is a domain where European experiences can be adapted to the LAC context and EU-LAC cooperation can be increased and very useful.
- Engaging and transforming the **private sector**, from **start-ups and SMEs to large companies**, is a key challenge for the green transition and a prolific space for bi-regional EU-LAC cooperation.
- In the integration of the green transition into national **regulatory, taxation and financing frameworks**, the contributions of European experiences can be very useful for LAC, and cooperation between the EU and LAC and with multilateral institutions such as the UN, the OECD, ECLAC and the IDB in this area should be promoted.
- **Renewable energy** is a field where Latin America has a lot of potential and successful experiences and where EU-LAC cooperation should focus.
- **Electromobility** is another domain in which LAC has great potential and which can be a fruitful axis for EU-LAC cooperation.
- **International markets** must recognise the green production of commodities and other products in order to promote productive adaptation compatible with the 2030 agenda and the Paris agreement, a challenge in which the EU-LAC articulation can be fruitful.
- Several participants also emphasised the **role of the EU-LAC Foundation** as a bridge to promote dialogue between EU and LAC governments and societies.

Closing remarks were given by **Dr. Adrian Bonilla**, Executive Director of the EU-LAC Foundation, and **Jernej Müller**, Policy Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, who thanked the participants for their contributions to the **XII Reflection Forum** on this very relevant topic at this crucial time for decision-making to re-launch economies in a socially and ecologically just and sustainable development paradigm.



## Report

### Context

The 12th edition of the Reflection Forum was entitled "**Contributions of the bi-regional strategic partnership to the shape of a greener recovery**".

The XII Reflection Forum, which programme was developed in coordination with the Co-Chairs of the Board of Governors of the Foundation, the EU and CELAC Pro Tempore Presidency (PPT) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia, was designed, as in previous editions, to provide a space for informal dialogue and exchange of views between senior officials from EU and CELAC Member States, representatives of the academic sector as well as representatives of international organisations and EU-CELAC cooperation programmes.

The Forum followed up on discussions presented by recent EU-LAC Foundation webinars, publications and newsletters dedicated to issues related to sustainable economic recovery, climate change and green transition in the framework of post-Covid-19 reconstruction.

The activity was made possible by voluntary contributions from Members of the Foundation, and in particular from the European Union and Germany.

### Participants in the Reflection Forum

The Reflection Forum brought together 91 delegates from 46 members of the Foundation (23 LAC Members and 23 EU Members, including the EU itself). The EU, as a Member, was represented by officials from the European External Action Service (EEAS) and the Directorate General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) of the European Commission.

In addition, representatives of other organisations participated: Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). A leading expert from the University of Ljubljana, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize together with the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2007 for her efforts to raise public awareness of the consequences of global warming, was invited to participate with her own input in the plenary sessions. The list of participants is included in the annex.

It includes, however, 101 people in total. As far as gender is concerned, 57 men and 44 women participated. In terms of institutional affiliation, 94 participants are representatives of Member State governments and the EU, 2 are experts from academia, and 5 are experts from the international organisations mentioned above. 39 participants were general managers in government, foreign ministries, embassies or missions abroad, 55 were specific managers different ministries and 7 were experts. Finally, in terms of regional origin, the XII EU-LAC Reflection Forum had 43 participants from Europe and 58 from Latin America and the Caribbean.



## Summary of discussions

### *First day (19 April)*

The XII Reflection Forum was held over two days (**see programme in the annex**). Welcoming remarks at the opening were given by **Leire Pajín**, President of the EU-LAC Foundation, who thanked the participants and also the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia and explained the relevance of the topic discussed. She reflected on the fact that the global crisis triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic affected all countries and demonstrated our deep global interdependence. The response to this crisis, as well as the anticipation of future crises that will occur due to climate change, also touches the entire global community and calls for responses to be shaped and implemented in a united, shared and cooperative manner. In this context, she underlined the importance of strengthening global governance and cooperation mechanisms, such as the EU-LAC Foundation, a useful space for dialogue between the two regions that supports reflection on national public policies and international strategies that effectively address transnational challenges.

**Ambassador Mauricio Escanero**, Head of the Mexican Mission to the EU, representing the co-presidency of the Foundation for the Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC, stressed the importance of taking advantage of the challenge of the post-Covid-19 recovery as an opportunity to recover our economies in a sustainable manner on the basis of a more solid foundation and more developed international cooperation. He highlighted the important role of the EU-LAC Foundation in strengthening the bi-regional partnership, and in particular, this forum, as a space to discuss and provide countries with an exchange of experiences that generates guidelines on how to proceed in the face of the economic, social and health crisis generated by the pandemic, also correlated with the effects of human activity on nature.

He was followed by **Claudia Ginterstorfer**, Head of the Americas Regional Division (EEAS), representing the EU co-presidency, who stressed that the forum came at an opportune moment, given the urgency of the challenge, and because in 2021 we have two major conferences for the environment, where ambitious decisions must be taken and the EU and LAC, which agree on the fight against climate change as a priority for action, must work together. The two conventions are the 15th Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP15) in Kunming, China, in May, and the 26th UN Conference of the Parties on Climate Change (COP26) in Glasgow, UK, in November. Another reason for the timeliness of this forum is that the EU is currently preparing international cooperation programmes for the next 7 years in the negotiation of its multiannual budget 2021-2027. In this regard, she recalled that, at the bi-regional ministerial meeting in Berlin in December 2020, the two regions had made it clear that they wanted to work together for a green recovery and stressed that the green transition would be at the heart of the EU's cooperation with LAC countries.

Finally, **Dr Stanislav Raščan**, State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia mentioned that Slovenia, upcoming Presidency of the European Council, an EU member committed to its green and digital transition policy and an export-oriented economy, has included LAC



member states in its foreign policy, because of the strategic partnership between the two regions, stemming from historical, cultural and social ties from centuries past as well as present interconnections, as in global value chains and future common priorities, such as environmental challenges. He also stressed that we must work for competitive economies, which do not seek growth as an end but as a tool for inclusion, and which are modern, resilient, sustainable and resource efficient. He concluded by saying that recovery is now about building better into the future, Slovenia with the EU has already developed its plan to do so and wants to work with LAC as partner countries to transform the way we develop socio-economically and relate to nature.

They all expressed their gratitude for the organisation of the event, a fundamental space to listen to the representatives of the countries present and the experts, and thus to reflect jointly and strategically on national experiences and approaches as well as on bi-regional contributions in this context, which is both a decisive challenge and opportunity for the future of the planet, of humanity and of global development and production paradigms.

The opening was followed by the presentation of inputs to the debate by 4 guest speakers with the aim of animating the discussion of the first session of the Forum which addressed the following topic:

**Lessons learned and institutional capacities to implement green recovery actions: What are the strategies and capacities to be mobilised?**

In the first intervention, **Andrea Meza Murillo**, Minister of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica, explained that the discussion around climate change is about a transformational change of the development model, which implies a vision focused on decarbonisation, tackling inequalities and encompassing the entire economy and all areas of government. She stressed that the primary need, in this regard, is to ground multi-level approaches, to set clear goals based on the conventions at the multilateral level, to then move to the national level, and most importantly, to have an impact at the local level. She also explained that it is necessary to combine public and private investment and financing systems, the knowledge of academia and experts on climate change, in a multi-stakeholder approach, in order to generate relevant impacts. Finally, she mentioned the importance of discussing debt in LAC, and that the current moment could be a strategic time to define it in an innovative way, incorporating options such as debt swap for nature or resilience, which could allow LAC countries to have greater fiscal space to make more progress on environmental challenges.

**Dr Lučka Kajfež Bogataj**, climatologist at the University of Ljubljana and former vice-chair of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, then opened by saying that "there is no vaccine for climate change", a process in which all negative trends continue, and which we need to address more forcefully and urgently. She highlighted the need for multidimensional, combined actions: increasing investments in low-carbon energy and, at the same time, decreasing investments in fossil fuels; acting to promote the green transition in industry, agriculture, transport and mobility, civil construction, land use, forest protection and reforestation, investing on the basis of clear taxonomies of what is green investment and what is not, and prioritising the first category. Finally, she stressed that green stimulus is also an economic stimulus, generating jobs and revitalising the economy, making it more resilient, and that every



year and every decision matter, even a timid green stimulus being helpful in putting the world on track to meet the Paris goals and the UN SDGs by 2030.

