



NMUN • EUROPE

LILLE, FRANCE 2012

EUROPEAN UNION –
LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN
BACKGROUND GUIDE 2012

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Official Welcome to NMUN-Europe 2012

Dear Delegates, Faculty Members, Head Delegates and Friends,

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that we welcome you to the 2012 NMUN-Europe conference in Lille, France. We are delighted to host the second international NMUN conference in Europe from 31 January to 6 February 2012.

The NMUN-Europe conference is directed towards giving delegates a chance for a deeply rewarding educational experience. It will challenge them with interesting and current topics, and give them the chance to interact with participating students from more than ten different countries. We have selected committees and topics to reflect recent developments and challenges facing the international community, ranging, for example, from the protection of armed civilians in conflict to international cooperation on drugs, to one of the main events in the UN calendar for 2012: the Conference on Sustainable Development. To ensure the quality of our educational mission, each committee is staffed with directors that have held or currently hold senior staff positions at NMUN-NY, working with talented new volunteer staffers from our host university, Sciences Po Lille.

The conference will take place in the center of Lille in the modern building of the Conseil de Région, the local administration where elected representatives from the region meet every month. The conference site, offers an insight into the Nord Pas de Calais region in northern France. Lille is famous for its architecture, its local dishes and beverages, and as the birthplace of General Charles de Gaulle. The city and its region are very well connected, situated at the crossroads of major European cities. Delegates are invited to participate in an excursion to Brussels, the centre of political decision-making in the European Union.

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions you're facing in the preparation for the conference.

Best regards, safe travels and see you in Lille in January 2012!



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Message from the Directors-General Regarding Position Papers for the 2012 NMUN-Europe Conference

At the 2012 NMUN-Europe Conference, each delegation submits one position paper for each committee it is assigned to. Delegates should be aware that their role in each committee impacts the way a position paper should be written. While most delegates will serve as representatives of Member States, some may also serve as observers, NGOs or judicial experts. To understand these fine differences, please refer to the Delegate Preparation Guide.

Position papers should provide a concise review of each delegation's policy regarding the topic areas under discussion and establish precise policies and recommendations in regard to the topics before the committee. International and regional conventions, treaties, declarations, resolutions, and programs of action of relevance to the policy of your State should be identified and addressed. Making recommendations for action by your committee should also be considered. Position papers also serve as a blueprint for individual delegates to remember their country's position throughout the course of the Conference. NGO position papers should be constructed in the same fashion as position papers of countries. Each topic should be addressed briefly in a succinct policy statement representing the relevant views of your assigned NGO. You should also include recommendations for action to be taken by your committee. It will be judged using the same criteria as all country position papers, and is held to the same standard of timeliness.

Please be forewarned, delegates must turn in material that is entirely original. ***The NMUN Conference will not tolerate the occurrence of plagiarism.*** In this regard, the NMUN Secretariat would like to take this opportunity to remind delegates that although United Nations documentation is considered within the public domain, the Conference does not allow the verbatim re-creation of these documents. This plagiarism policy also extends to the written work of the Secretariat contained within the Committee Background Guides. Violation of this policy will be immediately reported to faculty advisors and may result in dismissal from Conference participation. Delegates should report any incident of plagiarism to the Secretariat as soon as possible.

Delegation's position papers can be awarded as recognition of outstanding pre-Conference preparation. In order to be considered for a Position Paper Award, however, delegations must have met the formal requirements listed below. Please refer to the sample paper on the following page for a visual example of what your work should look like at its completion. The following format specifications are **required** for all papers:

- All papers must be typed and formatted according to the example in the Background Guides
- Length must **not** exceed two single spaced pages (one double sided paper, if printed)
- Font **must** be Times New Roman sized between 10 pt. and 12 pt.
- Margins must be set at 1 inch for whole paper
- Country/NGO name, School name and committee name clearly labeled on the first page; the use of national symbols is highly discouraged
- Agenda topics clearly labeled in separate sections

Positions paper for NMUN-Europe need to be submitted via e-mail, unless other arrangements are made with the Director-General. To be considered timely for awards, please read and follow these directions:

1. A file of the position paper (**.doc or .pdf**) for each assigned committee should be sent to dirgen.europe@nmun.org. Delegates should carbon copy (cc:) themselves as confirmation of receipt.
2. Each of the above listed tasks need to be completed no later than midnight on **January 1, 2012** (Eastern Standard Time).
3. Please title each e-mail and document with the name of the committee, assignment, and delegation name (for example: SC_Namibia_University of Caprivi). If you prefer to send a complete set of positions per country please note this in the subject line (Delegation_Namibia_University of Caprivi).

