

Conference IdA-EU-LAC 2017

The Caribbean in the strategic partnership EU-CELAC

Paris, 1st June 2017



Call for papers

Presentation of the conference IdA-EU-LAC

Within the framework of their strategic partnership, the European Union – Latin America and Caribbean Foundation (EU-LAC) and the Institute of the Americas (IdA) organize every year, during the Latin American and Caribbean Week in France, with the support of the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Development and the European Commission, a conference to valorize and strengthen the bi-regional partnership.

In 2017, the IdA-EU-LAC interdisciplinary Conference is organized jointly with the Montesquieu Center for Political Research of the Montesquieu Research Institute (IRM-CMRP) University of Bordeaux, a member institution of IdA. It will be an event with high visibility that will bring together researchers, public decision makers and representatives of international organizations and private sector, they will exchange experiences from Caribbean, Latin America and Europe points of view, the issues related to commercial, cultural, geopolitical relations and scientific cooperation between the Caribbean, Latin America and Europe.

Previous editions of the Conference IdA-EU-LAC were focused on:

[Regional integration and EU-LAC bi-regional relations](#) (2012), [EU-LAC infrastructure and integration](#) (2013), [Sustainable and smart cities](#) (2014), [Europe – Latin America and the Caribbean: crossed views on the issue of climate change, local to global](#) (2015), [Capitalizing on managerial and cultural ties between Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean to promote sustainable development](#) (2016)

Conference IdA-EU-LAC 2017

Scientifics responsible:

- Eric Dubesset, Montesquieu Center for Political Research of the Montesquieu Research Institute (IRM-CMRP) - University of Bordeaux
- Carlos Quenan, Institut des Amériques
- Antonio Romero, Cátedra de Estudios del Caribe, Universidad de La Habana

1. Context

Based on the existence of strong historical, social and economic links and a community of values, Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union (EU) initiated during the First Summit of Rio de Janeiro in 1999, a 'bi-regional strategic partnership' process. Aiming, among other objectives, a dynamic political dialogue and the creation of a vast free trade area between the two regions, this ambitious project was strengthened in 2010 with the founding of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). Designed as a regional political platform bringing together thirty-three states of the American continent, CELAC has become the EU's interlocutor in the bi-regional partnership.

The Spanish-speaking, English-speaking, French-speaking (Haiti) and Dutch-speaking (Surinam) States of the Caribbean are part of this consortium. They all face many environmental and economic challenges and deal with the current context of globalization. Their exposure to natural disasters, the weakness of their regional trade, their levels of production and exports, and their important economic dependence and extroversion are all obstacles to their development and integration into the global economy. The reduction of their vulnerabilities and the international valorization of their know-how in different sectors (telephony, fiber optics, green energy, remote sensing, port infrastructures, tourism, finance) necessarily require a concerted insertion.

In the context of global and regional changes coupled with the post-Cotonou consultation process, it is necessary to take into account the evolution of the place and participation of the Caribbean States in the cooperation mechanisms of the CELAC with the EU. The participants of the conference will be invited to consider the challenges that would imply a greater involvement of the Caribbean States in the bi-regional strategic partnership. This will include considering how the participation of Caribbean States could be strengthened in the near future, and what could be the appropriate mechanisms to achieve it.

2. Objectives

The main objective of this conference is to contribute to the knowledge and reflection on the stakes and the potential of a greater inclusion and participation of the Caribbean in the processes of strategic partnership between the EU and the CELAC. This conference should:

- be based on the geographical, historical, social, economic and political characteristics of the various Caribbean countries and territories.
- take into account the most recent academic literature.
- promote dialogue between students, researchers, policy makers, representatives of international organizations and the financial and private sector.

It will be necessary to analyze and evaluate:

- the transformations of Caribbean societies and cultures in the course of globalization;
- the main challenges the Caribbean Area is facing in terms of economic development and international integration;
- policy options to overcome the obstacles imposed by economic and environmental vulnerability in the globalization's era;
- the resources, assets and successful experiences, in terms of sustainable development and social justice. Considering what can be offered by the Caribbean States and Territories to contribute to the consolidation of the EU-CELAC bi-regional partnership;
- the opportunities and synergies likely to optimize the benefits of cooperation between the countries of the Caribbean, Latin America and the European Union. For example, in terms of exchanging experiences and good practices;
- the possibilities arising from the bi-regional strategic partnership process expressed in the Declarations and Plans of Action of the EU-CELAC Summits in order to increase the participation of the Caribbean in the EU-CELAC partnership.

