Priorities of the Czech Presidency of the EU Council
We are herewith pleased to share with you the third edition of the EU-LAC Foundation’s bimonthly Newsletter 2022, in which we inform you about our latest work.

During the last two months, we were able to celebrate several meetings and events that addressed present topics of the EU-CELAC strategic partnership. For instance, the high-level event “EU-Central America Dialogue Sessions: New Partnerships for Development” took place in Panama in June with the support of the Panamanian Foreign Ministry, the Carolina Foundation and the OECD Development Centre, and allowed fruitful exchanges about renewed EU-Central American alliances and the potential for addressing today’s pressing global challenges through collaboration. Find more about the conclusions and concrete proposal of this and other encounters in our news section.

I am particularly pleased that following my participation at the Conference “Czech Republic and Ibero-America” within the framework of the Ibero-American Week in Prague in May, we are delighted to share an opinion article by Jan Lipavský, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic in this edition of our newsletter about the priorities of this country, which recently assumed the rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union. I cordially invite you to read his opinion piece on the Czech Presidency’s interests in forging its relations with the regions of Latin America and the Caribbean.

One of the mentioned topics by Minister Lipavský is the existing Association Agreements between the EU and LAC. With respect thereto, and to many other relevant issues, the EU-LAC Foundation and its partners have published timely publications, e.g. on the modernization of the EU-Mexico and the EU-Chile association agreement, policies to promote Open Science and public health during the COVID-19 Crisis.

Finally, we would like to notify you about the opening of four different tenders, including a contest to design the new “Latin American and Caribbean Fall” Festival poster. This year’s edition of the Festival in Hamburg calls attention to the essential role languages play in communication, understanding and cultural exchange between Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe and will take place from September 5 to November 11. We look forward to hearing from you!
Starting the 1st of July the Czech Republic is holding, for the second time since its accession to the EU, the rotating Presidency in the Council of the European Union. It is an honour and it is a duty.

In January 2009, the start of our first EU Presidency was overshadowed by the conflict between Russia and Ukraine over gas deliveries. As a result of that dispute, millions of Europeans were left without gas supplies in the middle of the harsh European winter. This time we are taking over the Presidency role, the challenge is far greater. Since February 24th the Russian military is plundering the territory of its neighbor, killing tens of thousands civilians, destroying cities and villages and sending shock waves across the globe by blocking Ukraine food export so vital to dozens of countries all over the world. Therefore naturally, the war in Ukraine and its consequences will be at the top of our presidency agenda.

I am fully aware that we cannot limit ourselves to Europe and its immediate neighborhood. For almost 10 years Czechia has been very active in efforts to stabilize the Sahel region and we shall continue to work on that task during the upcoming six months. The Indo-Pacific region is, for many reasons, becoming an increasingly important pole of geopolitical gravity. The EU has adopted its Strategy for Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific last year and it is only logical that the cooperation with the region is also one of the priorities of the Czech Presidency. The Transatlantic link remains the main pillar of our foreign policy while security and defense cooperation constitutes the most important element of the transatlantic bond.

In addition to this engagement, I would like to highlight that the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean are key partners sharing many common values and interests. Strengthening our relation is a strategic priority in the world where democracy and rule of law are so threatened. Pressing challenges affect us all.

In May, as a prelude to our presidency we hosted the International Ibero-American conference entitled “the Czech Republic and Ibero-America - Promoting Development, Prosperity and Democracy”. The conference focused on current issues of cooperation between the two regions including joint efforts to overcome global challenges and was attended by prominent guests. The conference took place within the Ibero-American week proving once again that both regions were firmly related.

The modernization of agreements with Chile and Mexico and progress on complex MERCOSUR agenda represent our key priorities towards Latin America. Surely, we will not forget the Caribbean. Signing the new EU - OACSP (Organization of African, the Caribbean and Pacific States) agreement has our genuine support. We must joint forces. We simply cannot miss this opportunity to finalize these agreements and neglect their strategic value. We consider it especially significant in the context of current supply chain and energy vulnerabilities.

I am convinced we should cooperate more closely within the UN and the WTO to enhance growth, employment and economic ties. The current crisis makes bolstering of our trade co-
operation even more vital. Mutual benefits of our partnership are clearly manifested in bi-regional trade and investment. There are many fields in which we can strengthen our cooperation such as small and medium sized enterprises or digital agenda. We will focus on trade, investment and sectoral cooperation. Supporting Latin America and the Caribbean in countering climate change, tackling health issues and fighting against poverty and inequality are both in LAC’s as well as in the EU’s interests. These are prominent global issues in which our cooperation is essential.