Once the formal requirements outlined above are met, Conference staff use the following criteria to evaluate Position Papers:

- Overall quality of writing, proper style, grammar, etc.
- Citation of relevant resolutions/documents
- General consistency with bloc/geopolitical constraints
- Consistency with the constraints of the United Nations
- Analysis of issues, rather than reiteration of the Committee Background Guide
- Outline of (official) policy aims within the committee's mandate

Finally, please consider that a considerable number of position papers will be handled and read by the Secretariat for the Conference. Your patience and cooperation in strictly adhering to the above guidelines will make this process more efficient and is greatly appreciated. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact the Director-General, though as we do not operate out of a central office or location your consideration for time zone differences is appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Holger Bär
Director-General
dirgen.europe@nmun.org

Sample Position Paper

The following position paper is designed to be a sample of the standard format that an NMUN position paper should follow. While delegates are encouraged to use the front and back of a single page in order to fully address all topics before the committee, please remember that only a maximum of one double-sided page (or two pages total in an electronic file) will be accepted. Only the first double-sided page of any submissions (or two pages of an electronic file) will be considered for awards.

Position Paper for the General Assembly Plenary

The issues before the General Assembly Plenary are: The Use of Economic Sanctions for Political and Economic Compulsion; Democracy and Human Rights in Post-Conflict Regions; as well as The Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa. The Mexican Delegation first would like to convey its gratitude being elected and pride to serve as vice-president of the current General Assembly Plenary session.

I. The Use of Economic Sanctions for Political and Economic Compulsion

The principles of equal sovereignty of states and non-interference, as laid down in the Charter of the United Nations, have always been cornerstones of Mexican foreign policy. The legitimate right to interfere by the use of coercive measures, such as economic sanctions, is laid down in Article 41 of the UN-charter and reserves the right to the Security Council.

Concerning the violation of this principle by the application of unilateral measures outside the framework of the United Nations, H.E. Ambassador to the United Nations Enrique Berruga Filloy underlined in 2005 that the Mexico strongly rejects “the application of unilateral laws and measures of economic blockade against any State, as well as the implementation of coercive measures without the authorization enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.” That is the reason, why the United Mexican States supported – for the 14th consecutive time – Resolution (A/RES/60/12) of 2006 regarding the *Necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States of America against Cuba*.

In the 1990s, comprehensive economic sanctions found several applications with very mixed results, which made a critical reassessment indispensable. The United Mexican States fully supported and actively participated in the “Stockholm Process” that focused on increasing the effectiveness in the implementation of targeted sanctions. As sanctions and especially economic sanctions, pose a tool for action “between words and war” they must be regarded as a mean of last resort before war and fulfill highest requirements for their legitimate use. The United Mexican States and their partners of the “Group of Friends of the U.N. Reform” have already addressed and formulated recommendations for that take former criticism into account. Regarding the design of economic sanctions it is indispensable for the success to have the constant support by all member states and public opinion, which is to a large degree dependent the humanitarian effects of economic sanctions. Sanctions must be tailor-made, designed to effectively target the government, while sparing to the largest degree possible the civil population. Sanction regimes must be constantly monitored and evaluated to enable the world-community to adjust their actions to the needs of the unforeseeably changing situation. Additionally, the United Mexican States propose to increase communication between the existing sanction committees and thus their effectiveness by convening regular meetings of the chairs of the sanction committees on questions of common interest. An example is the case of negative spill-over effects of economic sanctions on neighboring countries, in which affected countries additionally need to be enabled to voice their problems more effectively, as addressed in the resolution *Implementation of the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations related to assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions* (A/RES/54/107). Non-state actors have in the last years tremendously grown in their political importance, especially with regard to the international fight against terrorism. Their position and the possibilities of the application of economic sanction on non-state actors is another topic that urgently needs to be considered.