3. Questions (non-exhausted) to be addressed during the Conference

- What are the challenges and opportunities for a new agreement with the countries of the Caribbean in the framework of the post-Cotonou process?
- How to make the EU-CELAC agenda more inclusive and beneficial for the Caribbean States?
- How can the Caribbean States intensify their involvement in the process of bi-regional partnership?
- To what extent can this region situated at the confluence of the Americas (Anglo-Saxon and Latin) and Europe contribute in its unity, its diversity and its interactions, to the strengthening of the bi-regional cooperative process? How can it achieve its objectives in terms of economic development and international integration?
- How to overcome the obstacles imposed by the economic and environmental vulnerability?
- What strengths and tools should be applied for consolidating trade relations, political dialogue and cooperation with the Caribbean, Latin American and European countries?
- In their quest for a role on the international scene and considering the negotiations on enhanced cooperation between the EU and the Caribbean States in the post-Cotonou context, do the sixteen Caribbean countries of the ACP Group have the capacity to bring collectively new synergies with Europe and Latin America?
- What could be the impacts of recent political events, such as changes in Cuba, the new government in the United States and the European Union 'post-Brexit' over the Caribbean region and EU-CELAC relations?
- For the French territorial authorities of America, is the recent statutory or institutional evolution allowing Martinique and Guyana to carry out external actions towards neighboring countries and territories, contribute to the opening of new partnerships for development between the two regional groups?

4. Provisional program of the Conference

The conference will be organized, in keynote address and panels, around three main themes, grouping together the following indicative themes:

1. Identities, International Relations and Geopolitics of the Caribbean (Themes to be addressed mainly at the opening session)

- Caribbean societies and cultures to the challenges of globalization
- Current overview of Caribbean studies in EU and CELAC countries
- Place of the Caribbean in world trade
- Internationalization of Caribbean firms and productions
- Contemporary history of relations between the Caribbean, Latin America and Europe
- Geopolitical and geostrategic issues Caribbean / Latin America / Europe
- Presence and perception of the Caribbean in political discourse in Latin America and Europe
- Impacts of Brexit in the Caribbean (especially English speaking)
- New relations United States / Caribbean
- Reconfiguration of Caribbean / Asia relations

2. Strengthening regional cooperation mechanisms

- The Ultra-peripheral Regions (RUP) and regional cooperation and integration processes
- Possibilities for the French territorial authorities of the Americas to join regional organizations
- New standards and forms of regional legal regulations (ex. Organization for the Harmonization of Business Law in the Caribbean (OHADAC))
- Coordinated fight against illegalities (tax evasion, flags of convenience, narco-trafficking, arms trafficking)
- Sectoral cooperation and regionalization (conservation of biodiversity as a factor of regional cooperation, new programs for academic exchanges and scientific cooperation, military cooperation and defense, NGOs)
- Participation of young people in regionalization processes
- Strategy of intervention by multilateral and bilateral financial institutions (ex. French Agency for Development (AFD), Inter-American Development Bank, Andean Development Corporation, Caribbean Development Bank, ECLAC, etc.)

3. Evaluation of bi-regional cooperation agreements

- Main cooperation agreements and association programs developed between the Caribbean States, CELAC and the EU, and between the latter two
- Possible complementarities and synergies between CARIFORUM member states and other members of CELAC
- Issues of consultations on Post-Cotonou Cooperation Agreements in 2020

4. Expected impacts

- Bringing together the academic world, political, diplomatic, economic actors and civil society around specific issues; which can then be transferred to the intergovernmental level to be taken into account in the preparation of the next CELAC-EU Summit in El Salvador, as well as in the post-Cotonou negotiations
- Visibility of the theme and contribution to the debate on the subject in relation to the questions addressed
- Promotion and media coverage of the conference, via the press and the Internet, to increase the international visibility of the EU-CELAC bi-regional strategic partnership and the particular situation of the Caribbean countries
- Participation of PhD students and young researchers
- Publication of the proceedings of the conference

INFORMATION

All information is available on the following website:

<http://ida-eulac2017.jimdo.com>

Date and place:

Thursday 1st June 2017

Paris, France.

Languages:

Written communications and oral presentations will be made in English, Spanish, French or Portuguese.

Requirements for participants who wish to present an analysis in an academic panel:

Abstracts will feature the following content:

- Communication title, author(s), institution(s) of affiliation, e-mail addresses;
- Abstracts of 200 to 300 words presenting the issue/topic addressed, the methodology used as well as main results.
- a bio-bibliographical notice (two pages maximum).

Summaries will be sent before **February 20, 2017 (00:00)**, in English and in the original language (Spanish, French or Portuguese) to :

- Eric Dubesset (eric.dubesset-pascual@u-bordeaux.fr)
- Carlos Quenan (quenan@wanadoo.fr)
- Daniel Iglesias (daniel.iglesias@univ-lille3.fr)
- Juliette Sérafini, Institut des Amériques (international@institutdesameriques.fr)

Timeline:

- **January 2017** : publication of the call for papers
- **February 20, 2017** : deadline for the submission of abstracts
- **February 27, 2017** : formal acceptance of abstracts
- **March 31, 2017** : deadline for the submission of final contributions

Organizing committee :

- Eric Dubesset, Centre Montesquieu de Recherches Politiques de l'Institut de Recherche Montesquieu (IRM-CMRP), Université de Bordeaux
- Carlos Quenan, Institut des Amériques (France), Vice-président
- Alain Musset, Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS)
- Alejandro E. Gomez, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle-Paris 3
- Daniel Iglesias, Université Lille 3
- Antonio Romero, Universidad de la Habana