The Russian aggression has completely changed the geopolitical situation, while proving once again that great majority of Latin America and the Caribbean are reliable partners. Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean emerge as the two most like-minded regions sharing history, cultural affinity, strong contacts and belief in effective multilateralism. Though geographically apart, we build our partnership on shared values and principles.

I very much appreciated the solid front of Latin America and the Caribbean towards pressing challenges. Nevertheless, we cannot take the region’s position for granted. Personal relations are vital, and we will support people-to-people contacts as well as high-level political dialogue. First and foremost, we will uphold efforts for resumption of high-level EU - CELAC dialogue.

The strategic communication is crucial nowadays. We will enhance our efforts to explain the EU’s position, to counter Russia’s narrative which blames EU and NATO for its invasion of Ukraine and severe impacts it has on many countries that depend on imports to feed their populations. We will continue to assist to fight Russia’s disinformation and to keep outreach efforts.

Last but not least, having had the formative experience of many decades of lack of freedom it is only natural that resilience of democratic institutions became one of our priorities. In this context I would like to bring to mind our president Václav Havel, who was the main champion of these principles. President Havel visited a number of Latin American countries and addressed the Latin American Parliament - “Parlatino” in 1996. We will continue develop his legacy and stand up for democratic principles and the rule of law.

Strengthening bi-regional partnership will surely bear fruit on both sides of the Atlantic. Let me conclude on a personal note: in my office I have a statue of the “Niño Jesús de Praga”/Infant Jesus of Prague, immensely popular in Latin America and the Caribbean. Yet another evidence that our ties are unexpectedly close.
News

Book Launch: “Multilateralism and Regionalism in challenging times: relations between Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean”

The EU-LAC Foundation and the Regionalism Observatory presented last 27 July the Book “Multilateralism and Regionalism in challenging times: relations between Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean”. This book follows up on a series of Webinars organised in 2021 on strategic topics regarding bi-regional relations between the European Union (EU) and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).


Latin America studies in Europe: The EU-LAC Foundation travels to Helsinki to participate in current debates

Invited by the 10th Annual Conference of the European Council of Investigations on Latin America (CEISAL) in Helsinki, Dr Adrián Bonilla, the Executive Director of the EU-LAC International Foundation participated as a speaker in the panel “Latin America studies in Europe: Applying area studies in a multipolar world.” The visit was also used to hold meetings with key stakeholders of the Foundation regarding its internal procedures and the planning of activities.

Latin America and Caribbean Week in Paris
17 June 2022

In the framework of the Latin American and Caribbean Week in Paris, representatives of the EU-LAC Foundation participated in the 10th Annual Symposium with the Institut des Amériques (IdA), the French Agency for Development (AFD) and the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs of France (MEAE), and in the co-organised event “Geopolitics of the Energy Transition: Which associations for EU-LAC?”.

Read more:

The EU-LAC Foundation travels to Panama to advance bi-regional cooperation in Central America
10 June 2022

In the framework of the co-organised high-level event “EU-Central America Dialogue Sessions: New Partnerships for Development & International Forum for Youth and Employment” Leire Pajín, President of the EU-LAC Foundation and her team, travelled to Panama City.

Read more:
The EU-LAC Foundation brings together key actors to discuss the potential of renewed EU-Central America partnerships
06 June 2022

On 1 and 2 June, the Dialogue Sessions “New Partnerships for Development” between the European Union (EU) and Central America were held in Panama City at the Palacio Bolivar, with the objective of providing a platform for renewed political and technical dialogue to strengthen and give visibility to the bi-regional partnership, while discussing and proposing ways to jointly address the pending development challenges in the framework of sustainable post-pandemic recovery.

Read more:

Raising the visibility of the EU-LAC strategic partnership in Brussels
03 June 2022

Representatives of the EU-LAC Foundation travelled to Brussels to participate in the inauguration of “EULAT4Culture”, an initiative to strengthen cultural cooperation between Europe and Latin America, organised by the EU National Institutes for Culture (EUNIC) with the support of the European External Action Service and SEGIB’s Ibero-American Cultural Network (RIDCULT). Additionally, the EU-LAC Foundation held meetings with key stakeholders to coordinate the next steps related to institutional processes such as the Headquarters Agreement, the upcoming Board of Governors Meetings, and the planning of activities in the second semester of 2022 and 2023, including an eventual EU-CELAC Summit.

