



THE CARIBBEAN AND THE CELAC – EU SYNERGY

Operational proposals after the Santiago Summit

**International Seminar
14 May 2013 / 09H30 – 19H00**

**ICHEC Brussels Management School
Boulevard Brand Whitlock 2, 1150 Brussels**

**Organized
Under the Auspices of
the CELAC, the EU and
the Belgian Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

**By the “Interuniversity Institute for the Relations
between The European Union, Latin America and
the Caribbean” – IRELAC (Brussels)
the EU-LAC Foundation (Hamburg)
and the Institute of the Americas – IdA (Paris)**

The IRELAC, the EU-LAC Foundation and the IdA propose to dedicate an international seminar to the issues and challenges the Caribbean region is facing in the framework of the EU-CELAC partnership. The Caribbean space is affected in specific ways by several issues, among others, climate change, financial constraints, interconnectivity challenges, and the changes in the trade arrangements and regional cooperation with the EU as well as with its Latin American partners inside the new CELAC scheme. The new Caribbean-EU Joint Strategy and the EU-CELAC Action Plan intersect at several points, while the region's specific conditions necessitate a reflection process on how to fully involve the Caribbean in the bi-regional association. The main purpose of the seminar is thus to open a space for a free exchange of views between academic experts and official authorities in order to contribute to spurring the momentum reached at the Santiago Summit to improve the Caribbean's involvement in the implementation of the Santiago Action Plan and fostering its full integration both in CELAC and in the EU bi-regional cooperation. The EU-Caribbean cooperation policy is still dispersed and in some ways incoherent with European as well as Caribbean intentions of associating the region more closely to the Latin American *and Caribbean* space, expressed at the EU-LAC Summits and in the growing inclusion of the Caribbean into the CELAC dynamics. It is all the more important to adapt the EU instruments that the Joint Caribbean-EU Partnership Strategy plans to establish a structured framework for broader and deeper political dialogue. Topics of intersection between the Caribbean-EU Joint Strategy, the EU-CELAC Action Plan, and the EU-LAC process more generally deserve particular attention. The goal of this seminar is thus threefold:

- Identify synergies between the Caribbean-EU Joint Strategy and the EU-CELAC Action Plan
- Analyse the specific situation of the Caribbean within the EU-CELAC partnership with a view to enhance its participation in it.
- Reflect upon aspects of interconnectivity in the Caribbean within the EU-CELAC setting.

Based on these reflections, the seminar conclusions should allow the identification of first operative steps to be taken to further integration of the Caribbean in the bi-regional partnership.





9h15 – 9h45 Registration and welcome

9h45 – 11h00

- **Welcome Address by Professor Brigitte Chanoine, Rector of the ICHEC**
- **Opening Address by Benita Ferrero-Waldner, President of the EU-LAC Foundation**
- **Keynote Speech by Lady Catherine Ashton, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, represented by Roland Schäfer, Director for the Americas, EEAS**
- **Jean-Michel Blanquer, President of the Institute of the Americas – IdA**

11h00- 11h15 Coffee break

11h15 – 12h45

The Caribbean in the frame of the EU-CELAC relations

Chairperson: HE Margaret King-Rousseau, Ambassador of Trinidad & Tobago to the European Union

- **Antonio Romero**, Director of the International Trade and Integration Department of CIEI, University of La Habana
- **John Caloghirou**, Head of the Caribbean Division, European External Action Service
- **Lancelot Cowie**, Centre for Latin America & the Caribbean at the University of the West Indies, Trinidad & Tobago

Discussant: Rogelio Perez-Bustamante, Cátedra Jean Monnet and Director of the Centre of Excellence Jean Monnet at the University Rey Juan Carlos, Madrid

- **Gunter Pauli**, « ZERI, Zero Emission Research Initiative»

Open discussion

12h45 – 14h00 : Lunch break

14h00 – 15h45

Caribbean Challenges: Growth, Environment, Climate Change, Natural Disasters

Chairperson : HE Wilfred Christopher, Ambassador of Suriname to the European Union

- **Jacques-Edouard Alexis**, former Prime Minister, Founder of the University of Quisqueya, Haiti
- **Leonel Fernandez**, Former President of the Dominican Republic and President of FUNGLODE
- **Philippe Orliange**, Director of the L.A.C. Departement at the « Agence Française de Développement »
- **Diane Quarless**, Director of the ECLAC subregional headquarters for the Caribbean, Port-of-Spain

Discussant: Margaretha Mazura, Secretary General of EMF

Open discussion

15h45 - 16h15 Coffee break

16h15 – 17h30

Interconnectivity in Transport, Energy, Communications, Development, Research and Innovation

Chairperson : HE Vilma McNish, Ambassador of Jamaica to the European Union

- **Len Ishmael**, Organization of Eastern Caribbean States
- **Jean-Philippe Fons**, Vice-President for International Relations at the « Université des Antilles et de la Guyane »
- **Dhanaraj Thakur**, Department of Government, University of the West Indies, Jamaica

Discussant: Christiane Daem, Executive Secretary of IRELAC

Open discussion

17h30 – 18h30

Conclusions: Operational Proposals

Chairperson: Frank van de Craen, Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, Belgian Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs

- **Christian Ghymers**, President of IRELAC
- **Carlos Quenan**, Vice-President of IdA
- **Jorge Valdez**, Executive Director of the EU-LAC Foundation

18h30-19h00

Closing Remarks

- **HE F. Constant**, French Ambassador in charge of regional cooperation for the Caribbean region
- **François de Kerchove d'Exaerde**, Director of the Cabinet to the Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs
- **Representative of Caribbean Minister**

19h00 Cocktail

Access to the Seminar is free of charge, but under registration.

The Seminar will be transmitted on Internet.

Working languages: English – French – Spanish

Information and registration: irelac@ichec.be