II. Democracy and Human Rights in Post-Conflict Regions

As a founding member of the United Nations, Mexico is highly engaged in the Promotion of Democracy and Human Rights all over the world, as laid down in the *Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR)* in 1948. Especially since the democratic transition of Mexico in 2000 it is one of the most urgent topics to stand for Democratization and Human Rights, and Mexico implements this vision on many different fronts.

In the Convoking Group of the intergovernmental Community of Democracies (GC), the United Mexican States uphold an approach that fosters international cooperation to promote democratic values and institution-building at the national and international level. To emphasize the strong interrelation between human rights and the building of democracy and to fortify democratic developments are further challenges Mexico deals with in this committee. A key-factor for the sustainable development of a post-conflict-region is to hold free and fair election and thus creating a democratic system. Being aware of the need of post-conflict countries for support in the preparation of democratic elections, the United Mexican States contribute since 2001 to the work of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA), an intergovernmental organization operating at international, regional and national

level in partnership with a range of institutions. Mexico's foreign policy regarding human rights is substantially based on cooperation with international organizations. The Inter American Commission of Human Rights is one of the bodies, Mexico is participating, working on the promotion of Human Rights in the Americas. Furthermore, the Inter-American Court of Human Rights is the regional judicial institution for the application and interpretation of the *American Convention of Human Rights*.

The objectives Mexico pursues are to improve human rights in the country through structural changes and to fortify the legal and institutional frame for the protection of human rights on the international level. Underlining the connection between democracy, development and Human Rights, stresses the importance of cooperation with and the role of the High Commissioner on Human Rights and the reform of the Human Rights Commission to a Human rights Council.

Having in mind the diversity of challenges in enforcing democracy and Human Rights, Mexico considers regional and national approaches vital for their endorsement, as Mexico exemplifies with its *National Program for Human Rights* or the *Plan Puebla Panama*. On the global level, Mexico is encouraged in working on a greater coordination and interoperability among the United Nations and regional organizations, as well as the development of common strategies and operational policies and the sharing of best practices in civilian crisis management should be encouraged, including clear frameworks for joint operations, when applicable.

III. The Promotion of Durable Peace and Sustainable Development in Africa

The United Mexican States welcome the leadership role the African Union has taken regarding the security problems of the continent. Our delegation is furthermore convinced that The New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) can become the foundation for Africa's economic, social and democratic development as the basis for sustainable peace. Therefore it deserves the full support of the international community.

The development of the United Mexican States in the last two decades is characterized by the transition to a full democracy, the national and regional promotion of human rights and sustainable, economic growth. Mexico's development is characterized by free trade and its regional integration in the North American Free Trade Agreement. Having in mind that sustainable development is based not only on economic, but as well on social and environmental development, President Vicente Fox has made sustainable development a guiding principle in the Mexican Development Plan that includes sustainability targets for all major policy areas.

The United Nations Security Council has established not less than seven peacekeeping missions on the African continent, underlining the need for full support by the international community. In post-conflict situations, we regard national reconciliation as a precondition for a peaceful development, which is the reason why Mexico supported such committees, i.e. in the case of Sierra Leone. The United Mexican States are convinced that an other to enhance durable peace in Africa is the institutional reform of the United Nations. We therefore want to reaffirm our full support to both the establishment of the peace-building commission and the Human Rights Council. Both topics are highly interrelated and, having in mind that the breach of peace is most often linked with severest human rights' abuses, thus need to be seen as two sides of one problem and be approached in this understanding.

As most conflicts have their roots in conflicts about economic resources and development chances, human development and the eradication of poverty must be at the heart of a successful, preventive approach. Lifting people out of poverty must be seen as a precondition not only for peace, but for social development and environmental sustainability.