This was followed by **Dr. Allan Lavell**, International Consultant and researcher at FLACSO Costa Rica, winner of the United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction, who discussed three important points. Firstly, the fact that we seem to be living in an era of disasters and crises of great magnitude, and that we need more prospective and anticipatory reflections and actions, instead of reactive ones, in order not to be constantly managing systemic risks and promoting transformation after crisis. Secondly, he spoke about the importance of having integrated, inclusive, participatory governance, based on the co-production of knowledge rather than parallel governance for climate, risk management and disaster management. Finally, he commented on structural inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean as a factor in the region's vulnerability to these shocks, a barrier that must be addressed in reconstruction and recovery in order to move towards a more resilient future.

Finally, **Jose Javier Gutiérrez Blanco-Navarrete**, Deputy Director General for International Organisations, Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation, reflected on the convergence between the EU and LAC on the centrality of the green agenda in the recovery as well as the weight of the two regions on the international scene and their common values. He highlighted the Covid-19 crisis as an opportunity to mobilise funds for sustainable economic stimulus and the international context favourable to the green transition. He highlighted four aspects necessary for success: global, cooperative action involving everyone; national policies involving all sectors of government, of the economy and society; the implementation of measures beyond the energy sphere, involving the circular economy, climate change mitigation and adaptation integrated into manufacturing industry, agriculture and livestock farming; and finally the need to mobilise public and private funds.

***Summary of the discussions in the plenary of the 19th session:***

After the presentation of the speakers, the discussion among the country delegations in the plenary had the following questions as references:

- How can climate change policies best be integrated into economic recovery policies?
- Which are the experiences of LAC and EU countries?
- Which strategies and capacities need to be mobilised?

Among the points of convergence in the analysis of those present on the present context and the conjugation of post-COVID-19 relaunch and environmental action, it is worth highlighting:

- The post-covid-19 recovery is **both a challenge and an opportunity** for a sustainable, inclusive and fair relaunch, fully integrated with the green agenda.
- The **green transition** is compatible with a **competitive growth agenda**, as it generates employment, resilience to external shocks, economic activity, and more than offsets the investments for transformation.





- **Biodiversity protection** is one of the priorities for action in the two regions, with a common target of protecting at least 30% of the Earth's surface by 2030.
- Decarbonisation and energy transition, priorities for action, must also be complemented by a **change in the production and consumption model in various sectors**, promoting the circular economy, transitions in agriculture and livestock farming, industry.
- The green transition has to be done with **the citizen and the community at the centre**, and with an **inclusive and gendered approach**, assisting non-green sectors in their transformation or adaptation, so as not to generate further socio-economic inequality or leave anyone behind.

Among the challenges identified for the realisation of a green recovery and the possible approaches to be adopted with regard to them, the following can be highlighted:

- The ecological transition must **involve all sectors of government**, the private sector, productive forces and society in a **cross-cutting, integrated and coordinated manner**.
- The **ecological transition** must be systematised in long-term action plans and comprehensive legislative frameworks in order to be solid and sustained.
- **International commitments must be translated into national and local legislation and practices**, adapted to their realities and implemented in collaboration with the various actors on the ground.
- **LAC countries' limited fiscal space** for recovery must be alleviated with innovative **solutions**, such as debt-for-nature swaps, green bond issuance.
- The involvement of the **economic and financial sector**, in both the private and public spheres, is key to the realisation of the green transition, and a major challenge, especially in LAC.

### **Discussion:**

The discussion that took place in the plenary session included contributions from the delegations, who requested a chat and presented, on the one hand, the experiences and good practices, opportunities and challenges faced by their respective countries, and on the other hand, reflections on possible strategies and global courses of action, their possibilities and positive and negative consequences modelled by socio-economic and environmental studies, and the present and future international negotiation scenario with regard to the post-Covid-19 recovery and the green agenda.

A first point discussed was the fact that the post-Covid-19 recovery context, like the fight against climate change, is a challenge imposed on all countries, without exception, albeit in different ways and intensities, which requires joint, collaborative, articulated responses from the global community. However, this challenge is at the same time an opportunity, since it has enabled the massive mobilisation of funds and also the development of medium- to long-term recovery and resilience plans for their use, which makes the design and implementation of an economic drive for sustainable development, based on a green paradigm, feasible.



It was noted that, in the same way as the Covid-19 crisis, climate change will dramatically affect human life, global security, trade flows and GDP, and therefore immediate solutions to post-pandemic recovery must also promote long-term sustainable development, generating high-level employment, strengthening local value chains, reducing social gaps and the environmental footprint of different industries, promoting productive diversification and the resilience of the most vulnerable communities.

A second reflection was the compatibility between green transition and competitive economic growth, as shown by the experiences shared by countries that already engaged in green transition years ago and had expressive national GDP and per capita growth. The projections of international experts and agencies were also extensively quoted to show that green and sustainable development is not a brake, but an economic boost, which can help LAC gain 1% more GDP by 2030, and 4.4% by 2050 and 15 million net jobs by 2030, improve efficiency in mobility, make industries, services, agriculture and livestock more resilient and profitable, economically compensate at the rate of 5 to 1 the investments needed to protect at least 30% of the Earth's surface by 2030.

In this regard, a third point discussed was the need for coordinated multi-sectoral actions. Recent efforts on decarbonisation and energy transition should therefore be complemented by measures to improve the environmental footprint of agricultural, industrial and construction production, to strengthen local value chains and help companies that invest in innovation, climate change adaptation and mitigation, to develop the circular economy, maximising the use of materials, lowering the cost of ecological transformation. It is also important to protect biodiversity and promote reforestation, both for its economic benefits and for its contribution to the Paris Agreement goal of not allowing the global average temperature to increase to exceeding 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Finally, the importance of a social perspective on green recovery was underlined, in order to promote concrete measures and global plans that favour individuals and communities. It is also essential that the green recovery effort helps to correct and not exacerbate challenges such as gender inequality, inequality of opportunity and income, of access to essential services, political participation and representation, promoting a sustainable transition that is just and leaves no one behind. This is of crucial importance as inequality is not only a factor of systemic vulnerability to crises, but an obstacle to development and a threat to democracy, which calls for inclusive and equitable social pacts.

Those present also addressed the challenges for green recovery. First of all, they highlighted the need to translate international commitments into action plans, regulatory frameworks, practices and national consciences, in order to take shape and have an impact at the local level. To this end, emphasis was placed on the need to draw up not only contingency plans for the crisis, but also long-term plans with a diagnosis of the country's current conditions, a clear vision of where it wants to go and the steps to be taken to work towards it. In addition, legislation is needed to make the green agenda a legal obligation, to incorporate environmental impact studies, risk identification and management as a requirement for each project, and to condition investment and the channelling of public and private resources.



The need for the green transition to involve in a transversal, coordinated and articulated manner all government sectors, not only the sectoral ministers of environment and energy, as well as all productive and social actors, whose daily decision making effectively implements decarbonisation, energy transition and sustainable production, was also highlighted. This is a challenge because many state and non-state actors sometimes see the green agenda as an abstract one, requiring large sacrifices and costs, and therefore it is necessary to demonstrate what should be done specifically in each sector, according to their needs and possibilities, and also to convince by showing the benefits, in profitability, productivity, efficiency of the green transition in each specific area.

Finally, the importance and fundamental difficulty of involving the economic and financial sector in the green transition was discussed. Finance ministers, national and private banks are the ones who can provide the conditions for the actors to execute the necessary transformation, in the design of markets and stock exchanges, in the regulation of financing and in the mobilisation of resources. The resistance and lack of environmental institutionalisation of these sectors must be overcome with constant, solid and evidence-based engagement and conviction.