Read more:
UNESCO kindly extended an invitation to the EU-LAC Foundation to organise a roundtable on Open Science at this Conference on May 19 on “Innovations and proposals for interregional cooperation in Open Science from a university perspective”.

Read more:

On the occasion of the UNESCO World Conference on Higher Education 2022 (WHEC2022), 17-20 May 2022, the Executive Director of the EU-LAC Foundation, Dr Adrián Bonilla, and the Senior Programme Coordinator, Dr Anna Barrera, travelled to Barcelona at the invitation of the WHEC.

Read more:
Long Night of the Consulates 2022
17 May 2022

On Tuesday 10 May, the EU-LAC Foundation had the pleasure to participate in the Long Night of the Consulates programme in its home city of Hamburg. The Long Night of the Consulates invites consulates and international organisations in Hamburg to open their doors to the general public to present their countries and their work. The event also culminated the Europe Week, which is held annually to highlight the outstanding European and international relations of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg.

Read more:

EU-LAC Foundation Mission to Prague
16 May 2022

The Executive Director of the EU-LAC Foundation, Adrián Bonilla, travelled to Prague, Czech Republic, from 9 to 11 May 2022, where he held different meetings with partners of the International Organisation, in addition to participating in the Conference “Czech Republic and Ibero-America”, organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic.

Read more:
The EU-LAC Foundation convened panels at the LASA 2022 Virtual Congress – „Socio-Environmental Polarisation and Great Power Rivalry“
10 May 2022

Read more:
https://eulacfoundation.org/en/
eu-lac-foundation-convened-panels-lasa-2022-virtual-congress-socio-environmental-polarisation-and

The EU-LAC Foundation, IAI and GIGA-ILAS convened European-based Research Centres and Study Associations to discuss perspectives on Latin America and the Caribbean and the potential of EU-LAC relations
6 May 2022

Read more:
https://eulacfoundation.org/en/
eu-lac-foundation-iai-and-giga-ilas-convened-european-based-research-centres-and-study-associations

In order to contribute to the analysis and dialogue between experts from Latin America and the Caribbean and Europe to achieve the proposed goals of this Congress, the EU-LAC Foundation has convened the following panels and round tables in the framework of the LASA Virtual Congress 2022.

On April 28 and 29, 19 representatives of European-based research centres and study associations dedicated to the analysis of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and the bi-regional EU-LAC relations came together in the Simon Bolivar Hall of the Ibero-American Institute (IAI).
Meeting of the EESC Latin America Follow-up Committee: Socioeconomic Situation in Latin America after the COVID-19 Crisis

02 May 2022

On April 29, the EU-LAC Foundation participated in the meeting of the External Relations Section (REX) of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), through Ernesto Jeger, Senior Programme Manager - Sustainable Development and Economic Affairs, where the Report of the Study Group on the economic situation of Latin America in the context of the COVID-19 crisis was presented, and the role of civil society in the recovery was discussed. This report shows how in recent years the region has experienced a progressive economic slowdown after the end of the expansionary cycle of raw materials, and after the coronavirus crisis, structural problems and development traps have been exacerbated.

The modernization of the EU-Mexico Association Agreement: between change and continuity

Within the framework of consolidating an open strategic autonomy that allows it to face the current challenges, the European Union (EU) has undertaken the challenge of strengthening global cooperation through its extensive network of association and free trade agreements. Mexico has maintained a close relationship with the EU since the Global Agreement, in force since 2000. In 2016 it was announced its modernization in order to promote a state-of-the-art agreement that responds to international changes and incorporates crucial elements for sustainable development, such as social and environmental clauses.

In this context, the main objective of this document is to identify and analyse to what extent the modernization and ratification of the Mexico-European Union Global Agreement (and its full use) can contribute to a better international insertion in economic matters of each party, to its role in international relations, and to the transitions that they must undertake in aspects such as sustainable development, digitization and social cohesion. Through the pillars of the Global Agreement, in terms of political dialogue, trade and cooperation, it consists, in particular, of highlighting the potential of the agreement in order to reaffirm its strategic autonomy and contribute to the strengthening of multilateralism.

