

Chilean CELAC-UE Presidency

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES

FIRST SEMESTER 2011

Santiago, Chile, June 30, 2011

Towards the Latin American, Caribbean and European Union (CELAC-EU) Summit, to be held in Chile, its preparatory process has now entered the final phase of definitions, where joint work intensifies and the participation of various sectors becomes increasingly necessary.

We are experiencing dynamic and changing times, both in the ways and forms Latin American and Caribbean integration is developing as well as in the partnership with the EU. Soon Latin America and the Caribbean will have a new voice to steer its partnership and dialogue with a European Union which, in turn, has made changes in its external representation since the Lisbon Treaty, attaining legal personality and a community diplomatic service headed by a High Representative.

This year, the III Latin America and the Caribbean Summit on Development and Integration (CALC) will be held, formalizing the creation of a new dialogue mechanism that will link CALC and the Rio Group. From there onwards, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States, CELAC, will become the region's voice for all dialogues with other regions.

And in this regard, Chile is called on to assume a double role, since it will not only hold the Latin American Presidency in the CELAC-UE process, it will also take on the pro tempore presidency of CELAC. Thus, we will be organizing the first intra-regional CELAC summit and also launch its extra-regional dialogue at the Summit with the EU. In this way, once the CELAC is formalized, VII LAC-EU Summit will become the First CELAC-EU Summit.

To ensure the success of this bi-regional summit, we have created a special structure in our Ministry, which basically consists of three offices: political coordination under the charge of a Senior Official (SOM) and an Alternate Senior Official; the Contents and Negotiation Unit, in the European Affairs Directorate; and the Executive Secretariat for Summits, in charge of the event's implementation and logistical aspects.

With regard to content, we are working on a matrix to follow-up the Madrid agreements and preparing core ideas to define the Santiago Summit theme. We have held consultations to socialize these ideas and have received important contributions from academic centers, experts and ECLAC to help us advance toward a successful Summit in Santiago.

Lastly, our strong commitment to visibility and transparency has led us to devise a Web site - on Chile's Ministry of Foreign Affairs official site - containing information on the CELAC-EU Summit.

This site will be gradually built up with as much information as possible, on preparations of the official and complementary events.

In this same vein, this report includes the work carried out to date to facilitate follow-up for those who are interested in having detailed information on the preparation process of the forthcoming CELAC-EU Summit.

I. Background

Summit meetings between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union represent the maximum level of institutionalized political dialogue process. This dialogue between Heads of States and Governments from both regions has enabled advancing toward closer cooperation, promoting joint actions that play a role in the development of both regions, as well as more coordinated action in the international arena.

This dialogue mechanism is on-going and directed by two co-chairs, one from each region. In the case of CELAC, the regional presidency is elected by member States every other year. Following the Lisbon Treaty, the EU is represented by the European External Action Service (EEAS). At the last Summit, held in Madrid (2010), the region elected Chile as the Summit's chair and official headquarters.

Co-chairs coordinate activities in their own region, implement the agreements signed by the heads of State and Government (Joint Declaration and Action Plan), propose and agree on the Agendas of Sectoral and high level Dialogues and their undertaking, and negotiate thematic documents and other aspects determined to be outcomes of the Chile Summit.

II. Current status of preparations

Preparations were initiated at the 33rd Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) held in Brussels on 25 January, to revise progress in six areas of the Madrid Action Plan (MAP) through the submittal of a monitoring table for detailed follow-up of each area.

A second Senior Officials Meeting was held in Santiago on 28-29 April. This 34th SOM agreed to establish a meeting calendar leading up to the Santiago Summit, in addition to analyzing preliminary ideas on some theme proposals for the Summit, which are under discussion.

According to initial consultations, a possible area that has aroused greater interest is the theme on quality social and environmental investments, which stands out for its innovative approach, transcending the traditional cooperation dialogue, and situating the bi-regional relationship at a level of greater balance.

Other themes have been carefully analyzed, such as energy water and food security; renewable and clean energies; and natural disasters and climate change.

III. EU-LAC Foundation

During the VI EU-LAC Madrid Summit, Heads of State and Government decided to create the EU-LAC Foundation, which seeks to strengthen ties between both regions, working to this end with government, academic, business and civil society sectors. Its headquarters will be located in Hamburg, Germany and it will have privileged associations with the Lombardy Region (Italy) and the Institute of the Americas in Paris (France).

The last SOM held in Santiago formalized the appointments of Benita Ferrero-Waldner as Chairperson and Ambassador Jorge Valdez as Executive Director of the Foundation. Likewise, the Work Group based in Brussels was called to continue the formulation of alternatives to allow its prompt start of activities. In the meantime, efforts will be made to initiate negotiations for an international agreement to attain its definitive institutionalization.

IV. Structured Dialogues

The process between Madrid and Santiago contemplates a series of structured dialogues between the two regions, such as:

High-level Dialogue on Migration

The 5th LAC-EU High Level Dialogue on Migration was held, addressing Regular Migration topics, in accordance with the core document agreed in 2009, i.e.:

- . Rights and legal obligations granted to nationals of third party States for their entry and residence in the EU.
- . Family reunification.
- . Access to work and social security.
- . Recognition of qualifications, circular migration and modalities for occupational adaptation.
- . Integration measures, including awareness-raising campaigns.