### **Second day (20 April)**

The second day of the Forum was devoted to the following topic:

#### **Strengthening the role of international cooperation in the fight against climate change: How can the EU and LAC strengthen their partnership to shape a greener recovery and promote sustainable development?**

To dynamize the debate, this second day featured presentations by 4 invited experts. First of all, **Felice Zaccheo**, Head of Unit, Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) of the European Commission, underlined the importance of international cooperation for recovery, which must be green. This is the objective of the European Green Deal, one of the EC priorities guiding this relaunch, and a linchpin of the EU-LAC partnership, in which the EUROCLIMA+ programme has achieved a lot and is adjusted to the challenges added by the current crisis.

He also commented that other instruments of EU-LAC cooperation, and with member countries and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) have been tested, such as the country *Mesa* platform, in which EU and LAC government officials meet, define priorities, perspectives and measures for a green, egalitarian and just society. Another recent development is the LAC policy tracker Covid-19, which will aim to improve countries' understanding of environmental, socio-economic metrics and fiscal policies, and quantitatively verify, in a perspective of public policy as an investment, how much they are aligned with green goals. He concluded by highlighting that in the 2021-2027 European budget cycle, the green agenda will be cross-cutting and is an opportunity to further develop the EU-LAC partnership through initiatives based on what countries and the planet need.

In the second intervention, **José Javier Gómez**, Officer of the Climate Change Unit of the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), welcomed the entry into force of the Escazú Agreement, and discussed the lights and shadows of green recovery in LAC. He presented weak economic growth, inequality, and the low institutional framework for



environmental action as weaknesses in the region. On the other hand, the ambitious carbon neutrality goals of some countries, the increase in renewable investments, and the greater internationalisation of sustainable development in the business sector and in areas of government related to governance are strengths.

As opportunities, he mentioned renewable energy production, electromobility and the circular economy as areas in which several LAC countries have great capacities and in which EU-LAC cooperation, and cooperation with other actors such as ECLAC, could be very fruitful. On the other hand, as challenges, he cited the need to leverage renewable investments in a commercial bank for whom this generates misgivings, and the imperative of working with all economic and social sectors. He concluded by stressing that the green transition will have a positive economic impact in LAC, and that it is crucial to work multilaterally for the leap towards sustainability.

**Sebastián Nieto Parra**, Head of the Latin America and Caribbean Unit at the OECD Development Centre, then took stock of LAC before the crisis, with a development model based on natural resource production, which was not sustainable, and with national development plans where the environmental agenda had no weight. On the contrary, current recovery plans are based on the green paradigm and open the opportunity for green investment, which generates more GDP and job creation and less inequality than previous investments.

Secondly, he reflected on the interconnection between the green agenda and development, highlighting the alliance between the green component and the digital component of action as a fundamental strategy for leveraging production. He also added the importance of ensuring policy coherence, that sectoral ministries converge to channel resources for policies that generate sustainable development, employment and social cohesion.

Thirdly, he discussed innovative solutions to the crisis. With regard to the very limited fiscal space in LAC, debt swaps for environmental operations and green bonds at differentiated prices can benefit the issuing countries and the global economy. As for the business model of companies, they must be changed to incorporate the green agenda as an advantage, a challenge in which the OECD has different mechanisms to collaborate, such as *Business for inclusive growth*, the network of companies working with the emerging world - EMNet (Emerging Markets Network), and the IPAC (International Programme for Action on Climate), led by France, a new programme whose idea is to map where we are at the moment, which actions are needed to comply with the Paris agreements and the UN Framework for climate change to leverage projects.

In the last intervention, **Adrien Vogt-Schilb**, Senior Economist of the Climate Change Division of the Inter-American Development Bank - IDB, spoke about the benefits in terms of GDP growth and job creation in agriculture, livestock, mobility and energy that the green transition in LAC can generate, and highlighted the importance of a tailored dialogue with each productive sector, understanding their challenges, showing them how the green agenda helps them to face their particular challenges, which sometimes requires simple and specific measures and benefits them concretely.

He explained his work supporting the countries of the region with technical assistance, and considered that, if we are discussing climate in the context of an emergency as serious as Covid-19,

it is because the latter revealed deficiencies and social and economic vulnerabilities that will make countries much more vulnerable to the climate crisis, which is already happening and will become more pronounced, and needs to be confronted. He also emphasised the importance of working with finance ministers and showing them how the design of markets and the tax base can be changed without representing a sacrifice, but rather an advantage for countries, and that it is best to adapt as soon as possible because significant changes will come in production models and sources of income that are based on unsustainable operations and products and that are not going to be available sooner or later.

**Summary of the discussions in the plenary session on the 20th:**

After the presentation of the speakers, the discussion among the country delegations in the plenary had the following questions as references:

- How can the EU and LAC strengthen their partnership to shape greener recovery and promote sustainable development?
- How can international cooperation best contribute to meeting these challenges?

Among the highlights in the analysis of the present context of cooperation between the two regions, the following can be mentioned:

- Green transition is a **priority for both regions**, as shown by the EU's European Green Deal and LAC's Escazú Agreement. It should also be one of the central axes of bi-regional cooperation.
- The **EUROCLIMA+ programme**, the flagship programme of EU-LAC cooperation on the green agenda, has achieved resounding successes and has recently been adjusted to the present context and should be continued and also complemented by other initiatives.
- EU and LAC countries agree on the perception that **multilateralism** is the best approach to transnational challenges such as green recovery and the fight against climate change, whether at the regional, bi-regional or global level.

Among the opportunities for deepening bi-regional cooperation in order to contribute to green recovery, it is possible to mention:

- The **training of skilled professionals** to lead the green transition is an urgent need where EU-LAC cooperation can be intensified and very beneficial.
- **Youth** are highly vulnerable to the socio-economic crisis driven by covid19 and should be targeted by EU-LAC cooperation and included in the green transition.
- The **circular economy** is a domain where European experiences can be adapted to the Latin American context and EU-LAC cooperation can be increased and very useful.
- Engaging and transforming the **private sector**, from **start-ups and SMEs to large companies**, is a key challenge for the green transition and a prolific space for bi-regional EU-LAC cooperation.
- In the integration of the green transition into **national regulatory, taxation and financing frameworks**, the contributions of European experiences can be very useful for LAC, and



cooperation between the EU and LAC and with multilateral institutions such as the UN, the OECD, ECLAC and the IDB in this area should be promoted.

- **Renewable energy** is a field where Latin America has a lot of potential and successful experiences and where EU-LAC cooperation should focus.
- **Electromobility** is another domain in which LAC has great potential and which can be a fruitful focus for EU-LAC cooperation.
- **International markets** must recognise the green production of commodities and other products in order to promote productive adaptation compatible with the 2030 agenda and the Paris agreement, a challenge in which the EU-LAC articulation can be fruitful.

### **Discussion**

The discussion that took place in the plenary included the participation of the delegations, who requested the floor through the chat and debated, on the one hand, analyses of cooperation programmes, agreements and alliances already in place in the environmental area and how the countries are carrying them out and, on the other hand, challenges and opportunities that should be explored in the bi-regional partnership and in the regional and global multilateral action for the green transition.

With regard to the present situation, the priority that the environmental guideline has in the Latin American and Caribbean and European agendas was underlined as a positive convergence, exemplified by the European Green Deal, the roadmap for modernising Europe in its socially just transition towards a sustainable and climate-neutral future, and the Escazú Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in LAC, which aims to guarantee access to environmental information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in the environmental field, as well as capacity building and cooperation for sustainable development.

Similarly, it was stressed that the EU-LAC bi-regional partnership already contemplates, and very successfully, the fight against climate change and green transition, as in the EUROCLIMA+ flagship programme. It was affirmed that the green agenda will be a priority axis in the programming of EU cooperation with LAC for the next EU multiannual budget cycle (2021-2027) and that platforms for dialogue, tracking and monitoring for the definition and follow-up of public policies and their green alignment are necessary and welcome additions to the bi-regional partnership for sustainable recovery.

Likewise, the fundamental role played by the two regions in the fight against climate change and the protection of the environment was underlined, with the mention of data and fundamental regional and global pacts on this issue. For example, it was mentioned that LAC has 40% of the world's biodiversity, 6/17 of the mega countries in biodiversity and successful experience in renewable energies.

