



EU-LAC Foundation, Yuste Foundation

# European Union - Latin America and the Caribbean relations: new times and renewed commitments

Summer Course Report 2024 – Yuste Campus

Coordinators: Diego Durán Cruz, Miguel Ángel Martín Ramos



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The International European Union-Latin America and the Caribbean Foundation (EU-LAC Foundation) was established by the Heads of State and Government of the European Union (EU) and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) in 2010. Its members are the EU and CELAC countries and the EU itself. The Foundation is a tool of the EU-CELAC partnership and its activities nurture intergovernmental dialogue, in line with the bi-regional Action Plan.

The EU-LAC Foundation's mission is to strengthen and promote the bi-regional strategic partnership, enhancing its visibility and encouraging the active participation of the respective civil societies.

Based on this mission, and the agreement signed between the EU-LAC Foundation and the European and Ibero-American Academy of Yuste Foundation (Yuste Foundation), the EU-LAC Foundation was invited by the Yuste Foundation to co-organise the Summer Course 'European Union - Latin America and Caribbean Relations: new times and renewed commitments', in the week of 23-25 July 2024, organised in classroom format at the Monastery Saint Jerónimo of Yuste and in online format. This annual course aims to address the challenges faced globally in EU-Latin American and Caribbean relations, contributing through training, reflection, debate and knowledge transfer to further study and improve the implementation of strategies that contribute to the construction of peaceful, supportive and egalitarian societies, thus contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The publication can be accessed via the following links:

<https://eulacfoundation.org/en/publications>  
<https://www.fundacionyuste.org/publicaciones/>

The recorded videos of the five days of the Summer Course are available at the following link:

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLavIJsUxU6WPTXvXGkxyzpf1\\_Zj77tVob](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLavIJsUxU6WPTXvXGkxyzpf1_Zj77tVob)

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The Foundation is funded by its members and, for this initiative, by the European Union and the Federal Republic of Germany.

The views expressed in the presentations compiled in this edition are solely the authors' responsibility. They cannot be regarded as the views of the EU-LAC Foundation, its Member States, the European Union or the European and Ibero-American Academy of Yuste Foundation.

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# CAMPUS YUSTE

# 2024

#CampusYuste

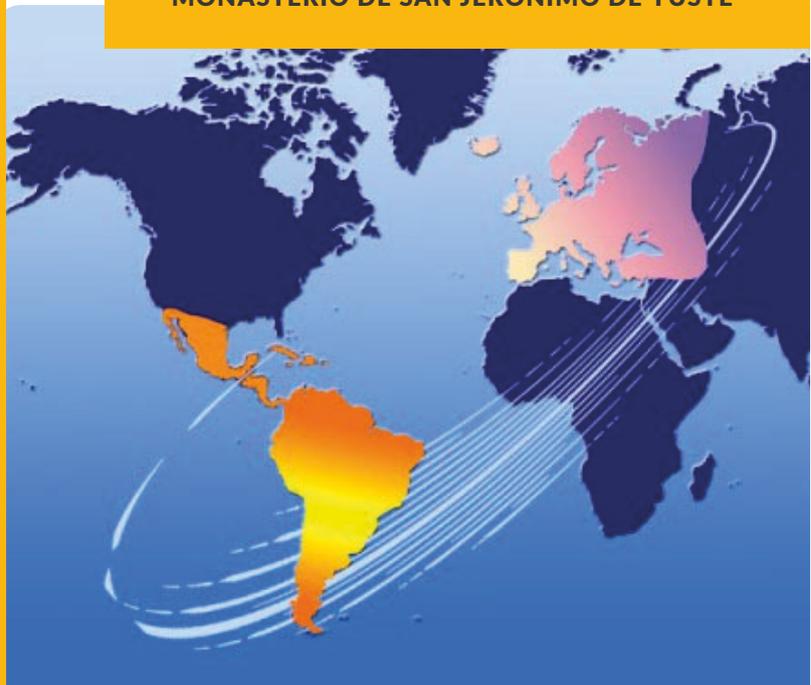


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## RELACIONES UNIÓN EUROPEA - AMÉRICA LATINA Y EL CARIBE: NUEVOS TIEMPOS Y COMPROMISOS RENOVADOS

**Del 23 al 25 de julio**  
MONASTERIO DE SAN JERÓNIMO DE YUSTE



**ORGANIZA**  **FUNDACIÓN YUSTE**  
ACADEMIA EUROPEA E IBEROAMERICANA  **EU-LAC Foundation**  
Fundación EU-LAC

**COLABORAN**



**JUNTA DE EXTREMADURA**  **DIPUTACIÓN DE CÁCERES**  **DIPUTACIÓN DE BADAJOZ**  **PATRIMONIO NACIONAL**

## PRESENTATION

The summer course 'European Union - Latin America and the Caribbean Relations: new times and renewed commitments' is the product of the annual collaboration between the EU-LAC Foundation and the Yuste Foundation, the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB), the Euroamerican Foundation, the Organisation of Ibero-American States and the University of Extremadura, which on this occasion also counted on the collaboration and participation of the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico. This course took place on 23, 24 and 25 July 2024 in the Monastery of San Jerónimo de Yuste, Extremadura. The event was supported by the Regional Government of Extremadura, the Provincial Council of Cáceres, the Provincial Council of Badajoz, National Heritage and Mafresa.