At the Santiago Summit we hope to launch a Statistical Compendium on CELAC-UE Migrations, which will be an outcome of the meeting.

Science and Technology Dialogue

The CELAC-EU Science and Technology Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) was held on 28 and 29 March 2011 in Brussels.

5 Working groups were constituted at this meeting:

- . Bioeconomy (including food security): headed by Argentina. Other members are France, Spain and the EC.
- . Biodiversity and climate change: consisting of Colombia, Peru, France, Finland, Spain, and the EC.
- . ICT for social challenges: consisting of Chile, Nicaragua, Mexico, Uruguay, Peru, Finland, France, Spain, CEPAL/ECLAC and the EC. Its work is tentatively focused on four areas (e-Health, e-Inclusion LivingLabs and Intelligent Transportation Systems).
- . Renewable energies: headed by Mexico and consisting of Peru, Spain, France and the EC.
- . Also a cross-cutting working group was constituted on financing and learning good practices, headed by Argentina and consisting of Dominican Republic, Mexico, Portugal, France and the CE.

Dialogue on Drugs

This dialogue is currently chaired by Colombia that is in charge of organizing the mechanism's 13th meeting. On this occasion, Colombia promotes thematic discussion on revitalization of the Shared Responsibility Principle, as articulating axis of bi-regional cooperation for tackling the challenges posed by the African Cocaine Route and boosting the development of the COPOLAD Cooperation Program in terms of anti-drug policies.

(V) Follow-up process of Madrid Action Plan

Chile's Mission to the EU undertakes the general coordination of the Follow-up Process for the Madrid Action Plan. Each Chapter is under the responsibility of a specific coordinator that works jointly with the CELAC chair.

- . Science, Research, Innovation and Technology (Argentina).
- . Sustainable Development and Environment, Climate Change, Biodiversity and Energy (Costa Rica).
- . Regional Integration and Interconnectivity for the Promotion of Inclusion and Social Cohesion (Venezuela).
- . Migration (Ecuador).
- . Education and Employment for the Promotion of Inclusion and Social Cohesion (Peru).
- . The World Drug Problem (Colombia).

Each coordinating country has followed-up the commitments set forth in the Action Plan and, subsequently, this information has been systematized in a Matrix supplemented by the information provided by the European counterpart. The last report was provided at the 34th SOM in Santiago. Finally, this matrix should be put to the consideration of the LAC-EU Heads of State and Government in the forthcoming Santiago Summit.

VI. Complementary Event Coordination

During the first half of 2011 contact was initiated with various sectors that, from their specific fields, organize parallel or preparatory events for the official Summit.

CELAC-EU Business Summit

The national coordination of this event falls under the responsibility of the CPC, Confederación de Producción y Comercio, to be supported by the Secretariat for Business Summits, a new institution with financial support from the IDB that has recently opened its headquarters in Madrid.

The Business Summit will take place immediately before the CELAC/EU Summit of Heads of State and Government and will address a related topic. The Government of Chile, through its different departments, participates in the Coordinating Committee meeting for this Summit.

Civil Society Forum

Contacts have been established with organized civil society, represented in Chile by the NGO coordinator ACCION, a member of the Latin American Association of Promotion Organizations (ALOP), aimed at exchanging information, coordinating and seeking mechanisms to consider civil society proposals in the official Summit to be organized by ACCION in Santiago, the 6th Civil Society Forum preceding the CELAC-EU Summit.

Eurolat Assembly

Contact was made with members of the Eurolat Assembly, for the purpose of coordinating the official Summit and parliamentary meeting, which will assemble 150 legislators from both regions in Valparaiso.

Academics

Support has been offered to the different academic activities that promote Summit-related topics (seminars, congresses) and a series of meetings have been scheduled with university professors, researchers and representatives of study centers, to collect input for the Summit. During the first half of the year (29 June) a first meeting with Chile's Ministry of Foreign Affairs was organized, convening twenty scholars from Latin America and Europe.

Conclusion

The first half of 2011 concludes with important progress in the preparatory process for the Santiago Summit. Two bi-regional Senior Official meetings were held to boost and refine the work, contacts were initiated with civil society and other sectors that organize specific events related to the official Summit, and progress has been made in terms of dates and agenda possibilities. Likewise, structured dialogues continue to move forward and the Madrid Action Plan objectives have been fulfilled as planned.

It is expected that work will be intensified in the second half of this year, thus it is essential to reiterate the interest of our Presidency to make this a highly participatory process.

The ideas of the various sectors are always welcome and will enhance the debate and the bi-regional dialogue agenda. CELAC is currently in good conditions of stability and will convene under a new scheme. Europe is on its way out of its financial crisis and consolidating its new institutional strategy. We believe that they are good signs for the First CELAC-EU Summit.

We hope that the Santiago Summit will have a high turnout of Heads of State and government, with active participation of a large number of social actors to tackle this great challenge of building a partnership that will allow us to grow together. CELAC is on the verge of taking a leap to development and Europe can be our great ally in this.

Ambassador Pablo Rodrigo Gaete

Deputy Director General for Bilateral Affairs