The United Mexican States want to express their esteem for the decision taken by the G-8 countries for a complete debt-relief for many African Highly-Indebted-Poor-Countries. Nevertheless, many commitments made by the international community that are crucial for Africa's sustainable development are unfulfilled. The developed countries agreed in the *Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development* (A/CONF.198/11) to increase their Official Development Aid (ODA) "towards the target of 0,7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) as ODA to developing countries and 0,15 to 0,20 per cent of GNP of developed countries to least developed countries". Furthermore, the United Mexican States are disappointed by the result of the Hong Kong Ministerial conference of the World Trade Organization, which once more failed to meet the needs of those, to whom the round was devoted: developing countries and especially African countries, who today, more than ever, are cut off from global trade and prosperity by protectionism.

With regard to the African Peer Review Mechanism, the United Mexican States want to underline that good governance is an integral part of sustainable development. Therefore, we support all efforts by African countries to make the mechanism obligatory to increase transparency and accountability in all African countries.

Committee History of the European Union - Latin America and Caribbean Summit

Introduction

The association between the European Union (EU) and Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) countries began in 1999, during the 1st EU-LAC Summit that took place in Rio de Janeiro.¹ Its goal was to strengthen the economic, political and cultural links between EU Members and LAC States.² The success of this summit allowed the creation of the EU-LAC Bi-regional Strategic Partnership, and the Rio de Janeiro Declaration became its founding text.³ Since then the 50 EU and LAC countries have met on a regular basis. Every two years the Heads of State and Government of both regions meet in order to take part in the EU-LAC summits.⁴ These summits serve as a forum for political dialogue as well as a means to reinforce the links between EU and LAC countries. Accordingly, the summits are concluded by the publication of a declaration that lays out the future projects of the EU-LAC Strategic Partnership. The EU and LAC countries have become partners due to their shared concern on certain issues, especially within the United Nations (UN) framework.⁵ In addition to working hand in hand within the UN, the EU and LAC countries also aim at developing regional agreements through this Strategic Partnership.

Evolution and Accomplishments of the EU-LAC Strategic Partnership

Since the Rio summit, five other EU-LAC summits were held in various locations so as to deepen the links between the EU and LAC countries. They have successfully reacted to certain issues related to fostering economic, social and political inclusion. Among other objectives, the EU and LAC countries strive to promote social cohesion, regional integration and multilateralism.⁶ LAC countries primarily aim to reduce poverty, social inequality and improve access to education.⁷ Over the years several programs have been set up in order to achieve these goals.⁸

In the economic field, several Association Agreements (AA) and Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) have been implemented at a sub-regional level. As a result Latin America is the second largest trading partner of the EU and the EU is the biggest investor in Latin America.⁹ There are several examples that illustrate perfectly the success of these negotiations. Mexico was the first Latin American country to sign a FTA with the EU in 2000 which doubled EU's investment in Mexico.¹⁰ The Central American countries also signed an AA with the EU in 2010. This AA is built around three pillars: political dialogue, cooperation and trade. It aimed to eliminate tariffs for manufactured goods, fisheries and agriculture, as well as to promote intellectual property rights, sustainable development, subsidies transparency and regional integration.¹¹ Furthermore, the EU and the Caribbean Forum (CARIFORUM) signed an Economic Partnership Agreement in 2008 that should reinforce the trade between both regions and gradually open the CARIFORUM market.¹² Moreover, in 2010 Colombia and Peru signed a FTA with the EU.¹³ Although this FTA does not include all the Andean Community of Nations (CAN), the ties between both regions are strong. The EU has invested in several of the regions programs such as the CAN Cohesion Social program.¹⁴

In addition to the contribution of the EU in LAC programs, the EU-LAC partnership has successfully created EU-LAC programs in various areas. For example, in order to continue investing in Latin America, the EU Member States have in 2010 funded the Latin America Investment Facility (LAIF). Its main goal is to mobilize further financial

¹ Guillemette & Villa, *Guide to Cooperation the European Union and Latin America*, 2005, p. 40.

² European Commission, *A Stronger partnership between the European Union and Latin America*, 2005, p. 6.

³ European Commission, *First European Union and Latin America and Caribbean Summit, Rio de Janeiro Declaration*, 1999.

