



Date: 10th of November 2020

Location: Virtual Platform ZOOM

Participation: AL-INVEST 5.0 executing institutions, EU-funded private sector support programmes and special guests from the European Union (EU), Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC).

Organizers: Cámara de Industria, Comercio, Servicios y Turismo de Santa Cruz (CAINCO) and EUROCHAMBRES

Structure of the event: Virtual, 3 Panels counting on the participation of 4 relevant representatives of the EU and LAC regions from the private and public sector, international institutions and SME support organizations.

Event language: The event will be held in Spanish, with simultaneous translation into English.

Description: In the context of the AL-Invest 5.0 Program framework, the EU and Latin America's business sector had the opportunity to issue a joint opinion on priority issues to strengthen the economic integration of both regions from the multidimensional ties that have been created. The result of the EU-LAC Business Forums (October 2017-Mexico City and June 2018 - Antigua-Guatemala) was the generation of spaces for debate and reflection papers that also served as input to the European Commission's communication on the future of the EU-LAC relationship. Equally it was widely distributed among LAC governments.

In view of the current health and economic crisis generated by the Covid-19 Pandemic, it is imperative to find new spaces for bi-regional dialogues so as to further contribute to the economic and political integration processes among both regions, as well as considering the immediate responses to the global pandemic and synergies in the bi-regional recovery efforts.

In this sense, the Forum seeks to generate a platform for debate and exchange among business and policy makers on the current situation in Europe and the LAC region with regards to the pandemic and recovery measures implemented on both sides, and to try to help address economic and social challenges better together. In particular, the Forum seeks to contribute to the future of the relationship between the European Union and Latin America, -19outlining the opportunities for both regions to cooperate in a post COVID world and the avenues for both European and Latin American and Caribbean SMEs to find new opportunities in our markets as our economies recover.. This event becomes thus a propitious reflection space to analyze the proposals of public policies for a sustainable development and integration of both regions, and to listen to the private sector's voice in this regard.





As in previous forums, this event will conclude, not only as reflections for the private sector of the two regions, but also as a set of recommendations for decision-makers. These conclusions will be integrated in an executive document that will be distributed to the corresponding authorities, showing the needs of European and Latin American companies to comply with the 2030 Agenda.

The three Virtual Panels will address the following topics:

Panel 1 - Strategic vision for the future of the EU – LAC relationship.

Towards the post-COVID-19 economic relaunch: A new scenario is under construction that will influence the relationship between both regions. The European Commission, with a new college recently appointed at the end of 2019, put on the table issues that are transcendental to understand the relationship with other regions and countries.

Issues such as the European Green Deal, a Europe adapted to the digital age, and an economy that works for the people, among others, should be discussed with a view to set up a multidimensional partnership. On the other hand, government changes and the social and political unrest happened since the end 2019 in some countries in Latin America define a new scenario where ideological lines continue to be contrasted with long-term effective public policies.

The discussion in this panel should be focused on the search of new scenarios and elements to reinforce the EU-LAC relationship and the role of the private sector in it

Panel 2 - Challenges and opportunities for the private sector of both regions in matters of trade, investments, and technological exchanges.

While the immediate concern today remains how to solve health and economic problems caused by the current sanitary crisis in both regions, mayor challenges remain on the future of multilateral rules based trade and how to adapt its rules to needs of business today . The pandemic has also exposed vulnerabilities in global value chains and issues that were simmering in the background such as the standoff between the United States and China, the potential impact of a no-deal Brexit, or the digitalization of our economies have really come to the forefront. It is undeniable that the unprecedented global economic crisis, Is taking a he toll on business in Europe and Latin America and on global trade. However, these extraordinary circumstances also present new opportunities, such as a closer bi-regional economic integration through trade agreements, investment facilitation, or the gestation of new business models with innovative and sustainable products and services. Despite the challenging global context, the historical relationship between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean can truly be a source of opportunities for the business sector in both regions.

The panel will analyze the EU-LAC business link opportunities in terms of trade, investments, technology and knowledge transfer as well services exports.





Panel 3 - Opportunities for bi-regional cooperation in the field of digitization, the green economy, and sustainability.

In the current Covid-19 conjuncture, a new concept is being coined from the reflections of the World Economic Forum, i.e. "The Great Reset", alluding to the importance of having a new way of approaching economic activities with a greener and more sustainable base. The climatic crisis, which has not stopped despite the world economy's lock-down, requires drastic actions regarding global warming, such as the transition to "carbon neutrality", alternative energies, efficient use of water and proper waste management.

This transition cannot be achieved if new technologies based on innovation and digitization are not implemented. The dematerialization of products in the digital age, industry 4.0, virtual product sales channels that simplify logistics and green businesses provide countless opportunities that should be shaped also for benefit of SMEs. For this reason, new opportunities arise for an exchange of knowledge, technology, capital investments and cooperation so that both EU and LAC regions jointly face these challenges.

Programme

TIME	Tuesday November 10th
15:00 – 15:00	Opening Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative of the European Commission - Koen Doens, Managing Director (confirmed) • Executive Secretary ECLAC, Alicia Barcena (confirmed) • President of CAINCO, Fernando Hurtado, (confirmed) • President of EUROCHAMBRES, Christoph Leidl (confirmed)
15:15 – 16:00	Panel 1: Vision for the future of the European Union-Latin America-Caribbean relationship – economic ecovery post COVID-19 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ambassador Mauricio Escanero, Head of the Mission of Mexico to the EU (confirmed) 2. Javier Niño Perez, Managing Director EEAS. Americas (confirmed) 3. Adrián Bonilla, Executive Director EU-LAC Foundation (confirmed) 4. Alicia Barena, Executive Secretary - ECLAC (confirmed) 5. Jolita Butkeviciene, Director for Latin America & the Caribbean, EU International Cooperation & Development (confirmed) <p>Moderator: Palmira López Fresno, Institutional Strengthening Team Leader, MiPYME COMPITE Program (confirmed)</p>
16:00 – 16:15	Questions and answers session

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16:15 – 17:00	<p>Panel 2. Challenges and opportunities of international trade, investment and technology transfer for the private sector in both regions.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dominic Boucsein, Head of International trade and foreign policy – EUROCHAMBRES (confirmed) 2. Fanny D. Estrada, Executive Secretary of FECAEXCA (confirmed) 3. Fernando Hurtado, CAINCO – Entidad coordinadora de AL-Invest 5.0 (confirmed) 4. Natalia Martínez Páramo – Head of Unit, EASME A.1 – COSME (confirmed) <p>Moderator: Sebastián Nieto-Parra, Head for Latin America and the Caribbean - OECD Development Center (confirmed)</p>
17:00 – 17:15	Questions and answers session
17:15 – 17:45	<p>Panel 3. Opportunities for bi-regional cooperation in the field of innovation, green technology and the fight against climate change</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Julio Castilla Peláez, President of the Costa Rican Chamber of Commerce (confirmed) 2. Paz Velasco, Team Leader, unit C4: Trade and Private Sector (confirmed) 3. Julián López Arenas, Director of Competitiveness, Chamber of Commerce of Spain (confirmed) 4. Rita Lecbychova Head of Unit International Cooperation I (confirmed) <p>Moderator: Sebastián Rovira, Economic Affairs Officer and Officer in Charge of the Innovation and New Technologies Unit of the Productive and Business Development Division of ECLAC (confirmed)</p>
17:45 – 18:00	Questions and answers session
18:00 – 18:15	<p>Forum Conclusions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representative of EUROCHAMBRES Ben Butters, CEO (to be confirmed) • Representative of CAINCO Fernando Hurtado, President

*CET: GMT+1