Similarly, the Circular Economy Coalition, a LAC regional initiative to drive the transition to sustainability as part of the post-Covid-19 recovery, launched by the LAC Environment Ministers, with partners such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Konrad Adenauer



Foundation (KAS), the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), the World Economic Forum (WEF) and UNEP, was cited. In addition, the Leticia Pact for the Protection of Amazonia, which has made progress in coordination to address fires and reforestation, has been highlighted. The Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organisation (ACTO) is also a bloc dedicated to the protection of the biome with a socio-environmental emphasis, working for and with the communities living in the region. All these agreements demonstrate LAC's historical and present commitment to environmental protection.

In addition, the High Ambition Coalition for Nature and People, an intergovernmental group of more than 57 countries co-chaired by Costa Rica and France for the protection of at least 30% of the world's land and oceans by 2030, was mentioned as an example of the prominence and involvement of LAC and the EU in the green agenda on the international stage. Similarly, the participation of LAC and EU countries is seen in the Leaders' Pledge for Nature, a pledge signed at the UN Biodiversity Summit in September 2020, with the objective of reversing biodiversity loss by 2030, which has received much political support, has already 84 countries and also includes civil society organisations and businesses.

Because of the added value of these agreements and coalitions in raising awareness among citizens and managers, sharing best practices, building capacities, mutual assistance and the cooperative tackling of challenges that cross borders, it was also repeatedly stated that multilateralism is the best method for making decisions and undertaking efforts in the fight against climate change and sustainable development paradigms.

In terms of opportunities for bi-regional cooperation to boost a green recovery, higher education and vocational training was mentioned, which needs to be aligned with the green labour market. Green structural reforms will take place and for that future qualified professionals need to be trained. Such training can be targeted as a priority to the unemployed and those who lost or will lose their jobs in the green transition. These qualification processes can benefit from the EU-LAC partnership and can also be carried out virtually, since in some sectors it is possible to train without being present at a university.

Whether trained virtually or in person, experts in urban planning, transport and mobility, care professionals, experts in renewable energies, skilled workers for digitalisation and innovation will be massively needed. Moreover, they do not represent as expensive an investment as the production of technology and are not trained in a short period of time. Therefore, countries were urged to think about targeting and expanding cooperation in education for the training of professionals adapted to the sustainable development paradigm.

This area of intervention also relates to youth, a group particularly vulnerable to the Covid19-driven socio-economic crisis. It was stressed that young people are key to the economic reconstruction, social cohesion and democratic strength of our societies, and should be included in the green transition and receive special attention from EU-LAC cooperation, both in training initiatives and job creation schemes.

Three sectors were also mentioned in which EU countries have successful experience that can create synergies with LAC to leverage the green momentum in this region. Firstly, the circular



economy, to reduce waste, maximise resource efficiency, generate green jobs and reduce the costs of the ecological transition in many sectors.

Secondly, the engagement of businesses of all sizes in the green transition, actors who remain partly reluctant to transform in LAC and whose involvement is key to structural change for a sustainable economy.

Thirdly, the solid integration of internationally agreed green targets into national regulatory frameworks to ensure their implementation still needs to be improved in LAC, a challenge to which the EU and multilateral institutions such as the UN agencies, the OECD, ECLAC and the IDB can contribute fundamentally.

Finally, three sectors were discussed in which LAC has great potential, which can be even better exploited with strategic EU-LAC, triangular and other international partners' articulation. The first is the development of renewable energy sources, whether solar, wind, hydroelectric, biomass or green hydrogen. Many LAC countries are recently investing in the latter, sometimes already in cooperation with EU countries.

The second is electromobility, in which several LAC countries have the capacity and interest to invest, and which can represent not only a major advance in the carbon footprint of transport but also an increase in the efficiency of urban mobility, a difficult problem in the region, especially in large cities.

The third is the international commodity markets. It was mentioned that green production is often still not recognised there, which means that the extra cost of green adaptation is borne entirely by the producer, making systemic productive adaptation for greater compatibility with the 2030 agenda and the Paris agreement more difficult.

### **Final words**

The closing remarks included the final words of **Adrián Bonilla**, Executive Director of the EU-LAC Foundation, who underlined the contribution to the XII Reflection Forum of the different types of participants, thanking them for their contributions and perspectives, which allowed the participants to learn about the experience of other countries, to have fresh information on their plans, successes and difficulties, as well as to exchange criteria and visualise possibilities for proactive and positive agendas to boost relations between LAC and the EU in the configuration of a greener recovery.

He stressed that this issue has several dimensions, relating to the background of industrialisation, globalisation of finance, industry and consumption, and at the same time projecting into the future, being a fundamental issue for societies and for the definition of public policies of States. He also highlighted the importance of incorporating scientific visions and the centres of knowledge production in order to make decisions to preserve the lives of people and the planet and mitigate the effects of climate change.

Finally, he stressed the importance of addressing the multidimensionality of this crisis - health, social, economic - through the most appropriate international instrument for this purpose,





multilateralism, which makes it possible to generate consensual decisions between countries, governments and societies on problems that cannot be solved by autarkic or unilateral logics.

He announced that this report with the conclusions of the discussions would be prepared and shared with the countries as an input to their internal decision-making process and for the bi-regional dialogue.

In closing, **Jernej Müller**, Policy Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia thanked the Executive Director of the EU-LAC Foundation, the panellists and participants for the important, fruitful and timely debate. He underlined the role of the EU-LAC Foundation in building bridges between the two regions and the relevance of the bi-regional partnership in aligning goals and means for the systemic change represented by the green transition.

He corroborated with the conclusion that the pandemic is a challenge, but also a unique window of opportunity to strengthen green policies, by mobilising massive funds and developing comprehensive re-launch plans. He also reaffirmed the importance of multidimensional efforts, in reforestation, biodiversity protection, circular economy, digitalisation, energy transition, decarbonisation.

Furthermore, he mentioned that Slovenia prides itself on its sustainable forest management, its integrated transboundary water management and the early warning system for flood prevention, a sum of longstanding efforts towards green transformation. He invited participants to also take part in the LAC days event, organised by the Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to take place digitally in the 3 days following the 12th Reflection Forum, addressing, among other topics, the green and digital transition.

He concluded by stressing the fact that there is no one-size-fits-all solution, but that the Republic of Slovenia is ready to share its experiences with others who can benefit from them and to work with partners to shape the green future we want to live in.

### **Final evaluation and visual record**

#### **Survey**

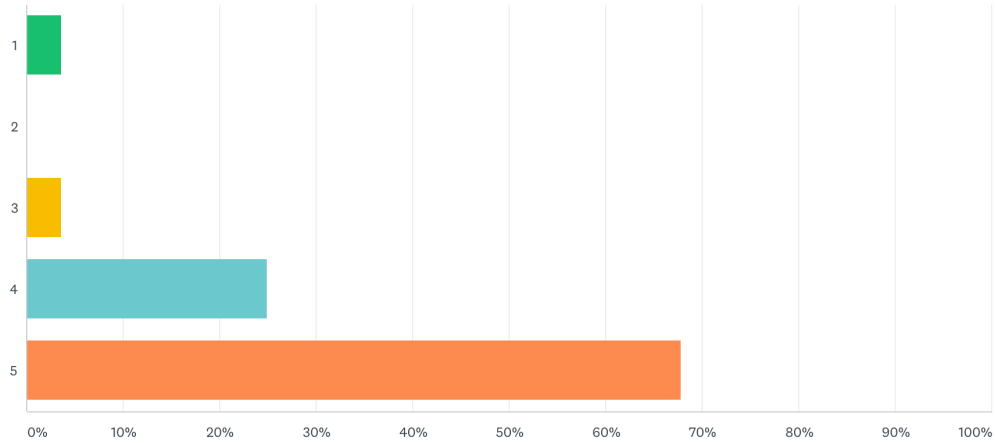
In the anonymous survey distributed to all participants of the event, the evaluations were positive. Of the total number of surveys returned to the Foundation at the conclusion of the event (28), almost 70% of respondents rated the Reflection Forum as very relevant, and 25% rated it as relevant. In addition, 75% found the event useful for their respective areas of work.

