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'I/A' ITEM NOTE

From: Working Party on Latin America and the Caribbean
To: Permanent Representatives Committee/Council

Subject: First Inter-Summit meeting of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and of the European Union and the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (Santo Domingo, 25/26 October 2016)

1. This first Inter-Summit meeting will be held on Tuesday 25 and Wednesday 26 October 2016 in Santo Domingo. The final preparations will be made by the Senior Officials from both sides who will meet on 24 October in Santo Domingo, primarily to finalise the drafting of the texts to be submitted to this meeting.
2. Delegations will find attached the agenda and texts for this event, it being understood that the texts reflect the state of discussions at the time this note was drafted. The texts will therefore serve as a basis for our continuing negotiations with our partners in the LAC region. The competent Council preparatory body has been instructed to continue this process¹.
3. Coreper and the Council are invited to approve the state of preparations for the above Summits, with a view to further negotiations.

¹ The Working Party on Latin America and the Caribbean will meet in Brussels on 11 and 18 October 2016.

DRAFT 16/09/2016

AGENDA

CELAC-EU

**Ministers of Foreign Affairs Meeting
25/26 October 2016, Dominican Republic**

"The future of the bi-regional partnership"

1. Adoption of the Agenda and organisation of work
 2. Strengthening the bi-regional dialogue and deepening mutual relations
 3. Assessment of the programs and actions adopted by the Summits
 4. Common challenges and means for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:
 - 4.1 Financing for development
 - 4.2 Climate change
 - 4.3 Rule of Law: Fight against organized crime, corruption and terrorism
 - 4.4 Migration
 5. EU-LAC Foundation
 6. Presentation and adoption of the "Declaration of Santo Domingo"
 7. Any other business
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16/09/2016

SANTO DOMINGO DECLARATION

-DRAFT-

1. We, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and of the European Union and the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, met on the occasion of our first Inter-Summit meeting, held in the Dominican Republic on the 25th and 26th of October 2016.

2. We underscore the importance of our partnership and reiterate our commitment to all the bi-regional declarations adopted in the Summits of our Heads of State and Government since Rio de Janeiro in 1999. These declarations reflect our common vision on important matters.

3. We recall the mandate received from the Heads of State and Government in their Political Declaration “A partnership for the next generation” adopted in June 2015, to commit to a comprehensive and inclusive exercise of reflection on the future of the bi-regional relationship in order to deepen our long-standing strategic, bi-regional partnership based on historical, cultural and human ties, international law, full respect for human rights and territorial integrity and for the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, common values and principles, and mutual respect and interests.

4. We endorse the conclusions and recommendations emanating from the “Assessment of programmes and actions adopted by the Summits”, which have constituted an important input in our reflection. This evaluation has proven to be a positive contribution in the identification of successful bi-regional initiatives, areas of our relationship where more efforts need to be made and suggested changes in our working methods, which will lead to more concrete and valuable results. These recommendations shall therefore be taken into account in the revised EU-CELAC Action Plan to be adopted at the next CELAC-EU Summit in 2017. We also agree to enhance coordination between the cooperation programmes and the EU-CELAC Action Plan.

5. We agree to build on the conclusions of our discussions [on strengthening the bi-regional dialogue and deepening mutual relations; the assessment of the programs and actions adopted by the Summits, and on common challenges and means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Financing for development, climate change, rule of law (fight against organized crime, corruption and terrorism), and migration] during this first Inter-Summit meeting to consolidate a more ambitious, strategic and balanced association on the basis of clearly identified common interests, which shall be the framework of our future bi-regional relationship.

6. Recognizing our differences, we are convinced that together we can play an important political role to jointly address ongoing and new global challenges. We commit ourselves to a reinvigorated and more frequent political dialogue based on common bi-regional objectives. With that aim, we propose to organize regular political dialogue meetings between the EU Political and Security Committee and the CELAC Quartet. We commend the bi-regional dialogue in the lead up to the major international conferences, summits and special sessions on issues of global concern, in particular the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the United Nations Sustainable Development Summit, which adopted the 2030 Agenda for Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the 21st Session of the Conferences of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP 21), and the UN General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem (UNGASS 2016). We commit to further working together, as applicable, to achieve our common goals in the multilateral fora, including in the UNFCCC COP 22 to be held in Marrakech in November 2016 and the Open Government Partnership Summit to be held in Paris in December 2016.

