

HIGH LEVEL MEETING
BETWEEN THE EU AND THE MEMBER STATES
OF THE CENTRAL AMERICAN INTEGRATION SYSTEM

Brussels, 11 June 2015

The Heads of State and Government of Member States of the Central American Integration System (SICA) met with the Presidents of the European Council and the European Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, with the purpose of reviewing the close cooperation between the two regions and adopted the following

JOINT COMMUNIQUE

1. The Parties stressed that this meeting was the first between the Heads of State and Government of SICA Member States with the participation of the Dominican Republic as a full member, Presidents of the European Council and European Commission and the High Representative of the European Union (EU) for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, in the presence of the Secretary General of SICA.
2. They reaffirmed their determination to continue promoting their excellent relations -started more than 30 years with the San Jose Dialogue in 1984 and reinforced by the entry into force in May 2014 of the Political Dialogue and Cooperation (ADPC) - based on shared values of democracy, respect for human rights and the principles of sustainable development and cooperation.
3. They reiterated its appeal to EU Member States that have not yet ratified the Association Agreement, to complete their ratification procedures for its prompt and full entry into force in order for the Association Agreement to become the new political and institutional framework of relations between Central America and the European Union.
4. They welcomed the implementation of the trade pillar of the Association Agreement for its impact on the relations between both regions which promotes social, economic and trade development, investment and technological innovation. They stressed the political will of SICA to advance gradually and progressively towards a customs union. SICA member states acknowledged the contribution of the EU as an observer of SICA and invited the EU Member States to participate as an extra-regional partner in the Central American Bank for Economic Integration (BCIE).
5. They noted the importance of regional integration and the need to continue strengthening SICA in the five pillars of regional integration: Democratic Security Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change, Social Integration, Economic Integration and

Strengthening Regional institutions.

6. They appreciated the contribution of EU bilateral and regional cooperation to the region and to the process of regional integration. They appreciated that the planning, allocation of resources and the implementation of the Regional Indicative Multiannual Programme for the period 2014-2020, amounting to € 120 million, responds to the regional priorities. They agreed to promote a more effective participation of SICA countries in the Continental and Thematic programmes in order to contribute to a broader regional vision. They expressed satisfaction at the signing of the proposed € 15 million programme against coffee rust within the Climate Change and Risk Management Programme, which will largely contribute to food security in the SICA countries.

7. With reference to paragraph 75 of the EU CELAC Brussels Declaration, they stressed that Citizen Security is essential to achieving social and economic development and welcomed the holding of the Second Ad hoc SICA - EU Security meeting, held on 17 April 2015. They reaffirmed their support for the Central American Security Strategy (ESCA) as the tool to address regional security in the framework of the Management, Coordination and Information mechanism for regional Cooperation.