It is important to mention that about 80% of the survey respondents participated in the two sessions of the Forum.

### Graphic 1. What relevance did this event have for you?

How much relevance would you give to this event? / Del 1 al 5, Que relevancia ha tenido para Usted este eve...

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0



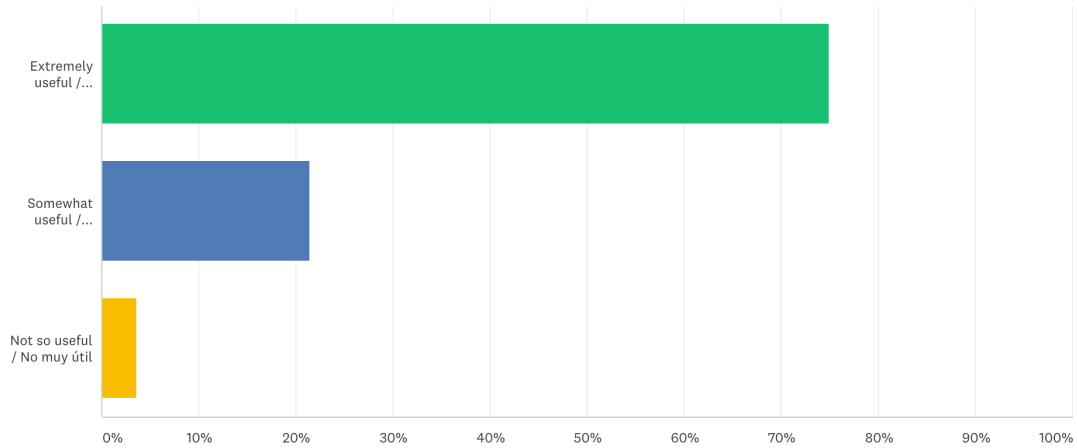
12th EU-LAC Reflection Forum

🔍 (0)

### Graphic 2: How useful has this forum been for your work/ field of specialisation?

How useful the content of this forum has been for your work and/or field of specialisation? / Qué tan útil le h...

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0



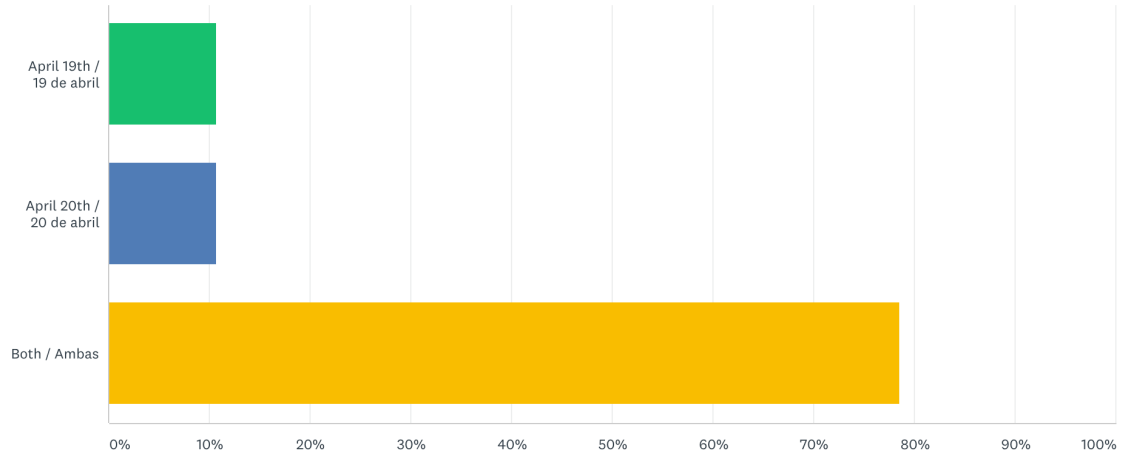
12th EU-LAC Reflection Forum

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### Graphic 3. Which session did you participate in?

In which session(s) did you participate? / En qué sesión(es) participó Usted?

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0



12th EU-LAC Reflection Forum

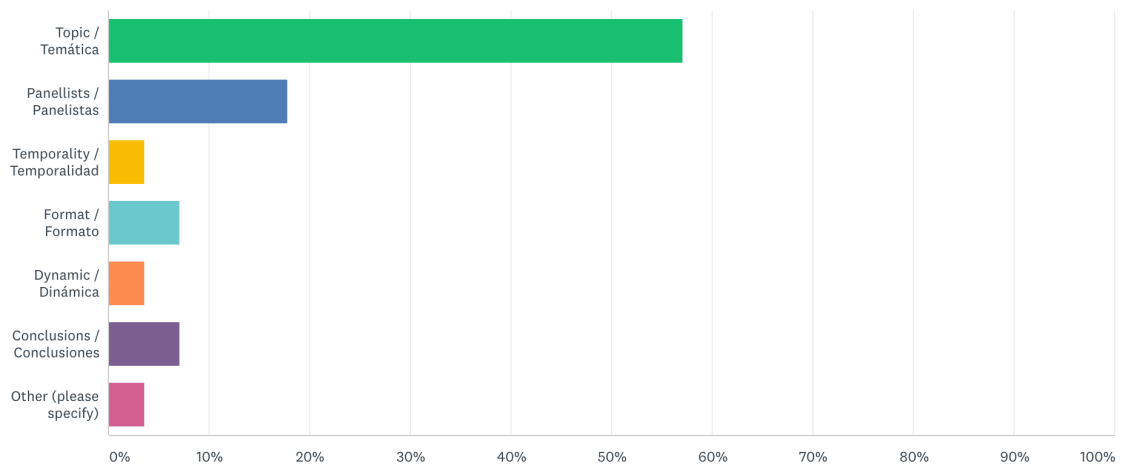
🔍 (0)

Among the positive aspects highlighted by the participants, almost 60% mentioned the theme of the Forum and about 20% highlighted the quality of the invited panellists.

### Graphic 4. Which aspects of this forum would you highlight the most?

Which aspects of this forum would you highlight the most? / Que aspectos usted destacaría más de este foro?

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0



12th EU-LAC Reflection Forum

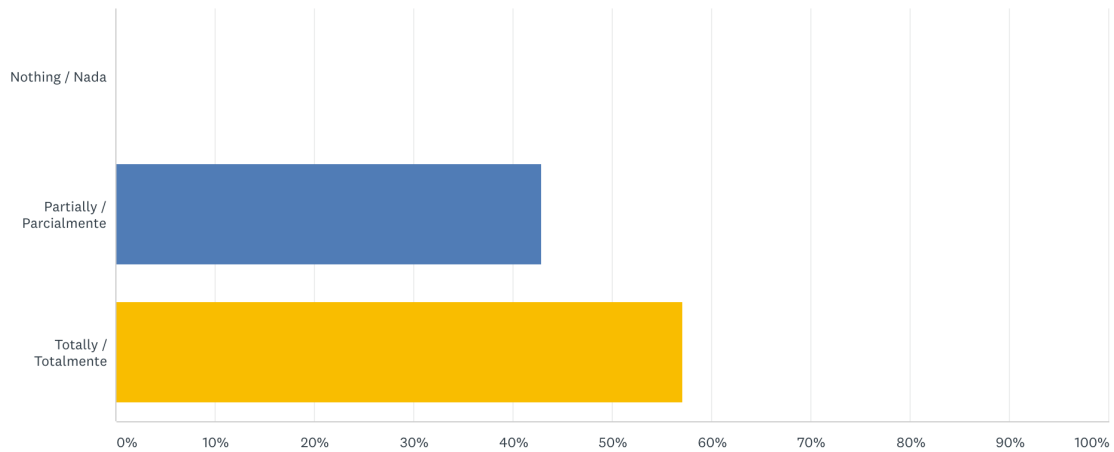
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Similarly, participants responded that the two main objectives of the Reflection Forum were either fully (approximately 60% of the votes) or partially (approximately 40%) met.

Graphic 5. In your perspective, has the objective of facilitating exchange between EU and LAC countries on strategies, national policies and cooperation to promote greener recovery been met?

From your perspective, was the objective to facilitate exchanges between EU and LAC countries on strategie...