7. We welcome the dynamism of our long-lasting economic ties, while acknowledging the need to give new impetus to our economic partnership. We recall our earlier commitments in Santiago de Chile and Brussels, to promote sustainable development and inclusive economic growth in our respective regions, including through increased and diversified investments. We recognize that economic growth within a policy framework of environmental and social responsibility is essential to achieve sustained and inclusive development. Our countries share the common challenge of enhancing productivity growth and would gain from cooperating more closely in this field. We therefore propose to create a coherent framework encompassing all aspects of bi-regional relations related to productivity in order to forge a strong common agenda. This will allow us to give enhanced political drive to our economic action and make the most of our existing and future association and trade agreements. We mandate the EU-CELAC Senior Officials to carry out consultations with the business sector and other relevant stakeholders and report to our next Summit on objectives and modalities for a possible EU-CELAC Alliance for Productivity. This report should be ready not later than by the end of June 2017.

8. We acknowledge the multidimensional nature of sustainable development and the new challenges that arise from the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including those specific to least developed countries, land-locked developing countries and Small Island Developing States. We stress the need for enhancing bi-regional cooperation in order to contribute to the efforts and policies of our countries aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Such new challenges linked to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda should be taken into account in the design and implementation of the CELAC-EU Action Plan. We therefore mandate EU-CELAC Senior Officials to conduct a reflection on this issue with all relevant partners and to present initial results before the end of 2016 in view of submitting its outcome to the Summit in 2017. Given the importance of ODA as a lever for effective implementation of the SDGs, this reflection should include the issue of the graduation mechanism and its potential side-effects in Latin American and Caribbean states and in our bi-regional cooperation.

9. We recognize the need to promote broad stakeholder engagement including private sector, civil society organizations and local authorities in the advancement of the bi-regional relationship. We also wish to ensure the adequate representation of youth, and women and to identify ways of making our partnership more effective, visible, participatory and inclusive with a view to enhancing the achievement of our common strategic objectives.

10. We welcome the signature of the Agreement establishing the EU-LAC Foundation as an international organization and recognize this as a strong message of support for a key instrument of our bi-regional relationship. We hereby encourage all countries to promote financial, legal and political support for the EU-LAC Foundation.

11. We welcome the results of this first Inter-Summit meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs that boosts the strategic partnership. As decided by our Heads of State and Government at the 2015 EU-CELAC Summit, we will hold regular Inter-Summit Ministerial meetings with the aim of ensuring a comprehensive follow-up of Summit decisions and sustain regular high level dialogue between our two regions.

12. We commend the Dominican Republic for the organization of this Ministerial Meeting, which enriched the bi-regional agenda and was instrumental to achieve substantial progress, paving the way for the next CELAC-EU Summit to be held in 2017.

ASSESSMENT OF PROGRAMMES AND ACTIONS**Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC)-European Union (EU)****Introduction**

1. The Political Declaration adopted by the second Head of States and Government CELAC-EU Summit held in Brussels on 10-11 June 2015, at its Paragraph 7, mandated Ministers of Foreign Affairs to “commit to a comprehensive and inclusive exercise of reflection on the future of the bi-regional relationship including the assessment of the programmes and actions adopted by the Summits and on the best way to ensure these common objectives.”

2. The joint programmes and actions are contained mainly in the CELAC-EU Action Plan (hereinafter “Action Plan”), an instrument which was originally adopted at the 2010 EU-LAC Summit in Madrid, then reviewed and expanded in 2013 and again in 2015. The implementation of these programmes and actions on the basis of joint ownership should lead to concrete results that contribute to development, capacity building and strengthening of the bi-regional relationship.

3. This document aims at assessing the state of play of the implementation of the CELAC-EU programmes and actions adopted by the Summits, including consideration of the principles and mechanisms that lead to an effective partnership and joint cooperation. It presents a set of recommendations intended to improve further the overall performance and contribute to achieving the common objectives of CELAC-EU more efficiently.

4. Since the initial launch of the Action Plan in 2010, the successive versions of the document have been agreed with a double goal: 1) to create a coherent framework for bi-regional dialogue, cooperation programmes and initiatives; and 2) to strengthen bi-regional cooperation by identifying key areas in which both regions will work together within the specific period covered. The aim is, thus, to provide overall political direction to, and contribute to increased visibility of, bi-regional dialogue and cooperation.