This space was organised in reflection after the EU-CELAC Summit of Heads of State and Government that took place in Brussels in June 2023, under the Spanish Presidency of the Council of the European Union and in preparation for the next Summit, which will take place in Colombia in 2025. Directed by Jaime Rossell Granados, Professor of State Ecclesiastical Law at the University of Extremadura, and Juan Carlos Moreno Piñero, Director of the European and Ibero-American Academy of Yuste Foundation. The secretariat and moderation were provided by Miguel Ángel Martín Ramos, European and Ibero-American Academy of Yuste Foundation, and Diego Durán Cruz, coordinator of inter-institutional partnership at the EU-LAC Foundation. The organising committee was headed by Adrián Bonilla, former director of the EU-LAC Foundation, and Ramón Jáuregui Atondo, member of the European and Ibero-American Academy of Yuste and president of the Euroamerica Foundation.

The Yuste Campus 2024 was attended by around 600 students from 22 countries in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, both in person and online, and this course was attended by more than 100 students in both face-to-face and online formats, and 23 speakers and experts from 18 countries. It aimed to address global challenges in EU-LAC relations through joint reflection, debate and knowledge transfer. In a context of increasing levels of insecurity in several countries of Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union, where delinquency and organised crime are the main concerns of the region's citizens, the conference focused on shared priorities between the regions in the medium and long term, such as the triple transition (green, digital and socio-economic) and initiatives such as the Global Gateway. This course was developed to provide a space for peripheral dialogue on such topics as security, the triple transition, the fight against climate change and biodiversity loss, health, food security and migration.

The co-organisers of the summer course, the EU-LAC Foundation and the Yuste Foundation, would like to express their gratitude to the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB), the Euroamerican Foundation, the Organisation of Ibero-American States, the University of Extremadura and the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico, as well as to the speakers and commentators of outstanding transcendence and trajectory from both sides of the Atlantic for their valuable contributions to the successful development of the course. We would also like to thank the Regional Government of Extremadura, the Provincial Council of Cáceres, the Provincial Council of Badajoz, National Heritage and Mafresa for their support and trust in the institutions organising the course. We would also like to thank the students for their interest, attendance and active participation. Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to Paula Folino Juanola, Carlos B. Muñoz and Nele Koch, interns at the EU-LAC Foundation, for the preparation of this report, and to Diego Durán Cruz, manager of inter-institutional relations at the EU-LAC Foundation, as well as to Miguel Ángel Martín Ramos, delegate in Brussels and responsible for European affairs at the Yuste Foundation, for the editing.

Enjoy reading!

Alberto Brunori  
**Executive Director**  
**EU-LAC Foundation**

Juan Carlos Moreno Piñero  
**Director**  
**European and Ibero-American Academy of Yuste Foundation**

Diego Durán Cruz  
**Manager of Interinstitutional**  
**Relations**  
**EU-LAC Foundation**

Miguel Ángel Martín Ramos  
**European Affairs Officer and Delegate in Brussels**  
**European and Ibero-American Academy of Yuste Foundation**

# FIRST DAY

Tuesday, 23 July 2024, 09:00h - 14:30h (CEST)

## INAUGURAL SESSION

### INAUGURATION



**Miguel Ángel  
Martín Ramos**



**Juan Carlos  
Moreno Piñero**



**Jaime Rossell  
Granados**



**Diego Durán  
Cruz**



**José María  
Hernández García**



**Pablo  
Hurtado Pardo**

**Juan Carlos Moreno Piñero** - Director of the European and Iberoamerican Academy of Yuste Foundation

**Jaime Rossell Granados** - Professor of State Ecclesiastical Law at the University of Extremadura

**Diego Durán Cruz** - Manager of interinstitutional relations at the EU-LAC Foundation

**José María Hernández García** - Mayor of Cuacos de Yuste and member of the Board of Trustees of the European and Ibero-American Academy of Yuste Foundation

**Pablo Hurtado Pardo** - Director General of External Action of the Regional Government of Extremadura and member of the Board of Trustees of the European and Ibero-American Academy of Yuste Foundation

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The inaugural session of the Yuste Campus 2024 highlighted the significance of relations between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean, stressing the need to strengthen these ties in a global context of crisis and uncertainty.

Miguel Ángel Martín Ramos, secretary and moderator of the course, opened the day by emphasising the relevance of bi-regional ties and the crucial role of these dialogues in addressing global challenges. He highlighted the enormous interest that the course has aroused in the relations between the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean, underlining the importance of these relations in a European context marked by various uncertainties and crises. He stressed the need to strengthen ties with Latin America, a region with which Europe has worked closely for years. He also referred to the reactivation of dialogue bodies, such as the Ibero-American summits and the next EU-CELAC summit in Colombia in 2025.

Juan Carlos Moreno Piñero, for his part, viewed the historical connection between the two regions as an opportunity to create new dynamic and profitable realities. Moreno urged participants to reflect on these thoughts and consider the deeper meaning of these transatlantic connections.

Jaime Rossell Granados took the floor and called for the revitalisation of relations between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean in order to face mutual challenges such as the economic crisis and populism. He pointed out that the bi-regional relationship should go beyond historical and cultural ties and should include components of consultation, cooperation and integration, working on an agenda of economic and social cohesion.

Similarly, Diego Durán Cruz underlined the importance of cooperation and renewed commitment, referring to the Brussels 2023 Summit, and stressed the need to address common problems such as the environmental crisis and the pressing consequences of armed conflicts through a collaborative approach.

José María Hernández García, Mayor of Cuacos de Yuste, offered a local perspective, highlighting the historical and cultural ties between Spain and Latin America, and underlined the challenges of insecurity and crime affecting the region. He concluded his speech by encouraging those present to combine the highest academic qualifications with values such as effort, responsibility and the common good.

Pablo Hurtado Pardo, Director General for External Action of the Regional Government of Extremadura, reiterated Extremadura's commitment to Euro-Latin American relations, emphasising the significance of events such as this course in reflecting on and strengthening these ties.

Overall, the inaugural session of the Yuste Campus 2024 reflected a convergence on the importance of relations between the European Union and Latin America, with a focus on cooperation, dialogue and joint action to face current and future challenges.