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0



12th EU-LAC Reflection Forum

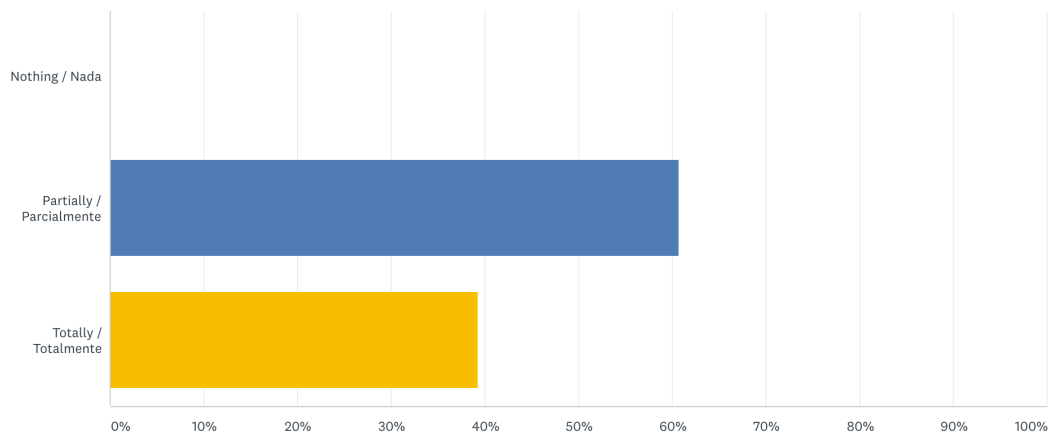
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According to 40% of the survey participants the Forum fully answered the question of session I: "How best to integrate climate change policies into economic recovery policies" while for 60%, this was only partially done.

Graphic 6. How could climate change policies be best integrated into economic recovery policies? What are the experiences of LAC and EU countries?

In your opinion, has the forum answered the question How could policies to fight climate change be best int...

Answered: 28 Skipped: 0



12th EU-LAC Reflection Forum

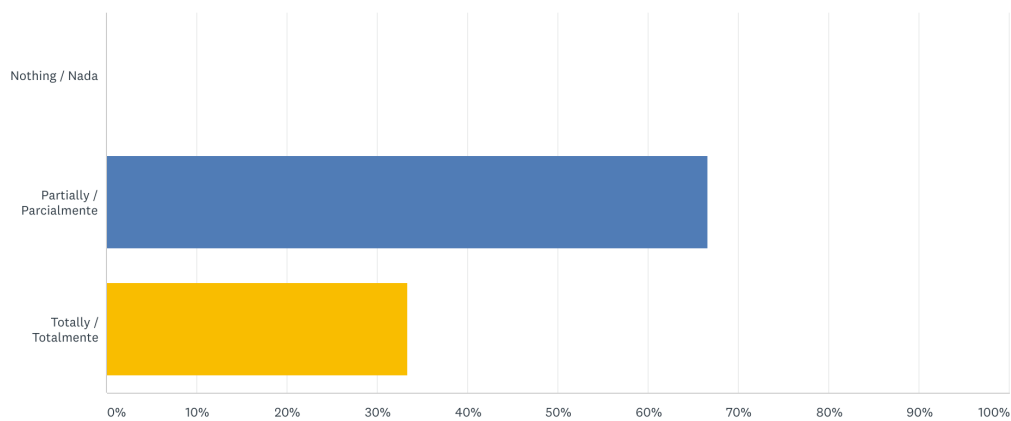
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On the question in Session II "How international cooperation can best contribute to meeting the challenges of greener recovery", just over 30% felt that the Forum responded fully and for almost 70% it responded partially.

Graphic 7. In your opinion, has the Forum addressed the question of how international cooperation can best help to address these challenges?

In your opinion, has the forum answered the question How can international cooperation best help address ...

Answered: 27 Skipped: 1



12th EU-LAC Reflection Forum

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### Family photo of the XII Reflection Forum





ANNEX I

Programme of the Reflection Forum

Reflection Forum 2021

19 April		
16:00 - 16:20h CEST	<b>Words of welcome</b>	<p><b>Leire Pajín</b>, President of the EU-LAC Foundation</p> <p><b>Dr Stanislav Raščan</b> State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia</p> <p><b>Claudia Gintersdorfer</b>, Head of the Americas Division, European External Action Service - EEAS</p> <p><b>Ambassador Mauricio Escanero</b>, Head of Mission of Mexico to the European Union and Representative of the Pro Tempore Presidency of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States - CELAC</p>
<p><b>Session 1: Lessons learned and institutional capacities to implement green recovery actions: What are the strategies and capacities to mobilise?</b></p>		
16:20 - 17:00h CEST	<b>Introduction and conceptualisation</b>	<p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <p><b>Andrea Meza Murillo</b>, Minister of Environment and Energy, Costa Rica</p> <p><b>Dr Lučka Kajfež Bogataj</b> Climatologist University of Ljubljana. Former Vice-Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Winner of the Nobel Prize</p> <p><b>Dr. Allan Lavell</b>, International Consultant and FLASCO Costa Rica researcher. Winner of the United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction.</p>

		<p><b>Jose Javier Gutierrez Blanco-Navarrete</b>, Deputy Director General for International Organisations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain</p>
17:00 - 18:20h CEST	<p><b>Reflection by Members on the following issues:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What lessons can we learn from past policies in each region and what successful experiences, methodologies and tools can be shared? What should future green transition policies look like?</li> <li>• How are countries' public sectors strengthening their capacities to adapt to changing needs in this area?</li> <li>• How can fiscal sustainability of green economic recovery policies be achieved?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Interventions by Members</b></p>
18:20 - 18:30h CEST	<p><b>Wrap-up/ Conclusions/ Concluding remarks</b></p>	<p><b>Adrián Bonilla</b>, Executive Director, EU-LAC Foundation</p>
<p><b>20 April</b></p>		
<p><b>Section 2: Strengthening the role of international cooperation in combating climate change: How can the EU and LAC strengthen their partnership to shape a greener recovery and promote sustainable development?</b></p>		
16:00 - 16:40h CEST	<p><b>Introduction and conceptualisation</b></p>	<p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <p><b>Felice Zaccheo</b>, Head of Unit, Directorate-General for International Partnerships DG INTPA</p> <p><b>José Javier Gómez</b>, Officer-in-Charge of the Climate Change Unit, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean - ECLAC</p> <p><b>Sebastián Nieto</b>, Director of the Latin America and the Caribbean Unit at the OECD Development Centre</p> <p><b>Adrien Vogt-Schilb</b>, Senior Economist, Climate Change Division, Inter-American Development Bank - IDB</p>



16:40: - 18:00h CEST	<b>Reflection by Members on the following issues:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What are the avenues and opportunities for cooperation between LAC and the EU to shape greener recovery and promote sustainable development?</li><li>• How can existing international cooperation efforts promoting green recovery be enhanced or complemented? What synergies could be envisaged from existing efforts?</li><li>• What could be additional instruments/tools/modalities/priorities for international cooperation to better match national and regional needs for green recovery?</li></ul>	<b>Interventions by members</b>
18:00 - 18:30h CEST	<b>Wrap-up/ Conclusions/ Concluding remarks</b>	<b>Adrián Bonilla</b> , Executive Director of the EU-LAC Foundation <b>Jernej Müller</b> Director of Policy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia



## ANNEX II. List of Participants

<b>a) EU DELEGATES</b>			
<b>Member</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Last name</b>	<b>First name</b>
Belgium	Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	van Kleunen	Eduard
Cyprus	Head of Americas Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Koukoularides	Ioannis
Czech Republic	Desk Officer - Department of Multilateral Economic Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Bencik	Tim
Denmark	Acting Director, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Kraup-Pedersen	Tue
Estonia	Counsellor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Kanarik	Katrin
Francia	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Bastelica	Philippe
Germany	Head of Division, Ministry of Environment	Contius	Stephan
Greece	Secretary General to the Prime Minister, Special Adviser on LAC	Pipinis	Iasonas
Hungary	Goodwill Ambassador to the EU-LAC Foundation	Koritár	Pál Varga
Hungary	LAC Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Rákóczi	Daniel
Italy	Counsellor, Directorate for Latin America, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Pavani	Raffaella
Latvia	Ambassador, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Bowe	Juris
Lithuania	Ambassador, EU Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Raudonikis	Edvilas
Lithuania	Ambassador, LAC Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Terra	Luna
Luxemburg	Transatlantic and LAC Relations Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Adler	Aurelien
Luxemburg	Transatlantic and LAC Relations Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Toschi	Stephanie