5. The instruments for implementing the bi-regional partnership include policy dialogues, common activities and initiatives, and joint projects and programmes, some of which benefit from EU development cooperation funding. The available funding instruments for EU cooperation with Latin America include the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI), which is organized at different levels including geographic and thematic programmes; while the main instrument for EU development cooperation with the Caribbean States is the European Development Fund (EDF), established within the framework of the ACP-EU Partnership. Both instruments are due to expire in 2020. The Partnership Instrument provides peer to peer cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean in areas of mutual interest for the EU and its Latin American partners. In addition, biregional cooperation in research and innovation is supported through Horizon 2020, which is open for participation to all CELAC countries.

6. There are also local, national, and sub-regional initiatives which contribute to reinforce the bi-regional relationship. Joint programs strengthen relations between the EU and CELAC and at the same time forge links among countries within each region.

7. The initiatives implemented have contributed to strengthening the bi-regional dialogue, promoting joint interests and objectives on integration and development. This achievement demonstrates the political will of CELAC and EU on moving forward together. More efforts can be made to achieve results and to ensure that the bi-regional cooperation contributes to the efforts of both regions to end poverty and promote sustainable and inclusive growth taking into consideration the particular challenges facing CELAC countries in this regard.

SECTION I - General Assessment

8. This assessment is based on a general analysis of the ways in which the Action Plan is prepared and implemented, as well as on the outcomes of the dialogue, programmes, actions and expected results contained in each Chapter.

9. The Action Plan includes a number of initiatives consistent with the priorities established by the Summits. The Action Plan provides a framework for bi-regional dialogue and cooperation programmes and initiatives. It identifies key areas in which both regions will work together within the agreed period. The number of priority areas has increased substantially, and is currently focusing on 10 areas of common interest for both regions (“chapters”), namely: 1. Science, research, innovation and technology; 2. Sustainable development; environment; climate change; biodiversity; energy; 3. Regional integration and interconnectivity to promote social inclusion and cohesion; 4. Migration; 5. Education and employment to promote social inclusion and cohesion; 6. The world drug problem; 7. Gender; 8. Investments and entrepreneurship for sustainable development; 9. Higher education; and 10. Citizen security.

10. The following conclusions and recommendations derive from the evaluation of each of the above ten chapters which is contained in *Section II* of this document.

CONCLUSIONS

- 1) The cooperation between CELAC and the EU has fostered bi-regional relations, exchange of experiences and networking under the partnership's three pillars of political dialogue, economic relations and cooperation.
- 2) Since its establishment in 2010 the implementation of the bi-regional Action Plan has achieved many of its objectives, and has contributed to enhancing the coherence of previously fragmented cooperation activities as well as to launching new initiatives.
- 3) The potential of the Action Plan to provide political steer and visibility to bi-regional cooperation and facilitate the monitoring of its implementation has not yet been fully exploited, and there is scope for delivering more concrete results, considering the shared interests and priorities for joint actions defined by Heads of State and Government.

- 4) The process of preparation, revision and implementation of the Action Plan needs to be undertaken jointly by the EU and CELAC, with due regard for the priorities of individual countries and the bi-regional priorities agreed by Heads of State and Government. In a relationship of equals such as the CELAC-EU partnership, all partners share responsibility for defining priorities and for implementing agreed actions. It is particularly important to promote and ensure the active involvement of the countries of the Caribbean at every stage, as protagonists and also as beneficiaries, where relevant.
- 5) While the Action Plan is not merely a tool for programming EU cooperation, further efforts should be made to coordinate and achieve synergies between the programming and implementation of geographical and thematic EU cooperation and the preparation and implementation of the Action Plan. More cooperation programmes and actions that address and/or are undertaken by the CELAC region as a whole, and simplifying implementation procedures as far as possible would help.
- 6) There is a lack of an overall standing joint mechanism of evaluation and monitoring of the implementation of the cooperation actions and initiatives identified in the Action Plan.
- 7) Further efforts should be made to exploit all opportunities for securing financial allocations for CELAC-level programmes and actions based on the Action Plan. Innovative mechanisms, such as triangular cooperation and ‘blending’ mechanisms, have a role to play in complementing and enhancing bi-regional cooperation, while also taking into account South-South cooperation.
- 8) Some EU regulations are informed by the OECD/DAC criteria for ODA eligibility, and this results in certain CELAC countries not being eligible for some EU cooperation programs.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In order for the programmes and actions that have emerged from the Action Plan to deliver concrete results and with a view to creating a more effective cooperation framework that takes account of the realities of the two regions, we present the following recommendations:

1. The Action Plan must ensure balanced and active participation both among and within countries to contribute to economic growth and to reduce the existing asymmetries and vulnerabilities within and between the two regions. We therefore task the Senior Officials to propose – by March 2017 – working arrangements, which ensure that this objective is taken into account in every chapter of the Action Plan.
2. With effect from the next CELAC-EU Summit, the successive versions of the Action Plan should not be linked to a specific period of time, in order to, facilitate the full implementation of the agreed activities and initiatives and the achievement of its expected results as well as even greater coherence with the programming of the different cooperation instruments.
3. In order to ensure a balanced, inclusive and demand-driven preparation and implementation of the future versions of the Action Plan and its activities, CELAC and EU Senior Officials should ensure that the process is inclusive and demand-driven, taking into consideration common interests defined by CELAC and EU, national priorities and/or national development plans, and agreed bi-regional priorities. Both CELAC and EU should take responsibility for and participate actively in every stage of drafting, programming, design and implementation processes as relevant, taking into account intra-regional balance and inter-regional representation.

4. Increased participation of the Caribbean should be promoted in the programmes and activities of the AP, with close examination of the possibilities of extracting synergies between programmes financed by the EU for the Caribbean and programmes financed by the EU within the CELAC context, in order to ensure that it is implemented in a balanced manner.
5. Each new version of the Action Plan should be structured and developed in a way that maximises coordination and promotes synergies with all relevant cooperation instruments, both EU and CELAC, in order to contribute to the achievement of sustainable and concrete results in the medium and long term.
6. As a first step to achieve recommendations under points III, IV and V above, we task the Senior Officials to draft a medium term planning, which allows to harmonise Action Plan revisions with relevant phases of programming and reviewing of cooperation instruments.
7. A monitoring mechanism should be jointly established to follow up the implementation of the Action Plan, open to the participation of representatives of both regions. The implementation of the Action Plan should be followed up by Country Coordinators for each chapter from the CELAC and EU sides. Assessments of the Action Plan should be carried out, as a way of guaranteeing that its objectives are effectively achieved. We task the Senior Officials to propose a suitable mechanism, which guarantees full input by Country Coordinators into the overall assessment work of Senior Officials, Foreign Ministers and Summits.

8. CELAC and EU Senior Officials should start a dialogue to determine future bi-regional priorities and present a reasoned outlook on this to the next Summit. The outlook should encompass a revision of the interrelated and complementary themes that are crosscutting between the different chapters of the Action Plan in order to prevent unnecessary thematic divisions, as well as an identification of potential new areas of cooperation and dialogue between both regions. Planned activities and actions should take into account the interactions and complementarities between the different chapters.

9. CELAC and EU Senior Officials should initiate a reflection on the future of bi-regional cooperation in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They should reflect on how best to ensure that all CELAC countries have access to appropriate forms of cooperation, to ensure the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the effective implementation of the Action Plan, considering new forms of cooperation and financing for development such as those to be measured under the new "Total Official Support for Sustainable Development" and including with middle-income economies; access to international finance; vulnerabilities of specific groups of countries such as SIDS; and the potential effects on bi-regional cooperation of graduation of a number of countries from the DAC ODA list of recipients list.

10. This reflection should also consider how to ensure that bi-regional cooperation is guided by the aid effectiveness principles as agreed under the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation; whether implementation procedures can be further simplified; and how to ensure that 'blending mechanisms' or other forms of innovative financing have clear development objectives and are managed in an inclusive manner and with a focus on poverty reduction. The EU could be invited to consider de-linking additional elements of its cooperation programmes from ODA eligibility, as it is already the case for the EU Partnership Instrument. Furthermore, an EU-CELAC working group could examine the wider issue of the graduation mechanism, given the importance of ODA as a lever for effective implementation of the SDGs, to present initial results before the end of 2016.

11. The CELAC and EU should continue to support other forms of cooperation, such as triangular cooperation, to promote the exchange of good practices and knowledge, peer to peer technical assistance, as provided by new tools like the Partnership Instrument, in particular in the areas in which the Action Plan needs to be strengthened. Efforts should also be made to increase the visibility of the positive contributions of both regions to the bi-regional relationship, including the sharing of experiences and exchange of best practices in the context of the Action Plan implementation.
12. The EU and CELAC shall identify appropriate mechanisms for ensuring that the respective CELAC and EU governmental national focal points are informed of all the actions related to the bi-regional cooperation.
13. Reporting of results should be systematized and submitted to the CELAC-EU Summits, to be able to measure and compare any progress achieved.