⁴ Guillemette & Villa, *Guide to Cooperation the European Union and Latin America*, 2005, p. 40.

⁵ European Commission, *A Stronger partnership between the European Union and Latin America*, 2005, p. 7.

⁶ Carrascosa, *The European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean, Global Partners*, 2010.

⁷ European Commission, *Central America, Regional Strategy paper: 2007-2010*, 2007, p. 6.

⁸ EuropeAid Co-operation Office, *Partners in Development Guide*, 2010, p. 10.

⁹ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council, *The European Union and Latin America: Global Players in Partnership*, 2009.

¹⁰ European Commission, *Economic Partnership, Political Coordination and Cooperation Agreement between the European Community, of the one part, and the United Mexican States, of the other part*, 2010.

¹¹ European Commission, *Highlights of the trade pillar of the Association Agreement between Central America and the European Union*, 2011.

¹² European Commission, *EU and Caribbean States hold inaugural Joint ministerial Council*, 2010

¹³ European Commission, *Highlights of the Trade Agreement between Colombia, Peru and the European Union*, 2011.

¹⁴ Guillemette & Villa, *Guide to Cooperation the European Union and Latin America*, 2005, p. 45.

support that will be used to improve interconnectivity within the LAC region, protect the environment and develop social services.¹⁵ Furthermore, the Latin America Invest Program (AL-Invest) tries to allow better contact between small and medium sized enterprises of both regions in order to reinforce trade and the transfer of technology.¹⁶ In the political sphere, the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly (EUroLAt) was created during the Vienna summit in 2006 to strengthen the bi-regional partnership.¹⁷ Additionally, the Climate Change regional Cooperation Program (EUroCLIMA) was launched after the 2008 summit in Lima.¹⁸ Finally, the Cooperation Program between Latin America and the EU on Anti-Drugs Policies was adopted in December 2009.¹⁹ In the social field, the Regional Program for Social Cohesion in Latin America (EUROSociAL) was set up in 2004 at the Guadalajara summit.²⁰ It aims at promoting social inclusion and will mostly work within specific areas: education, health, justice, and employment. In order to link the two regions culturally EU and LAC countries have developed the Common Area of Higher Education.²¹ This initiative should allow the dissemination of information and mobility exchange between universities. In addition, the Alliance for the Information society (@LIS) was put in place in 2003 so as to reduce the digital deficit between both regions.²²

The EU-LAC Strategic Partnership today

The EU-LAC Strategic Partnership has allowed the implementation of many successful programs and FTAs that continue even today to strengthen the economic, cultural and political ties between the two regions. The 6th EU-LAC summit that was held in May 2010 in Madrid aimed at “a new stage in the bi-regional partnership: innovation and technology for sustainable development and social inclusion.”²³ This summit was described by the Spanish Prime Minister Zapatero as “a summit of successes and results”.²⁴ Several new programs were initiated thanks to this conference such as the LAIF and a few sub-regionals AA were signed in the lead-up to this summit. However, despite the many accomplishments of the EU-LAC partnership, new challenges have appeared. While the Madrid summit reiterated the previous commitments made it also pointed out the fields in which the EU and LAC countries should focus on in the years to come. Consequently, along with the Madrid Declaration, the 2010 Madrid Action Plan was published. This innovative document underlines these new priorities.

The first priority is science, research and technology. This is a long standing concern given that in 2004 the creation of an “EU-LAC Knowledge Area” was suggested.²⁵ Among other issues, the Madrid Action Plan pointed out that regional integration and interconnectivity as well as education and employment should be implemented in order to promote social inclusion and cohesion. These two themes are important since 40% of the LAC population still lives in poverty.²⁶ Furthermore, the recent economic crisis has weakened the EU and has affected LAC countries indirectly, revealing the asymmetrical trade that has been set up between both regions.²⁷

The three other priorities that have been addressed by the Madrid Action Plan are closely linked to the topics that will be discussed during our session. The first priority is sustainable development, environment, climate change, biodiversity, and energy.²⁸ This is a major concern as the LAC rich natural resources and biodiversity are deeply affected by climate change, land degradation, and deforestation. LAC countries are leaders in international environmental conferences but the lack of consensus and the poor management of natural resources have made this topic a critical one.²⁹ Migration is also an important issue as the dialogue on this topic remains underdeveloped. This

¹⁵ EuropeAid Co-operation Office, *Partners in Development Guide*, 2010, p. 26.