Netherlands	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Van Norren	Dorine
Netherlands	Policy officer, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Matulewicz	Michel
Poland	Deputy Director, Americas Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Barys	Dorota
Poland	First Counsellor, Americas Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Matutz	Izabela
Portugal	Directorate-General for European Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Alves Marques	Nuno
Romenia	Minister Plenipotentiary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Jurcan	Anca
Slovakia	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Zemba Juristova	Denisa
Slovenia	Climate Diplomacy Expert, Representative Slovenia COP 26, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Urh Lesjak	Jana
Slovenia	Ambassador for Circular Economy and Water, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Miškova	Tanja
Slovenia	Ambassador of Slovenia to Brazil	Renčelj	Gorazd
Slovenia	Minister Plenipotentiary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Gril	Irena
Slovenia	Americas Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Markov	Alenka
Slovenia	State Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Raščan	Stanislav
Slovenia	Political Director, Directorate for Common Foreign and Security Policy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Müller	Jernej
Spain	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Sanromán	Francisco Javier
Sweden	Officer, Americas Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Martebo	Jessica
EU	EEAS	Van Kerkhof	Thijs
EU	EEAS	Vassart	Yvan
EU	EEAS	Weins	Ulrich
EU	EEAS	Gintersdorfer	Claudia
EU	International Relations Officer, Bilateral and Regional Environmental Cooperation, DG ENVIRONMENT European Commission	Van Assche	Daniel

<b>LAC DELEGATES</b>			
<b>Member</b>	<b>Institution</b>	<b>Last name</b>	<b>First name</b>
Argentina	Second Secretary, Mission of Argentina to the EU	Gronda	Martin
Argentina	Secretary, Directorate of Regional Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Kalbermatten	Federico
Antigua and Barbuda	High Commissioner for Antigua and Barbuda to the United Kingdom, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Mae Hill	Karen
Antigua and Barbuda	Head of Delegation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Greene	Chet
Bolivia	Director General of Multilateral Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Paz Arauco	Maria Danielle
Bolivia	Director General of Bilateral Relations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Palomeque de la Cruz	Guadalupe
Brazil	Ambassador, Embassy of Brazil in Slovenia	Mosca	Renato
Chile	Head of International Affairs Office, Ministry of the Environment	León	Meilin
Chile	Ministry of Environment	Farias Burgos	Francisca
Colombia	Minister Counsellor, Colombian Mission to the EU	Valencia	Carlos
Colombia	Coordinator of Environmental Affairs, Directorate of Economic, Social and Environmental Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Arciniega Rosas	Laura Juliana
Costa Rica	Ministry of Environment and Energy	Villalta	Daniela
Cuba	Ambassador, Mission of Cuba to the EU	Goicochea	Norma
Cuba	Senior Officer in International Relations, Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment	González	Yadira
Dominican Republic	Counsellor, Mission to the EU	Herasme	Sarah
Dominican Republic	Ambassador, Mission to the EU	Ogando	Iván
Ecuador	Second Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador	Salas	Perla

Ecuador	Minister, Mission of Ecuador to the EU	Fornell	Agustín
Ecuador	Director of Regional Integration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Torres	Nelson
Ecuador	Technician for Adaptation to Climate Change, Ministry of the Environment	Bedón	Andrea
Ecuador	Ministry of Environment	Salazar	Fernando
El Salvador	Counsellor, Mission of El Salvador to the EU	Campos	Pablo
El Salvador	Ambassador, Mission to the EU	Ortíz Dubón	Hugo
Guatemala	Ambassador, Mission to the EU	Briz	José Alberto
Guatemala	Advisor, Ministry of Environment	Castañeda	Abbie Annette
Honduras	Counsellor, Mission to the EU	Atala	José
Honduras	Ambassador, Mission to the EU	Ochoa	Roberto
Jamaica	Director, Environmental Policy Development and Monitoring, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change	O'Reggio	Nicole
Jamaica	Chief Technical Director (Acting) Ministry of Environment and Climate Change	Guthrie	Gillian
Mexico	First Secretary, Mission to the EU	Navarro	José
Mexico	Ambassador, Mission to the EU	Escanero	Mauricio
Mexico	Mission to the EU	González Segura	Noel
Mexico	Mission to the EU	Hernández	Thomas
Nicaragua	Vice-Minister, Ministry of Development, Industry and Commerce	de Jesus Bermudez	José
Nicaragua	Vice-Minister, Ministry of Environment	Gutierrez	Javier
Nicaragua	Minister Counsellor, Mission to the EU	Müller	Zoila
Nicaragua	Ambassador, Mission to the EU	Venerio	Irana
Nicaragua	Director of Implementation and Negotiation of Trade Agreements, Ministry of Development, Industry and Trade, Nicaragua	Prieto	Maricruz
Panama	Director of Climate Change, Ministry of the Environment	Castro de Doens	Ligia
Panama	Ambassador, Mission to the EU	Francis	Yavel

Panama	Head of the Department of Environment and Climate Change, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Cañizales	Bolívar
Paraguay	Director of Regional Forua Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Bartolozzi	Federico
Paraguay	Second Secretary / Head of Trade Negotiations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Paola Benítez	Liz
Peru	Director General of Climate Change, Ministry of the Environment	Morales	Rosa
Peru	Director of Europe 1, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Vergara	David
Santa Lucía	Deputy Head, Sustainable Development Division, Ministry of Education, Innovation, Gender Relations and Sustainable Development	Pierre-Nathaniel	Dawn
Santa Lucia	Officer, Sustainable Development Division, Ministry of Education, Innovation, Gender Relations and Sustainable Development	Volley-Albert	Jeanel
Suriname	Ambassador, Mission to the EU	Burleson	Sieglien
Uruguay	Minister Counsellor, Deputy Director of the Directorate of Environment, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Manuel	Etchevarren
Uruguay	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Noel Manarrieta	Maria
Uruguay	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Montes de Oca	Silvana
Uruguay	Ministry of Environment	Marquez	Lorena
Venezuela	Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Di Carlo	Isabel
Venezuela	Ambassador, Mission to the EU	Campoverde	Enrique

#### INVITED EXPERTS

Role in Forum	Institution	Last name	First name
Panelist	Costa Rican Ministry of Environment and Energy	Meza Murillo	Andrea
Panelist	University of Ljubljana / UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)	Kajfež Bogataj	Lučkaj

Panelist	FLACSO Costa Rica	Lavell	Allan
Panelist	Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain	Gutierrez Blanco- Navarrete	José Javier
Panelist	Directorate-General for International Partnerships, European Commission	Zaccheo	Felice
Panelist	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean - ECLAC	Gomez	José Javier
Panelist	Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development - OECD	Nieto Parra	Sebastian
Panelist	Inter-American Development Bank - IDB	Vogt-Schilb	Adrien

REPRESENTATIVES OF ORGANISATIONS		
Organisation	Last name	First name
Head of Climate Change Division, ECLAC	Samaniego	José Luis
Policy Analyst, Development Centre, OECD	Caicedo	Adriana

ORGANISERS		
Institution	Last name	First name
EU-LAC Foundation President	Pajin	Leire
EU-LAC Foundation Executive Director	Bonilla	Adrian
EU-LAC Foundation Programme Manager,	Jeger	Ernesto
EU-LAC Foundation Programme Manager,	Barrera Vivero	Anna
EU-LAC Foundation Programme Manager,	Durán-Cruz	Diego
EU-LAC Foundation Programme Manager,	Maza	Carlos



EU-LAC Foundation, Assistant to the Executive Directorate	Melo	Marcela
EU-LAC Foundation, Junior Professional - Communication and Public Affairs	Wolff	Juana

#### ANNEX IV. Brief presentation of the experts who facilitated the Forum sessions



**Dr. Stanislav Raščan** is the State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia. He is a medical doctor and holds a master's degree and a doctorate in political science. A career diplomat, he has worked in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 1994. From 1995 to 1999, he served in Tokyo as Deputy Head of Mission, and upon his return to Slovenia in 2000, he assumed the position of Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In 2002, he served a brief

period as Chargé d'Affaires *ad interim* at the Slovenian Embassy in Tehran. In 2004, he was appointed Head of Department for Africa, Asia, the Middle East, Latin America and the Pacific, and in 2005, Director General for Multilateral Affairs.