SECTION II - Assessment Chapter by Chapter

Programmes and Actions

The Action Plan identifies key areas in which both regions will work together as stated in Paragraph 9 above. A Chapter by Chapter analysis will be undertaken in this Section.

The chapter by chapter analysis follows the principle that all cooperation activities and initiatives agreed between both regions and included in the 2015-2017 Action Plan should be fully implemented in order to achieve the expected results. Overarching questions are being dealt with by the set of recommendations above.

CHAPTER 1. SCIENCE, RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY

Review

Building on existing cooperation between both regions, the bi-regional Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation (JIRI) was created in 2010 during last S&T Ministerial Meeting in the framework of Madrid Summit. This has contributed to the strengthening of the interface between research and innovation and to technology transfer and adaptation in formats accessible to micro and SMEs, including through knowledge and innovation centers network. The JIRI has been effectively supported via the EU 7th Framework Programme for Research and Development. JIRI working groups have been established to implement the cooperation priorities set in the fields of Energy, Bio-Economy, Biotechnology, ICT, Health, Biodiversity and Climate Change.

The dialogue conducted under the JIRI has highlighted the need to open national research programmes and increase access to research infrastructures of a global nature, leading to the mandate given by the last bi-regional Summit in 2015 to establish a CELAC-EU Common Research Area.

The Common Research Area was officially launched at the last JIRI SOM in March 2016, where senior officials agreed to build a strengthened cooperation area on a) increased mobility of researchers, b) promoting access to research infrastructures of global interest and c) jointly addressing common challenges.

Going beyond the current level of bi-regional cooperation requires a revision of the current JIRI governance structure and instruments in place to allow the efficient implementation of the priorities agreed under each of the three CRA pillars, building on the experience of existing networks, and relying on a permanent bi-regional secretarial support.

Science and technology innovative collaboration is a major field for present and future joint action, from which positive and concrete results can and should continue to be derived, notably in view of global challenges and potential benefits stemming from the digital revolution. Consequently guaranteeing JIRI's financial sustainability is critical to this process.

The global FP7 has also supported more than 700 organisations from Latin America and the Caribbean to participate in more than 300 collaborative projects; while over 3,700 Latin American researchers received mobility grants through the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSC Actions) entailing the participation of over 150 different Latin American organisations. MSC Actions under Horizon 2020 continue to fund research training, career development opportunities and knowledge exchange, and all individual actions are open for participation by Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) countries. For the first two years and a half of Horizon 2020, LAC applicants submitted 765 proposals, involving 1,016 participations in collaborative actions, leading to 61 successful projects with 76 participations. To address the Zika outbreak in Latin America, a dedicated call under Horizon 2020 was launched on "Addressing the urgent research gaps against the Zika virus and other emerging threats in Latin America."

Recommendations

Future bi-regional activities could be explored with a view to maximising the participation of countries of both CELAC and EU, especially smaller countries, at all levels of work and decisions, to set the foundation for a long-term commitment of bi-regional stakeholders. In global programmes, such as Horizon 2020, procedures for participation could be further simplified in order to facilitate access for all CELAC countries.

Both regions should continue to foster cooperation for human and institutional capacity building and research infrastructures interoperability to encourage the return and reintegration of researchers to their countries of origin, as well as the formation of academic and scientific networks amongst our countries and regions.

The potential offered by the future trans-Atlantic optic fibre cable should be used.

CHAPTER 2. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT; ENVIRONMENT; CLIMATE CHANGE; BIODIVERSITY; ENERGY.

Review

There are limited overarching CELAC - EU cooperation Programmes in this area. Particularly worth mentioning is EUROCLIMA, a regional cooperation programme in climate change, in which many Latin-American countries participate, while Caribbean countries participate in the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA), with varying outcomes. Some countries have recognized a positive contribution of these Programmes in promoting sustainable development and in their efforts to draw up their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) in the run-up of the 2015 COP21 Climate Change conference, while others have experienced programming and implementation problems that have prevented the programmes from delivering on expected results.