Version in English:
https://eulacfoundation.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/Especial_FC_EULAC_7_EN.pdf

Version in Spanish:
https://eulacfoundation.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/Especial_FC_EULAC_7_ESP.pdf
The Association Agreement between the European Union and Central America: a potential to be exploited

The case of the Association Agreement (AA) signed in 2013 between the European Union (EU) and Central America is very relevant within the framework of EU-Latin America relations. It is the first bi-regional agreement and builds on the precedents of the San José Process in the framework of the Esquipulas Agreements, a success story of the EU’s positive impact on international relations. This document analyses the development of the trade pillar and the difficulties in developing the political dialogue and cooperation pillars, which are pending ratification. The preliminary results of the agreement are positive, but of low intensity for the two regions. They have not lived up to expectations regarding the EU’s impact in supporting Central American development and have not generated significant incentives to improve Central America’s prominence among EU member states. Recovering the more informal but more dynamic mechanisms of political dialogue between the two regions prior to the agreement seems to be an indispensable condition for the agreement to develop its potential.

Version in English:

Version in Spanish:
https://eulacfoundation.org/es/el-acuerdo-associacion-entre-la-union-europea-y-centroamerica-un-potencial-por-explotar
Policies, Practices, and Tools to Promote Open Science. Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union in Trans-regional Perspective

This document is largely based on the presentations and discussions during virtual dialogues on Open Science organised by the EU-LAC Foundation and OBREAL Global together with partners from different regions held on 6 and 7 April 2022. The main objective of the dialogues was to highlight policies, practices, and tools to promote Open Science, as well as emerging Open Science cooperation initiatives between institutions and networks in the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean, and other regions of the world. The seminar showed that Open Science means much more than open access to scientific publications and research data. Taking Open Science seriously means fundamentally rethinking conventional, sometimes outdated, processes of evaluation and indexing. It also means understanding that sharing scientific advances with all people is a fundamental human right and that the process of scientific research cannot be detached from the societies and peoples that fund it. The dialogues have shown that Latin America is far ahead of Europe when it comes to Open Access. This is probably because research funding in Latin America is almost exclusively in the hands of the state; in addition, the lack of access is also an indicator of social inequality. In Europe, Open Access and Open Science have a strong advocate in the EU. Still, despite all the Commission’s recommendations, it always comes down to what is implemented at the national level. In the last two decades, several Latin American organisations have developed numerous ideas on Open Science that could also be useful for the European debate. Bi-regional and inter-regional dialogue is therefore essential.
Societies, crises and public health

In the framework of the annual “Latin America and Caribbean Week” in France, the EU-LAC Foundation and the Institut des Amériques (IdA), together with the French Development Agency (AFD) and with the support of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and the European Commission, organised a colloquium to enhance and strengthen the bi-regional relationship.

In 2021 the colloquium dealt with the theme “Societies, crises and public health (COVID-19) in Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean” and took place in a virtual format on 31 May, 1 and 2 June. The colloquium was structured in an opening session, keynote lectures, round tables and a closing session. Participants included policymakers and local authorities, representatives of international, regional, financial and media organisations, researchers from Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union.

The preparation of this document was directed by Anne Peggy Hellequin, professor of geography at the University of Paris Nanterre and head of the Health, Health Issues and Territory workshop of the LADYSS (UMR 7533), with Mady Malheiros Barbeitas, veterinarian and doctor of health and social sciences, researcher associated with Cermes 3, UMR CNRS 8211 - Inserm Unit 988. The book was produced with the support of Paul-Henri Giraud and Sarah Fleury.

Version in English/Spanish/French:
https://eulacfoundation.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/Publication%20colloque%202021.pdf
Modernising the EU-Chile Association Agreement: strengthening an alliance for social inclusion and environmental sustainability

This research paper analyzes the results of the Association Agreement (AA) between the European Union and Chile, which entered into force in 2003, up to the present time when its modernization is being negotiated. After 19 years of the agreement, the international context has changed both in its political and economic dimensions, so it is important to analyze what role these agreements can have in the face of the challenges of the post-pandemic recovery and the objectives of both regions in terms of strategic autonomy, in the geopolitical field, and in the transition towards new development models that respond to shared challenges such as climate change, ecological transition, digitalization, social inclusion or the revitalization of multilateralism.