In 2006, Dr. Raščan was appointed Ambassador to the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Slovenia to the OSCE in Vienna. In 2012, he took over the Directorate for Economic Diplomacy as Director General, and in 2015, he became Head of the Department for Strategic Studies and Analysis. Until his appointment as State Secretary, he served as Head of the Department for Asia and Oceania.

Dr. Raščan is an assistant professor of international security policy at the Faculty of Government and European Studies of the New University of Kranj, and occasionally lectures at the Diplomatic Academy of the Slovenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and at the Faculty of Slovenian and International Studies of the New University of Ljubljana. He has published over 150 articles, co-authored several books and written two monographs on international politics.

Since 2021, he is Chairman of the Executive Board of the Centre for a European Perspective (CEP) and Chairman of the Board of Directors of ITF Enhancing Human Security.



**Dr. Lučka Kajfež Bogataj** graduated from the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Engineering, received her PhD from the Faculty of Biotechnology and did postdoctoral training in the USA and Sweden.

She has been a member of the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) for 16 years, in which she has served in several different capacities. In 2007, for her efforts to raise public awareness of the consequences of global warming, the IPCC received the Nobel Peace Prize, and Lučka Kajfež Bogataj, as part of the IPCC, became a joint recipient of the Nobel Prize.

A year later, the then President of Slovenia, Danilo Türk, awarded her the Order of Merit "for her far-reaching scientific work in the field of climate change studies and her dedication to environmental protection". She received a medal for scientific merit



from the University of Veracruz (2008), an honorary doctorate from the University of Primorska (2011) and, at the European level, she was named in the group of women inspiring Europe (2012).

Her research focuses on the field of climate change and applied meteorology, especially on the impact of climate and climate change on plant production and humankind. She collaborates on numerous projects, both nationally and internationally.

Among the projects with media relevance is the European Heat-Shield project, in which researchers from the Faculty of Biotechnology at the University of Ljubljana, including Dr. Lučka Kajfež Bogataj, in collaboration with the Jožef Stefan Institute, are determining how heat waves affect workers.

Aware of the importance of communicating quality information, her work does not stop at the door of the faculty and she actively participates in public debates, round tables and conferences aimed at familiarising the general public with this professional field. As a result, her work includes several hundred popular and professional articles and three books for young people.



**Andrea Meza Murillo** is the Minister of Environment and Energy of Costa Rica. She is an expert in sustainable development with more than 20 years of experience in public policy formulation and project implementation. She has worked in more than 15 Latin American countries in multidisciplinary projects funded by various multilateral agencies (IDB, World Bank, CAF, European Union, UNDP), bilateral (AECID, GIZ) and national governments.



**Dr. Allan Lavell**, PhD is FLACSO Costa Rica's Coordinator of the Social Studies, Risks and Disasters Programme and Coordinator for Central America and the Caribbean of the Latin American Network of Social Studies for Disaster Prevention (LA RED). In 2015, during a ceremony at the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in Sendai, Japan, Lavell was announced as the winner of the prestigious United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Lavell has made important contributions to ICSU's disaster risk activities over the years. He was a member of the ICSU Planning Group on Natural and Human-Induced Environmental Hazards and Disasters that drafted the IRDR science plan. He is also a member of

the Steering Committee of the ICSU Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ICSU ROLAC) for Disaster Risk Reduction and is part of the working group preparing the second version of the IRDR FORIN methodological document.

He completed a PhD in economic geography from the London School of Economics and Political Sciences in 1971, and a Master's degree in economic geography in 1967. He has also written more than 92 academic publications. Among his professional activities of relevance, it is possible to include: Coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean of the Programme of Social Studies in Disasters of the General Secretariat of FLACSO in Costa Rica (1992-2005); Director of the Central American Research Programme, CSUCA in San José, Costa Rica (1986-1991); Associate Professor at the Centre for Demographic and Urban Studies of the Colegio de México; and Associate Professor and Researcher at the Centre for Environmental Studies of the Autonomous Metropolitan University, Azcapotzalco, Mexico.



**Javier Gutiérrez** entered the Spanish diplomatic service in 1997. He has been Second-in-Command at the Embassies in India and Mauritania, Political Counsellor at the Embassy in Brazil and Deputy Consul in Jerusalem. He was also posted as Counsellor in the Permanent Representation to the United Nations, coinciding with Spain's mandate in the Security Council in 2015-2016, during which time he was Coordinator for Non-Proliferation and Sanctions. At the United Nations, he also covered the committees dedicated to legal issues, decolonisation and disarmament and international security. In the central services, he has been Head of Service for North Africa, Adviser to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and, since 2017, Deputy Director General for International Organisations and focal point for climate and environmental diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation. He holds a degree in Law and a Master of Arts in International Politics.



**Felice Zaccheo** has more than 25 years of experience in international cooperation and development. He started his professional career in the field as head of a rural development project in Ethiopia. He has been director and advisor of several development projects funded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Peru, Tanzania, Tunisia and Nicaragua. Mr Zaccheo joined the European Commission in 1997 in the Food and Veterinary Office in Dublin. He returned to Africa in 1999, as Head of Rural Development at the EU Delegation in Nigeria. Among other tasks, he was responsible for rural development micro-projects in the Niger Delta. In 2003-2007 he was Head of Rural Development at the EU Delegation in Jamaica. One of his main tasks was the implementation of development projects in the Caribbean, including Jamaica and Belize. Since 2007 he has been working at the European Commission headquarters in Brussels. From 2016 until May 2019, he was the Head of the Unit for Sustainable Energy and Climate Change in DEVCO's Directorate for Planet and Prosperity. In June 2019, he was appointed Head of Unit for Regional Programmes for Latin America and the Caribbean at DG INTPA.



**Sebastián Nieto Parra** is the Director of the Latin America and the Caribbean Unit at the OECD Development Centre, and manages the annual flagship publication "Latin American Economic Outlook", as well as the OECD's Latin American and Caribbean income statistics and multidimensional country analyses in the region.

His research interests include development finance, economic development, infrastructure policy and connectivity, and political economy in emerging economies. Prior to joining the OECD, he was LAC economist at Banco Santander, Madrid, worked on financial sector regulation and mortgage market development, and in the Colombian Central Bank and Ministry of Finance.

In addition to his position at the OECD, he is also Professor of Emerging Markets Economic Policy at Sciences Po, Paris. He holds a PhD in economics and completed his postgraduate studies in economics at Sciences Po, Paris, and at the Toulouse School of Economics.



**José Javier Gómez García** has been a staff member of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) since 1986. Currently Environmental Affairs Officer, he has previously been Economic Affairs Officer and has participated in the elaboration of numerous studies of the institution and in collaboration with other international agencies.



**Adrien Vogt-Schild** is a Senior Economist in the Climate Change Division, Inter-American Development Bank - IDB. His research interests include Energy Economics, Environmental Economics and Green Economics. Adrien's work focuses on the design of effective and politically acceptable decarbonisation strategies. Adrien also works on quantifying the impact of policies that build socio-economic resilience to natural disasters and climate change, and on methods to facilitate the co-construction of public policies with a variety of stakeholders and objectives. Adrien holds a PhD in economics and is the author of 4 books and

30 academic articles on the topic of climate change and development.



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**Jernej Müller** has been Political Director at the Common Foreign and Security Policy Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Slovenia since 2020. He has been a diplomat at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs since 2001. He holds a degree in International Relations from the University of Ljubljana (Slovenia).