The participating countries of EUROCLIMA have recently engaged constructively in the design of EUROCLIMA+, a programme that will continue with the actions in this area after 2017. The conversations held to date between the EU and the participating Latin-American countries have had the objective of ensuring that the priority areas, criteria for eligibility, financing and governance of the Programme are jointly established. At the heart of the future EUROCLIMA+ Programme will be support to Latin America in their efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change in coherence with the policy objectives contained in the countries' NDC and developing long-term low greenhouse gas strategies to be presented in 2020. Activities will include the provision of climate services as well as the funding of projects in key sectors jointly identified. Caribbean countries' participation in certain EUROCLIMA+ activities will be enhanced.

The new GCCA+ launched in November 2015 will retain its focus on Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), maintain policy dialogue and continue to support partner countries in their efforts to mitigate, adapt and become more resilient to climate change.

In the framework of the EU Multi-annual Indicative Programme 2014-2020 for Latin America, funding has been earmarked to support climate change and disaster risk management related actions.

In addition to that, the EU Partnership Instrument is very active in Latin America with projects on low carbon emission, urban sustainable development, energy efficiency, natural capital accounting and valuation of ecosystems, supporting the sustainable phasing out of ozone depleting substances etc..

With regard to the CELAC-EU political dialogue, the bi-regional dialogue in the lead up to COP21 was recognized as a positive means of engagement between both regions and should be renewed for the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

Recommendations

Both regions should work together to follow up on the EU-LAC Forum on Technological Cooperation, Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency.

Regarding climate change, the implementation of this Chapter should be in line with the Paris outcomes. It should mainly focus on the implementation of National Determined Contributions (NDC) and on the exchange of experiences and better practices on the elaboration of mid-century, long-term low greenhouse gas emissions development strategies, in accordance with paragraph 29 of the decision 1/CP.21 and with Article 4, paragraph 19, of the Paris Agreement. Actions of this Chapter on climate change should also include the use of indigenous and traditional knowledge, as well as the use of nature-based solutions.

The implementation of this Chapter should not be exclusively oriented towards “climate change”. There are also potential results expected on other areas such as sustainable development, environment, biodiversity and energy.

CHAPTER 3: REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND INTERCONNECTIVITY TO PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION AND COHESION

Review

EUROsociAL has contributed to the dialogue and actions foreseen in this chapter through peer-to-peer learning and experience exchanges between counterpart institutions in the two regions. This initiative has included different working areas such as education, health, taxation, justice, social protection, decentralization and employment policies, attempting to increase the level of social inclusion and cohesion and to strengthen the institutions responsible of their implementation in their capacity to provide high quality public services.

The continuity and strengthening of this initiative is relevant to this and other chapters of the Action Plan whose ultimate goal is the promotion of social inclusion and cohesion.

Recommendations

The general objective of this initiative should be to continue to increase the level of social inclusion and cohesion in Latin America through cooperation activities, ensuring that the exchanges are not limited to sharing knowledge but become learning experiences that materialize in actions oriented to improve public policies and strengthen the capacity of institutions responsible of them in key areas for the objective of this chapter.

Several actions (e.g. the Latin America and Caribbean Investment Facilities) have contributed to improve and develop sustainable infrastructure and networks favouring regional integration and social inclusion and cohesion. The expected deployment by early 2018 of the new transatlantic optic fibre cable from Portugal to Brazil, with extensions to nearly all South American countries, will offer important new opportunities for business, cultural and academic exchanges. The BELLA consortium has been established by 12 European and Latin American Research and Education Networks (led by the regional networks RedCLARA and GEANT) to take full advantage of the future high-capacity link and extend it to other academic networks in Latin America, ensuring capillarity and equal access for academia and non-profit organisations in the region. Support to BELLA has been ensured from different European programmes (EDF, Horizon 2020 and Copernicus) and participating Latin-American countries. Senior Officials should particularly monitor progress on this emblematic project.

In the context of our economic relations, instruments such as trade, economic partnerships and association agreements offer conditions and opportunities that should be harnessed to foster progress on regional integration, interconnectivity, social inclusion and cohesion.

CHAPTER 4. MIGRATION

Review

Migration is a very important issue in the bi-regional agenda, the EU-CELAC Structured and Comprehensive Dialogue on Migration was launched on 2009 and chapter 4 of the Action Plan in 2010.

