

fora for dialogue and cooperation between Europe, and Latin American and Caribbean states.

The second EU-CELAC / 8th EU-LAC summit was held in **Brussels** in **2015** under the theme: **"Shaping our common future: working together to build more cohesive and sustainable societies for our citizens"**.



EU-CELAC Summit 2015 Brussels

Two declarations were adopted :

- a shorter political declaration: **"A partnership for the next generation"**
- a second covering the several strands of the **"Brussels declaration"**

- > Political declaration, EU-CELAC summit,
- > Brussels declaration, EU-CELAC summit,

An updated and expanded **action plan** between the EU and Latin America:

- > Action plan, EU-CELAC summit 2015, 10-11 June 2015

Debates during the summit focused on bi-regional and global issues. The summit provided an occasion to underline the importance of EU-CELAC cooperation at ministerial level and to **invigorate** the relationship in a complex, rapidly changing world.

Strengthened political dialogue

The summit called for the establishment of a more regular high-level dialogue at foreign affairs ministerial level and for a reinforcement of cooperation on **peace and security** issues.

In view of the upcoming international conferences, leaders agreed to cooperate on three major global issues:

- **climate** change
- post-2015 **development** agenda
- the fight against **drugs**

For example:

With the project "Impulso de la Red de Jóvenes Pro Desarrollo", young people from Cañar, Quito, El Alto and Oruro in Latin America and from Murcia, Utrecht and Brussels in Europe looked into challenges their communities face regarding the employment situation of young people. As a result of this project, they developed their own tourism business and shaped it on a sustainable and environment-friendly basis.

- The five Latin American countries with most funded projects in the various 2014 calls were Argentina (23), Brazil (10), Chile (12), Colombia (4) and Mexico (4). The selection of proposals for this year's calls is still on-going, but the five countries that submitted most applications for proposals for support for PhD training (ITN) and Research and Innovation Staff Exchanges (RISE) were again Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia and Mexico.

- The European Commission is helping finance a new submarine broadband optical cable between Europe and South America, linking Lisbon (Portugal) with Fortaleza (Brazil). It will increase the intercontinental telecommunication capacity available to Latin America by over 150% and will particularly improve interactions between Europe and Latin America in the area of research and education.

- The Body of European Regulators for Electronic Communications (BEREC) and the Latin American Forum of Telecommunications Regulators (Regulatel) have a regular dialogue.

- Under the EU's Horizon 2020 programme, the EU and Latin America are working together to develop common standards in cloud computing and high performance computing.

- During 2007-2012, the EU invested €70 million in research of information and communications technology (ICT) with Latin America.

Some cooperation examples

• The first ever comprehensive overview of the soils of Latin America and the Caribbean was released in 2014. It was funded by the European Union through the EUROCLIMA Programme and it was coordinated by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre. This is the result of collaboration with leading soil scientists in Europe, Central and South America and the Caribbean. It explains and highlights the importance of soil.

More than half of the 576 million hectares of arable land of Latin America –which produces large amounts of agricultural commodities- are estimated to be affected by degradation processes. The main causes are change in land use (especially deforestation), over-exploitation, climate change and social inequality.

• Where water is scarce, it is particularly important to ensure it is not wasted. Recycling and reuse technologies can help to preserve this invaluable resource even in very arid regions. The EU-funded COROADO project has developed a web-based programme drawing on a wide range of expertise to identify the best possible combination of water recycling and reuse technologies for a given region. The system takes account of the requirements and concerns of the various local stakeholders to find an acceptable solution for all involved. The development of this application and the community consultation process underpinning its use were informed by projects in four Latin American regions that are facing a variety of water management challenges.