## KEYNOTE SPEECH

### TOWARDS A RENEWED COMMITMENT TO EU-LAC RELATIONS



**Cristina Manzano  
Porteros**

**Cristina Manzano Porteros** - Director of International Relations of the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB)

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Cristina Manzano's keynote speech addressed the current state of relations between Europe and Latin America, focusing on the period between the Brussels summits and the upcoming summit in Colombia. As Director of International Relations at SEGIB, Manzano highlighted the importance of the Secretariat, a multilateral organisation that includes twenty-two countries. She explained the origin and evolution of the Ibero-American summits, which began in 1991 in Mexico, and how these meetings have promoted dialogue and political cooperation at the highest level.

During her speech, Manzano discussed the current challenges facing both regions, including trade tensions, migration policies and the management of the COVID-19 pandemic. She underlined the need to strengthen economic and political ties to face these challenges together. She also stressed the significance of cooperation in areas such as education, science, technology, and climate change, emphasising that only through close collaboration can sustainable and mutually beneficial solutions for both continents be achieved.

Manzano also shared some initiatives illustrating the complexity and richness of relations between Europe and Latin America. For example, she mentioned joint projects in the cultural field that have generated a fruitful exchange of ideas and practices. In addition, she highlighted the role of youth and new generations in building a shared future, pointing to initiatives that seek to empower young leaders and encourage their active participation in decision-making.

Manzano highlighted several educational and exchange programmes that have been instrumental in strengthening ties between the two regions. She spoke about the academic mobility programme, which has allowed thousands of students and professors to spend time at universities in Europe and Latin America, thus promoting mutual understanding and the transfer of knowledge. She argued that such initiatives not only enrich academic training but also contribute to creating a more cohesive and collaborative global community.

In addition to educational aspects, Manzano stressed the importance of cooperation in scientific and technological

research. She mentioned joint projects that seek to address common problems, such as climate change and the transition to renewable energies. These projects, she said, are examples of how transnational collaboration can generate innovative and sustainable solutions, equitably benefiting both regions.

Another crucial point of her presentation was the analysis of the trade and economic dynamics between Europe and Latin America. Manzano stressed the need to diversify trade relations and to promote agreements that benefit both European and Latin American countries. In this sense, she mentioned the importance of free trade agreements and investments in key sectors such as infrastructure, technology and green industry.

Finally, Manzano concluded her speech with a call to action, urging governments, organisations and civil society to work collaboratively to strengthen ties between Europe and Latin America. She stressed that, despite the difficulties, there is great potential to build a stronger and more equitable relationship based on mutual respect and the pursuit of common goals. She affirmed that only through open dialogue and active cooperation will it be possible to overcome current challenges and take advantage of future opportunities.

Cristina Manzano's keynote speech was an in-depth and detailed reflection on the state of relations between Europe and Latin America, with a focus on the significance of collaboration in various fields to face global challenges and build a shared future.



## BLOCK 1

### TWO SUMMITS AND A NEW ERA IN RELATIONS BETWEEN EUROPE AND LATIN AMERICA



**Carlos Malamud Rikles**



**Sagrario Morán Blanco**



**Carlos Maza**



**Diego Durán Cruz**

#### PRIORITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR EU-LAC RELATIONS

**Carlos Malamud Rikles** - Senior Researcher at the Real Instituto Elcano and Professor of American History at the National University of Distance Education

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Carlos Malamud Rikles gave a presentation in which he discussed the priorities and challenges for EU-Latin American relations. He began by framing the problem in the context of the global confrontation between China and the United States, noting how this rivalry has direct repercussions on the political and economic dynamics of both regions. He pointed out that, in this scenario of global competition, both Europe and Latin America must reconsider their positions and strategies in order not to be left behind. He also highlighted the geopolitical relationship with the global south, suggesting that both regions must strengthen their ties and alliances in order to face common challenges together.

Malamud emphasised the special and unique nature of the bi-regional relationship between Europe and Latin America, a relationship that has been forged over several centuries. He underlined that it goes beyond colonial domination, being sustained by social, family and personal ties that have endured over time. Unlike other international relations that may be more transactional or temporary, the connection between these two regions has a historical and cultural depth that makes it unique. He stressed that these deep ties represent a solid foundation on which to build closer and more fruitful cooperation in the future.

In his analysis, Carlos Malamud underscored the importance of understanding this relationship in its full magnitude, even though many of its aspects are not reflected in official statistics. He stated that this relationship cannot be measured solely in economic or commercial terms, as it includes cultural, educational and scientific exchanges that are equally crucial. For example, he mentioned the numerous academic exchange programmes and collaborations in scientific research projects that have strengthened the links between the two regions. He also highlighted the contributions of the Latin American diasporas in Europe and vice versa, which have enriched the societies and cultures of both sides.

Malamud recalled that this relationship was defined in the 1990s as a strategic relationship, although he criticised the fact that not enough time has been taken to define what a 'strategic relationship' really means. He indicated that this lack of definition has led to a series of misunderstandings and unfulfilled expectations over the years. He proposed that both sides work together to develop a clear and shared vision of what this strategic relationship should be, including common objectives and more efficient cooperation mechanisms. He suggested setting specific goals in key areas such as trade, investment, technological innovation, education and environmental sustainability.

Furthermore, Malamud stressed the significance of cooperation in the field of human rights and democracy, noting that both continents share fundamental values that can serve as a solid basis for closer collaboration. He noted that in an increasingly polarised world, the joint defence of these values is more important than ever. He proposed the creation of permanent fora for dialogue and cooperation on these issues, to exchange experiences and best practices, and to coordinate actions in defence of human rights and democracy at the global level.