Nine High Level Meetings have been held so far and both regions have had opportunities for exchange of information on migrations issues, evidencing the different approaches to the migration phenomena. Nonetheless, the overall implementation of this chapter has not yet achieved all its expected results. It is necessary to recognize the changing nature of migratory flows between both regions.

A specific EU-funded “targeted project” dedicated to strengthening the EU-LAC dialogue and cooperation in this field was developed, and might be renewed, bearing in mind the concerns of both regions. Other projects supported by the EU Partnership Instrument on migration related issues are being developed with some CELAC countries.

We must recognize that such a complex process requires immediate and concrete actions and that further progress will be possible only through the strengthening of the Dialogue and cooperation mutually agreed and implemented.

Recommendations

The EU-CELAC Structured and Comprehensive Dialogue on Migration should address challenges in this area with a greater collaborative perspective and for that reason it is important to reactivate its work and develop further the concrete cooperation actions foreseen in this Chapter, including the joint elaboration of a “CELAC-EU Roadmap on Migration” that shall take into account the dynamics of these processes and the specificities of the bi-regional migration agenda, and the continuation of the CELAC-EU Statistical Compendium.

We task Senior Officials to develop a proposal on how to enrich the bilateral agenda on migration with its global aspects.. They should contemplate the involvement of Ministers of Home Affairs in this reflections process.

CHAPTER 5: EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT TO PROMOTE SOCIAL INCLUSION AND COHESION.

Review

This Chapter provides a wide range of opportunities to continue bi-regional programmes. General EU initiatives have contributed to attain some objectives of this Chapter, but no specific CELAC-EU programmes have been created to foster education with the aim of developing employment in both regions.

Recommendations

The Dialogue on this Chapter should be more structured and focused to facilitate the implementation of the work programme. Chapter 5 and 9 should be implemented in a coordinated way to avoid duplication. Both regions should continue to work jointly to achieve the expected results.

CHAPTER 6. THE WORLD DRUG PROBLEM

Review

EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs: Cooperation under this chapter is advancing successfully both in project implementation and in dialogue in multilateral fora with regards to regional agreed common positions. The EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs, which the 18th High Level Meeting took place in the Hague on 16/17 June 2016, exemplifies a useful framework for the bi-regional cooperation to tackle the World Drug Problem.

The objective is to strengthen bi-regional dialogue and the effectiveness of joint efforts to tackle the world drug problem as identified and developed in the framework of the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs, in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility through and integrated, multidisciplinary, balanced and evidence based approach and in conformity with the international law, the purposes and the principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the three UN Drug Control Conventions and according to the commitments made in the bi-regional Declarations adopted at the High Level Meetings of the Mechanism.

The results of COPOLAD I were regarded as successful and it was decided to continue the cooperation in this area with COPOLAD II, now extended to all CELAC countries i.e the Caribbean States.. This second phase was launched in March, 2016 and it is run by a consortium that includes CELAC countries and EU Member States. It was also decided that the new structures of the programme, mainly the Steering Committee and the Permanent Council, will follow up all the activities and provide an opportunity to change practices when difficulties are identified.

It is expected that the level of cooperation between the EU and CELAC in this domain will translate into positive outcomes at the highest level in international policy making in this area, in the same spirit as during the UN General Assembly Special Session on the World Drugs Problem (i.e. UNGASS 2016) and its preparatory process.

CHAPTER 7: GENDER

Review

The CELAC-UE dialogue on gender issues was created with the aim of guaranteeing gender equality and the protection, exercise and promotion of women's rights. In line with recent agreed language e.g. SDG Goal 5, the title of this Chapter should be amended to "Gender Equality" when the next edition of the Action Plan is adopted.

Several activities have taken place based on joint proposals, in particular in the areas of: violence against women, political participation of women and economic empowerment of women. A bi-regional event on women, peace and security took place in October 2016 with the aim of promoting discussion on UNSCR 1325 in order to foster cooperation on the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda nationally, regionally and internationally.

The CELAC-UE dialogue on gender equality is a space for debate addressed to CELAC-UE countries that has also encouraged the participation of civil society, including women's organizations.

Recommendations

It is essential to carry out additional result-oriented activities on outstanding issues and a stronger effort is needed to implement this chapter of the Action Plan. The study commissioned and published by the EU-LAC Foundation in 2015 "The Issue of Gender in Relations between the EU and LAC: State of the Art and Opportunities for Bi-Regional Cooperation" could provide a useful basis for identifying priorities for action.

