

## International Seminar

Friday 26 October 2018, 15:00 – 18:45

# THE CARIBBEAN- EUROPEAN UNION SYNERGY

What challenges and opportunities?

**Access to the Seminar:**

Room Arenberg, Egmont Palace  
Place du Petit Sablon, 8bis, Kleine Zavel  
1000 Brussels

**Working languages:**

English – Spanish – French

The international seminar aims at drawing attention to challenges and opportunities the Caribbean region has to face in economic, energy and climate aspects, as well as to the importance of a cooperative approach, both among Caribbean states and with the EU partners, especially Belgium.

Moreover, it aims at paying a special and academic posthumous tribute to Viktor Sukup, ex-civil servant of the European Commission, IRELAC researcher and Caribbean expert, who accidentally died after publishing his book on the Caribbean islands. The Ibero-American Academy of Yuste Foundation recently published a Spanish version of the book.

Thus, the seminar is the opportunity to tackle aspects of the Caribbean region as well as to enhance diplomatic and academic ties between the EU and the Caribbean with the identification of first operative steps to take in the bi-regional partnership.

Event organized by the “**Interdisciplinary Institute for the Relations Between the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean**” (IRELAC) and the **European and Ibero-American Academy of Yuste Foundation**, under the auspices of the Directorate for Americas of the **Belgian Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs**



## PROGRAMME

### 15:00 – 15:20 WELCOME ADDRESS

- **Director Alain Van Gucht**, Belgian Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs
- **Miguel Ángel Martín Ramos**, Head of Brussels Delegation of the European and Ibero-American Academy of Yuste Foundation
- **Christian Ghymers**, President of IRELAC
- **María Salvadora Ortiz Ortiz**, Director of External Relations of the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB), Member of the Board of Trustees of the European and Ibero-America Academy of Yuste Foundation

### 15:20 – 16:15 SESSION 1

#### The Caribbean in the frame of the EU-CELAC relations

**Chair: HE Joy Ann Skinner, Ambassador of Barbados, President of CARIFORUM**

- **Milton Castelen**, First Secretary of the Embassy of Suriname
- **Fernando Ponz Cantó**, Deputy Head of Division for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean at the European External Action Service
- **D. Rafael Reig Sánchez-Tembleque**, Diplomatic Counselor in Charge of Relations with Latin America at the Spanish Embassy to the European Union

Open discussion

### 16:15 - 17:10 SESSION 2

#### Caribbean Challenges: Growth, Environment, Climate Change, Natural disasters

**Chair: Sharlene Jo-Ann Shillingford-Mc Kimon, Chargé d'affaires of the Embassies of the Eastern Caribbean states**

- **Christian Ghymers**, President of IRELAC - Macroeconomic development
- **Philippe De Maeyer**, Professor at the University of Gent and researcher on Environmental change in the Caribbean
- **María Salvadora Ortiz Ortiz**, Director of External Relations of the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB), Member of the Board of Trustees of the European and Ibero-America Academy of Yuste Foundation

Open discussion

### 17:10 – 18:00 SESSION 3

#### Caribbean Integration and challenges

**Chair: HE Joy Ann Skinner, Ambassador of Barbados, President of CARIFORUM**

- **Carlos Quenan**, Vice President of Institut des Amériques and Professor at Université Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris 3
- **Sharlene Jo-Ann Shillingford-Mc Kimon**, Chargé d'affaires of the Embassies of the Eastern Caribbean states
- **Caroline Adriaensen**, Deputy-Head of Unit, European Commission, Expert on the Caribbean

Open Discussion

### 18:00 – 18:30 SESSION 4

#### Academic Tribute Session to Viktor Sukup

Member of IRELAC, author of a book on the Caribbean islands

**Chair: Miguel Ángel Martín Ramos, Head of Brussels Delegation of the European and Ibero-American Academy of Yuste Foundation**

#### Presentation of Sukup's work on the Caribbean

- **Eduardo Estévez Martín**, Ex General Secretary Assistant at the CMT, Advisor at ULATOC and CLATE

#### Personal testimonies about Viktor Sukup

- **Jean-Paul Marthoz**, Journalist at Le Soir
- **Marc Preyat**, ex Journalist at RTBF (1976-2010), Walcourt's Alderman for Education and Culture

### 18:30 – 18:45 CLOSING REMARKS

### 18:45 VIN D'HONNEUR

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