Lastly, Malamud underlined that the sum of European, Latin American and Caribbean votes in international organisations significantly impacts the global scene. He argued that, although each region has its own interests and priorities, closer and more coordinated collaboration could increase their weight and influence in crucial decisions at the global level. To this end, he recommended the creation of permanent dialogue platforms and the holding of more frequent bi-regional summits with more concrete agendas. He also suggested the implementation of follow-up and evaluation mechanisms to ensure that the agreements and commitments reached at these summits are translated into concrete actions and tangible results.

## **COMBATING INSECURITY AND TRANSNATIONAL ORGANISED CRIME: A SHARED CHALLENGE BETWEEN THE EU AND LAC**

**Sagrario Morán Blanco** - Professor of International Public Law and International Relations and Secretary of the Centro de Estudios de Iberoamérica of the Universidad Rey Juan Carlos

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Sagrario Morán Blanco began her speech by underlining the importance of the historical context of the place, mentioning how this influences reflection and learning, and expressed her thanks to all the organisers and attendees, acknowledging the effort and dedication that made this academic meeting possible. She stressed that these events are fundamental for the exchange of ideas and the development of joint strategies in the face of common challenges.

Morán Blanco devoted considerable time to exploring strategies to combat insecurity and transnational organised crime, framing her analysis in terms of the relationship between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean. She pointed out that globalisation and transnationalisation have made it easier for non-state actors, such as terrorist organisations and criminal groups, to take advantage of these phenomena to achieve their objectives. This exploitation has significantly increased the impact of terrorism and organised crime in various regions of the world, which represents a significant challenge to global security.

Sagrario Morán Blanco emphasised drug trafficking as one of the main manifestations of organised crime, highlighting its transnational character and its contribution to the insecurity and violence experienced in Latin America and the Caribbean. She argued that these problems not only affect public security but also undermine governance and the economic and social development of the countries affected. She also stated that drug trafficking is not only a security problem but also a challenge to sustainable development and social justice in the region.

Moreover, Morán Blanco analysed the different policies and strategies implemented by the European Union and the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to address these challenges. She pointed out the value of international cooperation and the need for a comprehensive approach that combines security measures with social and economic development policies. She underscored that the fight against organised crime and terrorism requires not only a police and military response but also concerted efforts to address the underlying causes, such as poverty, inequality and lack of opportunities. She stressed that collaboration between nations is essential to create legal and operational frameworks that allow effective and coordinated action against these threats.

The address also covered the significance of prevention, noting that prevention policies should be aimed at strengthening democratic institutions and promoting human development. She argued that young people, in particular, should be a

focus of attention, as they are both victims and potential perpetrators of the violence associated with organised crime. In conclusion, Morán Blanco reiterated her gratitude to the organisers of the course and to all the participants, highlighting the relevance of these spaces for dialogue and reflection to build effective and sustainable strategies against insecurity and organised crime. She invited everyone to continue working together, sharing knowledge and experiences to face these common challenges and build a safer and more prosperous future for all. She called for joint action and solidarity among nations to ensure that future generations can live in a more just and secure world, free from the threats of organised crime and terrorism.

## EU-LAC RELATIONS: CHALLENGES AND UNKNOWNNS IN MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

**Carlos Maza** - Manager of Intergovernmental Relations of the EU-LAC Foundation (Video)

**Diego Durán Cruz** - Manager of Inter-institutional Relations of the EU-LAC Foundation

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Carlos Maza opened by providing a contextualisation of the EU-LAC Foundation, an international organisation in charge of following up on commitments and promoting intergovernmental dialogue. The mission of the EU-LAC Foundation is to work collaboratively with bi-regional authorities and civil societies, facilitating dialogue on various issues that are of common interest to both regions.

Maza highlighted the Foundation's sensitivity to changes in bi-regional priorities, mentioning the recent summit that updated these issues and gave impetus to new priorities. Among the focus areas mentioned were sustainable development, economic cooperation, education, scientific research and environmental protection. He also underlined the importance of collaboration in the field of human rights and democratic governance, issues that have gained prominence on the agendas of both the EU and LAC.

The panel continued with an on-site intervention by Diego Durán Cruz, who provided an additional perspective on the challenges and opportunities facing EU-LAC relations. The remaining barriers, such as cultural and economic differences, were discussed, but achievements and the potential for closer collaboration were also highlighted. The ensuing dialogue allowed participants to share experiences and propose innovative solutions to advance common goals, thus reinforcing the commitment of both regions to work together for a more prosperous and equitable future. In addition, during Carlos Maza's intervention, several specific projects that have been successfully implemented thanks to the collaboration between the EU and LAC were mentioned. One of these projects focused on the promotion of renewable energies, where several Latin American countries received technical and financial support to develop solar and wind energy infrastructures. Such initiatives not only contribute to environmental sustainability but also generate employment and improve the quality of life of local communities.

The panel concluded with a message of optimism and determination, underlining that, despite the challenges, EU-LAC relations have enormous potential to contribute to a more just and sustainable development. Maza thanked all participants for their valuable contributions and invited them to continue the dialogue and collaboration in future meetings and projects. The session closed with enthusiastic applause, reflecting the spirit of cooperation and the hope of achieving a positive impact through joint efforts between the two regions.