A gender perspective should be incorporated as a cross-cutting issue in implementation of the Action Plan, and resources assigned for the development of specific projects, taking into account international agreements.

CHAPTER 8: INVESTMENTS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Review

Taking into account that this is one of the newer chapters of this Action Plan (introduced in the I CELAC-EU summit), the dialogue requires strengthening. The implementation of this chapter has registered advancements in certain areas, such as Corporate Social Responsibility and SMEs. Having said that, there are concrete initiatives and cooperation activities foreseen in these areas and others that have not been approached and that require a greater attention in order to reach the expected results as well as the objectives of this chapter. Therefore, EU and CELAC must work to enhance cooperation in initiatives related to transparency and fight against corruption, coordination of investment efforts, promotion of decent work and entrepreneurship.

As already mentioned, EU funds are not the only instruments for implementing the bi-regional partnership; common activities and dialogues are also important. Industrial and regulatory dialogues with some Latin American countries offer opportunities to align or harmonise the industrial and SME policies of the two regions. Cooperation has been undertaken on industrial and regulatory matters through dialogues, seminars and specific events focused on issues such as raw materials and global earth observation (Copernicus) of particular relevance also in relation to disaster preparedness (earthquakes, tsunamis).

Corporate Social responsibility (CSR) has been an important field of collaboration in the bi-regional relation. In different events, successful stories in CELAC and EU countries were shared, thus strengthening the dialogue and cooperation on this issue. The exchanges and mutual collaborations in this field have also contributed to the launch, by many countries, of their National Plans for Corporate Social Responsibility.

Different programmes have been supporting SMEs and business development in Latin America and the Caribbean. Ongoing programmes include, among others, AI-NVEST 5.0, LAIF, ELAN PROGRAMME (European and Latin American Business Services and Innovation) and Copernicus. Moreover, six Latin American countries (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Paraguay and Peru) host Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) Business Cooperation Centres. Operating under the COSME Programme, the EEN provides support to help SMEs in doing business and innovating beyond their national borders. Its presence in these CELAC Members opens the possibility for European and Latin American SMEs to interact and internationalise seizing opportunities in both Regions".

Recommendations

This chapter is complementary with chapters 1, 2, 3, 5, 7 and 9 and should therefore be implemented in a coordinated way. A reflection should be launched by senior officials, in consultation with the private sector and relevant regional stakeholders, to identify ways to make best use of these possible synergies.

CHAPTER 9 ON “HIGHER EDUCATION”

Review

This Chapter was adopted during the CELAC EU Summit in 2015. Bi-regional cooperation in this area is well established through EU programmes, such as Erasmus+, the Alfa programme (EU-Latin America), EDULINK (EU-ACP/Caribbean), the Marie Skłodowska Curie actions. In 2014-2020, Erasmus+, in particular, has assigned a specific amount of its financial envelope to Latin America and the Caribbean. [CELAC to add a sentence on relevant programmes or initiatives in LAC to facilitate mobility by European students, researchers and academics to the LAC region.]

Two CELAC-EU Academic Summits have already taken place and a third Summit of Presidents of the Council of Rectors of CELAC-EU countries is to take place this year. Initiatives are underway to strengthen the link between the CELAC-EU Academic Summit and the CELAC-EU Business Summit. Connections are also being sought between the CELAC-EU Academic Summits and the Summit of Presidents of the Council of Rectors of CELAC-EU countries.

Academic and research cooperation between the CELAC-EU regions has contributed to the modernization, accessibility and internationalization of higher education. Academic communities from both regions should continue to work jointly to achieve the results expected from this chapter.

Recommendations

This Chapter is complementary with Chapters 1 and 5 and should therefore be implemented in a coordinated way to avoid duplication. A joint revision of this chapter and Chapter 5 should be undertaken in order to redefine clearly the scope of each chapter.

The potential offered by the future trans-Atlantic optic fibre cable should be used.

CHAPTER 10 ON “CITIZEN SECURITY”

Dialogue and cooperation on matters related to citizen security have been ongoing at bilateral and sub-regional levels between the EU and the partner countries of the CELAC region.

We recall the need to implement this Chapter, including by holding the two intergovernmental seminars and the workshop, before the next CELAC-EU Summit.

Regarding the programming process, the EU and the CELAC region have already started the roadmap to identify the working areas.