Version in English:
https://eulacfoundation.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/Especial_FC_EULAC_5_EN.pdf

Version in Spanish:
https://eulacfoundation.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/Especial_FC_EULAC_5_ESP.pdf
Blog Articles

Claudia Zilla

From bad times to great opportunities, a usual hope

13 May 2022

Can the crisis become an opportunity for the reactivation of relations between the European Union (EU) and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)? Asking this question has become – I have the impression – a habit for those of us who deal with bi-regional relations and consider them to be below their potential. Each time a new challenge appears on the horizon, there is a renewed hope that it will not lead to a self-absorbed focus of attention and resources but a re-appreciation of cooperation with those on the other side of the Atlantic. The expectation is that the shared plight will foster a joint effort, or at least a position of solidarity. On these occasions, experts contribute to building the desired bridge over the ocean by drawing up lists of advantages and opportunities that would generate an intensification of relations between the EU and LAC in the current crisis. It occurred with the Covid-19 pandemic and it is happening with the Russian military attack on Ukraine.

Read more:
The European and Ibero-American Academy of Yuste Foundation and the EU-LAC Foundation are organising, in collaboration with the University of Extremadura, the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB) and the Euroamerica Foundation, the course ‘The Challenge of Working Together: European Union-Latin American and Caribbean Relations in the Face of the Great Global Challenges’, which will take place between 20 and 22 July 2022.

More information and register on our website!

The “Latin American and Caribbean Fall” is a festival conceived by the Senate of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg following the interest of the group of Latin American and Caribbean Consuls accredited in Hamburg. It takes place annually and aims to improve the visibility and knowledge of Latin America and the Caribbean in Hamburg through a programme of activities that allows the interested public to participate in the discussion of social, economic and political issues and at the same time brings the public closer to the cultural richness of this region. It is distinguished by an agenda with topics of interest for Latin America and the Caribbean and its relations with the European Union - especially with Germany. It also aims to create cooperative links with all entities that share its vision and objectives.

More information on our website!
Tenders

Design contest for the 2022 “Latin American and Caribbean Fall” Festival

The “Latin American and Caribbean Fall” Festival is an initiative by the Senate of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg together with the Latin American and Caribbean Consulates and Embassies. The festival takes place annually since 2014 and aims to enhance the knowledge and visibility of Latin America and the Caribbean in Hamburg through activities that allow the interested public to participate in the discussion of social, economic and political issues and to immerse itself in the cultural richness of this region. The EU-LAC Foundation has assumed the general coordination of the activity since 2017.

The central topic of the 2022 edition is “Speaking Languages - Communicating Cultures”. Therefore, the EU-LAC Foundation is launching a call for the design of the festival’s official image. The designed image will be used as the official poster for this year’s festival edition, as well as flyers, cover for brochures and headers for social media.

Join us with your fresh ideas and help us make the festival a success!

**Deadline:** 7 August 2022

Read more about the tender here!

Design & Printing Services

The EU-LAC Foundation is an international organisation based in Hamburg, Germany. It is launching a call for tenders for the conclusion of several framework contracts with individual contractors for the provision of custom graphic design and/or printing services.

**Deadline:** 12 August 2022

Read more about the tender here!
https://eulacfoundation.org/en/tender-design-printing-services
Call for the second edition of the “Training and awareness programme for young diplomats on the EU-CELAC strategic partnership”

Within the framework of Argentina’s Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC, the EU-LAC Foundation and the Instituto del Servicio Exterior de la Nación (ISEN) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Trade and Worship of Argentina launch the call for the 2nd edition of the Training and Awareness Programme for young diplomats on the EU-CELAC Strategic Partnership, to be held from October 31 to November 4, 2022 in the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Participants must be duly accredited by their respective Ministry of Foreign Affairs through an official communication addressed to the EU-LAC Foundation and ISEN.

Read more about the tender here!
Job Opportunity

**Assistant to the Executive Director & Receptionist (M/F/D)**

Expected to start from 15.08.2022, the Foundation is recruiting an Assistant to the Executive Director & Receptionist (M/F/D) to work in the EU-LAC Foundation’s headquarters in Hamburg, Germany.

Please send your job application including a resume, motivation letter with salary expectations, transcripts and/or certifications of academic studies, language skills and professional experience by e-mail to recruitment@eulacfoundation.org using “Assistant to the Executive Director / Receptionist”.

**Deadline:** 7 August 2022

[Read more about the vacancy here!](https://eulacfoundation.org/en/assistant-executive-director-receptionist-m/f/d)
The EU-LAC Foundation is funded through the voluntary contributions of its Members and in particular, for this activity, from the European Union and the German Federal Foreign Office.