## SECOND DAY

Wednesday, 24 July 2024, 09:00h -16:30 (CEST)

### BLOCK 2

PRESENT AND FUTURE FRAMEWORK OF EU-LAC RELATIONS:  
DIALOGUE BODIES AND IMMEDIATE CHALLENGES



Laurent Sillano



Pablo Chiesa



José Andrés  
Fernández Leost



José Antonio  
García Belaúnde



José Francisco  
Sánchez López



Margarita Ester Zavala  
Gómez del Campo

#### PANEL DISCUSSION - PRESENT AND FUTURE FRAMEWORK FOR EU-LAC RELATIONS: THE DIALOGUE BODIES

**Laurent Sillano** - Advisor for Latin America, the Caribbean and relations with all Overseas Countries and Territories at the Directorate-General for International Partnerships (DG INTPA) of the European Commission (Video)

**Pablo Chiesa** - Strategic Partnerships Specialist. Representative in Europe of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) group

**José Andrés Fernández Leost** - Coordinator and Head of Studies and Analysis at the Carolina Foundation and Associate Professor of Political Theory at the Complutense University of Madrid

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The panel entitled 'Present and future framework of EU-LAC relations: dialogue bodies' addressed the immediate challenges and current tools for cooperation between the European Union (EU) and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). This event aimed to deepen the dynamics of collaboration and explore new ways to strengthen the relationship between the two regions, considering the strategic importance and shared values that unite both blocs. The EU-LAC relationship has been consolidating over the years, and this type of event is crucial to maintain the momentum and adapt to new global realities.

Laurent Sillano, advisor to the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Partnerships, opened the session with a 20-minute video in which he provided a general context explaining the policies and strategies the European Commission has been implementing to foster effective and sustainable cooperation with Latin America. He underlined the importance of this relationship in the context of an increasingly multipolar world full of global challenges. He stressed the need for multilateral cooperation that includes not only governments but also non-state actors such as NGOs, businesses, and civil society.

The discussion continued with contributions from leading representatives of different organisations, including Pablo Chiesa and José Andrés Fernández Leost, who shared their perspectives and experiences. Discussions focused on how to improve current dialogue structures and on the need to create new mechanisms for more agile and effective cooperation. The barriers that currently hinder closer collaboration, such as regulatory differences and economic disparities between regions, were also discussed.

During his intervention, Sillano highlighted several key points on the relevance of EU-LAC collaboration. He mentioned that both regions face common existential challenges, such as global warming, biodiversity loss, cybersecurity and migration. Furthermore, he pointed out that the EU and LAC share fundamental values and have significant diplomatic weight in the international arena. Together, they account for approximately one-third of the voting rights in global institutions such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. This joint diplomatic weight allows them to influence the global agenda in a significant way, promoting shared values and principles.

Pablo Chiesa and José Andrés Fernández Leost provided valuable perspectives from their respective organisations. Chiesa emphasised the need to strengthen trade and investment ties between the two regions, highlighting the importance of fair and balanced trade agreements that benefit all parties involved. He also underlined the importance of cooperation in digitalisation and technological transformation, where both the EU and LAC can learn and benefit from each other. Chiesa stressed the relevance of creating a regulatory environment favouring innovation and entrepreneurship and mentioned several success stories where companies from both regions collaborated to develop pioneering technological solutions.

Fernández Leost, on the other hand, focused on the social and cultural aspects of cooperation. He emphasised the importance of cultural and educational exchanges as tools to foster greater understanding and mutual respect. He also spoke of the need to address social and economic inequalities through inclusive policies and community development programmes. Fernández Leost pointed out that effective cooperation must take into account the cultural and social diversities of both regions, promoting projects that are sensitive to local realities and empowering communities.

In summary, the panel provided a comprehensive overview of the current state and future prospects of EU-LAC relations. It highlighted the need to continue strengthening the mechanisms of dialogue and cooperation in order to face global challenges together and take advantage of the opportunities that arise. This collaboration is seen as an essential tool for building a more equitable and sustainable future for both regions. Furthermore, it was stressed that, in order to achieve these objectives, it is crucial to involve a wide range of actors, including governments, international organisations, the private sector and civil society, thus ensuring inclusive and multidimensional cooperation.

The panel concluded with a call to action, urging both regions to redouble their efforts to consolidate this strategic partnership and create a framework for cooperation that is resilient, adaptable and capable of responding to the challenges of the 21st century. Participants agreed that, through dialogue and continued collaboration, the EU and LAC can achieve common goals and contribute significantly to a more just and sustainable world order. Several concrete initiatives were proposed, such as the creation of a common fund for sustainable development projects, the establishment of an EU-LAC innovation network and the organisation of annual summits to assess progress and adjust strategies as necessary.

The event closed with a question-and-answer session, where participants had the opportunity to raise their concerns and suggestions. Questions covered a wide range of topics, from security cooperation to the promotion of human rights and gender equality. The speakers responded by stressing the importance of a holistic and inclusive approach and reiterated their commitment to building an EU-LAC relationship based on mutual trust, respect and solidarity.



## PANEL DISCUSSION - GOVERNANCE, SECURITY AND DEMOCRACY AS A CURRENT CHALLENGE IN EU-LAC RELATIONS

**José Antonio García Belaúnde** - Former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Peru (2006-2011) and former Ambassador to Spain (2016-2018)

**José Francisco Sánchez López** - Director of the Ibero-American Institute of the University of Salamanca

**Margarita Ester Zavala Gómez del Campo** - Member of the Congress of the Union of Mexico

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During the panel discussion 'Governance, security and democracy as a current challenge in EU-LAC relations', crucial issues on relations between the European Union (EU), Latin America and the Caribbean were addressed, focusing on immediate challenges such as governance, security and democracy.

José Antonio García Belaúnde, former Peruvian Ambassador to Spain and former Peruvian Minister of Foreign Affairs, highlighted the historical evolution of relations between the EU and Latin America. He mentioned how these relations have evolved from traditional technical assistance to broader and more ambitious association agreements that include political dialogue, cooperation and free trade agreements. García Belaúnde underlined the importance of these new instruments for adapting to changing times and improving collaboration between the two regions. Additionally, he highlighted the need to address common challenges such as climate change, social inequality and technological innovation, suggesting that collaboration in these areas could further strengthen ties between the two regions. He also proposed the creation of a permanent forum for dialogue between the EU and Latin America to discuss and coordinate joint actions more effectively.

