EU - CELAC summit
Brussels, 10-11 June 2015

The second EU-CELAC (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States) summit will be held in Brussels on 10-11 June 2015 under the theme: “Shaping our common future: working for prosperous, cohesive and sustainable societies for our citizens”. The summit will bring together European, Latin American and Caribbean leaders to strengthen relations between the regions.

The summit will be co-chaired by the President of the European Council, Donald Tusk, and the President of Ecuador, Rafael Correa, who currently holds the rotating presidency of the CELAC group. The President of the European Commission, Jean-Claude Juncker, and the EU High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice-President of the Commission, Federica Mogherini, will be representing the EU together with President Tusk.

61 Heads of State or government from CELAC and EU member states are expected to attend. Sixteen years after launching the partnership (originally called EU-LAC) the summit will be an occasion to re-invigorate bi-regional relations, upgrade and modernise everyday cooperation and seek greater convergence on global issues.

The official welcome of the leaders will start on **Wednesday 10 June** at 14.00. There will be a short opening session at 14.30, followed by a presentation of the conclusions of several preparatory events. At 15.30 the first working session on "Reinvigorating the bi-regional partnership" will start. This will be followed by the second working session on "Facing together global challenges" starting at 17.00. A social dinner will be held at 19.00.

On **Thursday 11 June**, the summit will resume at 10.00 with a retreat session for the heads of state or government under the theme of "Dialogue on international issues and developments". A closing session will be held at 12.15 and the final press conference, by Presidents Tusk, Juncker and Correa, is expected to start at 13.00.

At the end of the meeting, leaders are expected to adopt a joint political declaration, a declaration highlighting the progress made in cooperation in thematic areas and a reviewed and expanded Action Plan.

Meetings to be held in the margins of the summit:

- **Thursday 11 June at 14.30 - 15.30** - Reception for the EU and CELAC heads of state or government hosted by the King of Belgium at the Belgian Royal Palace.
- **Thursday 11 June at 16.00 - 17.00**: EU-SICA – Central American Integration System - high level meeting at the European Council premises, Justus Lipsius building.
- **Thursday 11 June at 17.30 - 18.30**: EU-CARIFORUM – Forum of the Caribbean countries - high level meeting at the European Council premises, Justus Lipsius building.

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1 This note has been drawn up under the responsibility of the press office.
1st Working Session: Reinvigorating the bi-regional partnership

The summit will be an opportunity for leaders to take a forward-looking approach to bi-regional relations to achieve a partnership for the next generation. This entails increased political dialogue at all levels, strengthening economic relations, in particular through the full implementation of existing trade agreements, progressing on ongoing negotiations with Mercosur and modernising the first generation agreements between the EU and Mexico and Chile. The summit should also promote joint initiatives of high added value in areas such as innovation and information and communication technology (ICT), with the projected underwater broadband fibre optic cable linking Europe with Latin America. Increased bi-regional cooperation on research and education will be another important topic, seizing the opportunities which exist under the EU Horizon 2020 programme, which is fully open to participation by CELAC countries, as well as more student exchanges through the Erasmus+ programme. The summit should also confirm the agreement that will upgrade the EU-LAC Foundation to the status of an international organisation.

2nd Working Session: Facing together global challenges

At the second working session, leaders will be focusing on three major global issues: climate change and the upcoming UN climate conference in Paris in December, the post-2015 development agenda to be discussed in New York in September and the UN General Assembly Special Session 2016 (UNGASS) on Drugs. The aim of the discussions will be to enable greater convergence of positions between the regions ahead of the respective multilateral meetings. With 1/3 of the UN membership represented between the EU and CELAC, there is huge potential in having increased cooperation on the multilateral agenda. Other global challenges, such as biodiversity, energy security, water scarcity, cybersecurity, terrorism and piracy, migration as well as pandemics, are also issues likely to be addressed by the leaders.

Leaders’ retreat: Dialogue on international issues and developments

While previous summits have mostly focused on socio-economic issues, this last session for leaders only will be focusing on international issues and recent developments. The retreat session will enable leaders to have an open discussion on how they see the current international landscape; what are the main challenges, risks and opportunities that the two regions face; and also how bi-regional dialogue and cooperation can contribute to addressing them. Issues like migration, development, organised crime, extremism and regional conflicts will be part of the discussions.

For more information on the summit and its preparatory events see: EU-CELAC summit website

Public events and press conferences by video streaming: http://video.consilium.europa.eu
Video coverage in broadcast quality (MPEG4) and photo gallery on: www.eucouncil.tv