José Francisco Sánchez López, an expert in International Relations and university professor, focused his speech on regional security and stability. He argued that cooperation in security matters is essential to confront common threats such as drug trafficking, organised crime and terrorism. He proposed the creation of joint intelligence mechanisms and the implementation of training programmes for security forces in Latin America, with technical and financial support from the EU. In addition, he stressed the importance of preventive diplomacy and conflict mediation in maintaining peace and stability in the region. He also noted the need to address the root causes of insecurity, such as poverty and lack of opportunities, through comprehensive policies that include education and economic development.

Margarita Ester Zavala offered a perspective focused on democracy and governance. She emphasised the significance of strengthening democratic institutions and promoting respect for human rights as fundamental pillars for sustainable development. She advocated greater citizen participation and transparency in electoral processes, as well as the protection of the rights of minorities and vulnerable groups. She also underlined the relevance of international cooperation in the promotion of democratic values and the fight against corruption, proposing the creation of independent observatories to monitor the quality of democracy on both continents. She stressed the importance of civic education in fostering an informed and participatory citizenry that can demand accountability and contribute to the strengthening of democracy.

The panel concluded with a question-and-answer session, fostering an enriching dialogue on the challenges and opportunities in EU-LAC relations. Attendees had the opportunity to interact directly with the panellists, raising questions on various topics such as education, trade and migration. This interaction allowed for an exchange of ideas and experiences that further enriched the debate, making it clear that, although there are significant challenges, there is also enormous potential for cooperation and joint development. Moreover, the possibility of organising future meetings and seminars to further deepen these issues and strengthen the network of collaboration between the two regions was discussed.

Finally, the event served as a platform to establish new connections and partnerships among the participants, opening the door to possible collaborations on specific projects. Panellists and attendees agreed on the need to maintain a constant and constructive dialogue to address common challenges and take advantage of opportunities for mutual growth and development. The importance of political will and the commitment of all actors involved in achieving significant progress in EU-LAC relations was highlighted.



# THIRD DAY

Thursday, 25 July 2024, 09:00h - 15:00h (CEST)

## BLOCK 3

GOVERNANCE AND INFLUENCES BACK AND FORTH IN EUROPEAN UNION - LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN RELATIONS



Anna  
Ayuso



Francisco  
Rodríguez Jiménez



Héctor Luis  
Acevedo



José Antonio  
Frontera Agenjo



Lorena Ruano  
Gómez



Antonio  
Ramos

### PANEL DISCUSSION - DEMOCRATIC CHALLENGES IN THE FACE OF THE RISE OF POPULISM IN THE EU AND LAC

**Anna Ayuso Pozo** – Senior Researcher for Latin America at CIDO

**Francisco Rodríguez Jiménez** – Doctor in History. Permanent Lecturer in Extremadura

**Héctor Luis Acevedo** – Lecturer in Politics and Law Pontificia Universidad Católica de Puerto Rico. Inter-American University of Puerto Rico. Former Mayor of San Juan

During the panel discussion ‘Democratic challenges in the face of the rise of populism in the EU and LAC’, the relations between the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean were addressed, focusing the day on governance and mutual influences. This panel discussion highlighted the importance of cooperation and mutual understanding between the regions, underlining the need to address common challenges with a collaborative and committed approach.

Ana Ayuso Pozo, a researcher at CIDOB (Barcelona Centre for International Affairs), offered an informed and critical perspective on the current situation. Ayuso stressed that the term ‘populism’ has acquired mainly negative connotations, being associated with simplified, polarising discourses that generate confrontation. Without entering into conceptual debates on populism, she focused on identifying trends and effects of populism in current politics. Ayuso’s intervention served as a basis for a broader discussion on the implications of populism for governance and international relations, highlighting the significance of strengthening democratic institutions and promoting a more inclusive and constructive dialogue.

Francisco Rodríguez Jiménez started his intervention by raising questions about the definition of populism and its conceptual and methodological ambiguity, referring to Farid Zakaria, who in 1997 coined the term ‘illiberal democracy’. Rodríguez Jiménez mentioned the concern about the wave of ‘illiberal democracy’ affecting the world, impacting on the democratic quality of societies, including in Europe. Francisco Rodríguez Jiménez suggested that this anti-democratic

or authoritarian wave presents a hybrid danger that must be monitored. However, despite this pessimistic outlook, he highlighted cases such as Poland, where there has been a return to democratic normality. He described characteristics of populism, such as the delegitimisation of the political adversary, disinformation and the non-acceptance of defeat. He mentioned extreme examples from the United States and Brazil, where the intervention of the army or judicial authorities was called for to disrupt democratic processes.

In his analysis, Rodríguez Jiménez underscored the importance of distinguishing between ideological polarisation and affective polarisation. He explained that ideological polarisation is inherent to democracy and even positive, as it allows for the existence of different socio-political and cultural alternatives. In contrast, affective polarisation is based on identities and feelings, leading to extreme politicisation and less respect for the adversary. This type of polarisation exacerbates social tension and can lead to political persecution of the losers.

Professor Héctor Luis Acevedo, a leading scholar in politics and law at the Pontifical Catholic University of Puerto Rico and the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico, delivered a presentation on the importance of details in democracy and their cumulative consequences. Acevedo, who graduated with honours from the University of Puerto Rico and studied law at Harvard University, shared his experiences as an election commissioner, secretary of state and mayor of San Juan.

During the address, Acevedo related an anecdote from his youth, when he volunteered in an election office and had to preside over a primary in a small town in Puerto Rico. Through this experience, he learned about election logistics and the significance of ballot distribution. He noted how the 'closed school' system implemented in Puerto Rico in 1931, which restricted voters after certain hours, significantly reduced the dummy electorate.

Acevedo underlined that, in democracy, details are crucial, and their effects accumulate over time, affecting the integrity of the electoral process. The presentation emphasised the need to pay attention to these details in order to ensure fair and transparent elections.

The panellists discussed concrete examples of successful cooperation, such as academic exchange programmes and joint infrastructure projects. They also addressed existing barriers, such as regulatory differences and trade tensions, and proposed solutions to overcome them. The value of innovation and technology as drivers of economic growth was emphasised, and ways to foster knowledge and technology transfer between the regions were discussed. The post-panel discussion focused on several key issues. First, the significance of democratic mechanisms and how they can influence outcomes depending on the territorial context was highlighted. The discussion was enriched by these complex and substantive questions.

## **PANEL DISCUSSION - BACK AND FORTH INFLUENCES ON EURO-LATIN AMERICAN RELATIONS AND THINKING**

**José Antonio Frontera Agenjo** - Professor of Law and Vice-President of the Pontifical University of Puerto Rico

**Lorena Ruano Gómez** - Associate Professor at Universidad Carlos III de Madrid and at IE University

**Antonio Ramos** - Director of the Department of Philosophy at the Pontifical University of Puerto Rico

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In José Antonio Frontera Asenjo's lecture, during a panel on relations between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean, the academic addressed the bidirectional influence between these territories, highlighting the complexity of these relations from a historical, cultural, political and social perspective. Frontera emphasised the need to recognise not only what Europe can teach Latin America, but also what Latin America can contribute to Europe, promoting an approach of mutual learning and cooperation.

The professor explored how Puerto Rico, despite its status as a territory of the United States, maintains a strong Latin American identity. He mentioned that, historically, Puerto Rico has played a significant role in Latin American thought and culture, citing figures such as Eugenio María de Hostos and Puerto Rican participation in the Cortes de Cádiz. In addition, Frontera reflected on Puerto Rico's unique geopolitical position, acting as a bridge between the Latin American and North American worlds, which has been exploited by European companies to access the US market, particularly the Latin American market.

The speech also covered the challenges of cultural and legal assimilation that Puerto Rico has faced under U.S. sovereignty, highlighting the resistance to the loss of the Spanish language and the adaptation of a hybrid legal system that combines elements of civil and common law. Frontera explained how Puerto Rico has maintained elements of its Spanish civil code despite the imposition of U.S. laws and judicial processes, which has generated constant tension between the two legal traditions.

Ultimately, Frontera compared this phenomenon with the evolution of law in the European Union, noting that, as in Puerto Rico, a system of judicial precedents is developing in Europe, which could lead to similar situations of tension and adaptation. Frontera concluded that the Puerto Rican experience can offer valuable lessons for understanding and managing legal integration in supranational contexts such as the European Union.

Lorena Ruano Gómez, professor and researcher in International Relations, gave a comprehensive presentation on the perception of the European Union (EU) in Latin America. Her analysis was based on data from Latinobarómetro, Friedrich Ebert Foundation surveys and studies requested by the European Commission.

Ruano analysed the image of the EU in Latin America, stressing that the perception is mostly positive in countries such as Brazil, Colombia and Mexico, compared to developed countries. In general, Latin Americans view the EU favourably, similar to other developing countries such as India and South Africa. The image of Europe is mainly associated with monuments, museums, and culture, and it is perceived positively in aspects such as economic integration and the welfare state. However, negative aspects such as colonialism and the extreme right are not frequently mentioned.

Ruano compared the perception of the EU with that of other global powers. In comparison with Russia and the United States, which are seen as more aggressive, and China, which is perceived as very powerful, the EU is seen as modern, strong and efficient. Latin Americans value the EU positively in areas such as environmental protection, human rights and the promotion of world peace. In contrast, the US and China are seen as leaders in different areas, such as military power and technological development.

Lorena Ruano highlighted that the EU is perceived in Latin America as a normative and symbolic power associated with human rights and democracy issues. There is a strong correlation between global issues of concern to Latin Americans (such as climate change and poverty) and the areas in which the EU is seen as a leader. Despite the overall positive perception, the decline in the assessment of relations with the EU points to the need to address this trend to maintain effective and solid cooperation in the future.

In his intervention on the panel, Antonio Ramos addressed the influence of European philosophy on Latin American and Caribbean thought, as well as the decolonial theory that has emerged in response to that influence. Ramos, who is director of the Department of Philosophy at the Pontifical University of Puerto Rico, first thanked the Foundation for the invitation and expressed his honour to participate in the panel.

Ramos pointed out that, in recent decades, the influence of European philosophy in Latin America and the Caribbean has been criticised by various scholars and activists, who argue that this influence represents a form of mental colonisation rather than genuine merit. This view argues that Latin American philosophy should strive to decolonise itself by disassociating itself from European influences.

The speaker presented decolonial theory as the main theoretical framework that has emerged in opposition to European influence. This theory, which originated in the early 1990s with Aníbal Quijano and Enrique Dussel, is based on concepts such as dependency theory and world-system analysis. The decolonial theory argues that the global economy and the distribution of power are structured in a way that favours the central (rich and industrialised) countries over the peripheral (poor and non-industrialised) ones and argues that imperialism and colonialism have been the foundation for the current economic order.

Ramos explained that, according to Quijano, 'coloniality' refers to a form of domination that goes beyond political and economic colonialism, also affecting knowledge and social structure. This concept focuses on how racial and economic differences have been codified and perpetuated through global capitalism and Western modernity.

Ramos's analysis was directed towards a critique of second-generation decolonial theory, which seeks the complete disengagement of Latin American thought from its European influences. While acknowledging the importance of this approach, he also criticised its limitations, arguing that decolonial theory often reduces epistemology to questions of race and ethnicity, which can result in ethnonationalism and relativism that do not contribute to productive epistemic debate.

Ramos also questioned the decolonial theory's critique of the universality of Western epistemology, arguing that the disqualification of certain knowledge based on its European origin can be equally reductionist. In conclusion, he argued that, while the critique of Eurocentrism is valid, one should not dismiss knowledge simply because of its origin but rather evaluate its merit in a critical and argumentative manner.

In summary, Antonio Ramos' intervention offered a critical analysis of decolonial theory, highlighting the need for a balance between a critique of Eurocentrism and a critical appraisal of knowledge, regardless of its origin.

Questions from the audience focused on a variety of topics. Natalia, from the University of Salamanca, asked about academic tools to avoid cultural relativism, while Marcos Benito questioned the compatibility between universalism and post-truth. Other participants, such as Alejandra and Adrián, raised questions about administrative law in Puerto Rico and the perception of modernity in the European Union. Professor Ruano was questioned on justice in EU climate policy, while Professor Frontera responded on conceptual analysis and the relevance of a universalist philosophy vis-à-vis decolonial theory.

The panel concluded by stressing the need for a balanced approach to international relations, considering both historical aspects and current social and political dynamics.



# CLOSURE OF THE SUMMER COURSE

CLOSING CONFERENCE



**Felipe Calderón  
Hinojosa**



**Abel Bautista  
Morán**

**Felipe Calderón Hinojosa** - President of Mexico 2006-2012

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Felipe Calderón Hinojosa, in his closing speech, emphasised the importance of relations between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union, stressing that these connections have deep roots in history and culture. Despite the current challenges, Calderón underlined the need for a renewed commitment and innovative strategies to strengthen these ties.

Calderón shared the anecdote that his hometown, Morelia, was formerly called Valladolid, having been founded by a Royal Decree of Charles I of Spain. He highlighted the European historical and cultural influence in Latin America, mentioning figures such as Miguel Hidalgo and José María Morelos, who promoted Mexican independence inspired by European ideas. He emphasised how these historical leaders adopted and adapted Enlightenment ideas from Europe, demonstrating an intellectual interconnection that existed for centuries.

Furthermore, he spoke about current affairs, mentioning that collaboration in areas such as trade, education and science is vital for mutual development. He indicated that trade agreements between the two continents can serve as an engine for economic growth and job creation. In the field of education, he stressed the exchange programmes that allow Latin American and European students to learn from each other and build bridges of cultural and academic understanding.

Calderón noted the importance of tackling global challenges such as climate change, security and migration together. He pointed out that international cooperation is essential to address these problems effectively and that the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean can lead these efforts at the global level. In addition, he underlined that the fight against climate change requires coordinated action and a strong commitment from all nations involved.

Calderón also spoke about the value of culture and art as bridges connecting people. He mentioned that cultural exchanges, art exhibitions, film festivals and other cultural events can help strengthen ties between communities and foster greater mutual understanding and appreciation. He recalled how music, literature and film have historically served as vehicles for intercultural dialogue.

Lastly, Calderón concluded that relations between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean should be seen as a shared and inevitable cultural future, continually learning from each other. He called on the leaders and citizens of both regions to look beyond differences and focus on what can be achieved together. Calderón expressed his hope that, through dialogue and collaboration, a more prosperous and just future can be built for all nations involved. He insisted that only through cooperation and mutual understanding can the challenges of the 21st century be successfully met and opportunities seized.

## INSTITUTIONAL CLOSING

**Abel Bautista Morán** - Minister of the Presidency, Interior and Dialogue of the Regional Government of Extremadura. President of the Executive Committee of the European and Ibero-American Academy of Yuste Foundation

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Abel Bautista Morán's closing speech at the summer course was an occasion to reflect on the achievements and express his gratitude to all participants. Bautista Morán began his address by acknowledging the effort and dedication of the speakers and students, both on-site and online, who contributed to the success of the event. He made special mention of those speakers who travelled from distant places such as Mexico, Puerto Rico and other parts of the American and European continents, underlining the honour it meant for the Foundation to have their presence and their valuable contributions.

The speech also highlighted the significance of the relations between the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean. Bautista Morán emphasised how events such as this summer course are crucial to strengthen these historical, cultural, political and economic ties. He thanked the collaboration of entities such as the EU-LAC Foundation and other foundations supporting the initiative, recognising that these alliances are vital for constructing a symmetrical and equitable dialogue.

A significant part of the speech was devoted to thanking the students for their active participation in the debates. Bautista Morán emphasised that the involvement and commitment of the students enriched the discussions and provided diverse perspectives that contributed to a deeper analysis of the topics discussed. He also mentioned the nearly 80 students who followed the course online from different countries such as Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Colombia, Ivory Coast, Cuba, Spain, Morocco, Mexico, Nicaragua, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal, Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Puerto Rico, inviting them to participate in person in future editions to enjoy the environment and direct contact with the speakers.

Bautista Morán took the opportunity to thank the Regional Government of Extremadura for its unconditional support, without which the course would not have been possible. He underscored that collaboration between regional institutions and international foundations is essential to face global challenges and promote values such as freedom, justice, democracy, respect for the rule of law, security and human rights.

The discourse also addressed the need for greater strategic autonomy and effective cooperation between Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean in the context of a changing geopolitical landscape full of uncertainties. Bautista Morán called for harnessing the collective strength of these regions to face global challenges and issues, promoting peace and stability.

Finally, participants were invited to return for future editions of the summer course, assured that they would always find a space for reflection and dialogue in Extremadura. He concluded by expressing his thanks to all those who made this event possible and reiterating his commitment to building a prosperous shared future for all the regions involved.