¹⁶ EuropeAid Co-operation Office, *Partners in Development Guide*, 2010, p. 25.

¹⁷ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council, *The European Union and Latin America: Global Players in Partnership*, 2009.

¹⁸ EuropeAid Co-operation Office, *Partners in Development Guide*, 2010, p. 27.

¹⁹ EuropeAid Co-operation Office, *Partners in Development Guide*, 2010, p. 27.

²⁰ EuropeAid Co-operation Office, *Partners in Development Guide*, 2010, p. 26.

²¹ EuropeAid Co-operation Office, *Partners in Development Guide*, 2010, p. 24.

²² EuropeAid Co-operation Office, *Partners in Development Guide*, 2010, p. 25.

²³ Council of the European Union, *EU-LAC Summit, Madrid Action Plan 2010-2012*, 2010.

²⁴ Carrascosa A, *The European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean, Global Partners*, 2010.

²⁵ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council, *The European Union and Latin America: Global Players in Partnership*, 2009.

²⁶ European Commission, *A Stronger partnership between the European Union and Latin America*, 2005, p. 8.

²⁷ Sistema Económico Latinoamericano y del Caribe, *Relations between Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union: Results from the Madrid Summit and impact of the economic crisis in Europe*, 2011, p. 26.

²⁸ Council of the European Union, *EU-LAC Summit, Madrid Action Plan 2010-2012*, 2010.

²⁹ European Commission, *Mid Term review and regional indicative program 2011-2013 for Latin America*, 2011, p. 9.

theme reveals an undercurrent of other problems that the EU and LAC countries have to face such as brain drain, human trafficking, human rights disregard, discrimination, and remittances.³⁰ Finally, the last priority mentioned by the Madrid Action Plan is the world drug problem. This issue is relevant seeing as the EU has become a major consumer of drugs even as the production of drugs in the LAC region has unsettled the region economically and politically.³¹

Conclusion

The 7th EU-LAC summit will be held in Santiago in 2012.³² The Chilean summit will be the opportunity to reinforce what has already been achieved as well as a chance to address the priorities that have been put forward by the Madrid Action Plan. However, the creation of the EU-LAC Strategic Partnership remains recent and efforts that have been made to strengthen the ties between the two regions must continue. Among other challenges, the EU and LAC countries must ensure the cohesion and permanence of all that has already been put in place through this bi-regional association. This is an essential point considering the recent economic crisis that represents a threat for the EU-LAC ties. In addition, the growing presence of LAC countries as an international leading force represents an opportunity for further cooperation between both regions and could possibly lead to a more balanced negotiation process in the future.³³ Indeed, the creation of the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) reveals LAC's capacity to become a regional force. Yet, the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americans (ALBA) is an alternative ideological model that has also grown important these last years. The presence of two political and economical different associations might impede on the political progress that has been achieved.³⁴ These new circumstances represent a challenge for the EU and LAC countries.

Annotated Bibliography

Committee History of the European Union - Latin America and Caribbean Summit

Communication from the Commission to the Council and the European Parliament. (2005). *A Stronger partnership between the European Union and Latin America*. Retrieved July 18, 2011 from http://www.eeas.europa.eu/la/docs/com05_636_en.pdf

The European Commission published this report in order to consolidate relations with LAC before the 2006 Vienna summit. Therefore, this document explains how the EU-LAC association was created and the benefits of this bi-regional Strategic Partnership. It mostly insists on the economic aspect of this association as well as on the creation of a favorable trade environment between the two regions. However, it also evokes other issues and challenges that the EU and LAC countries have begun to take interest in, such as drugs, sustainable development, and higher education.

Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament and the Council. (2009). *The European Union and Latin America: Global Players in Partnership*. Retrieved July 13, 2011 from <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2009:0495:FIN:EN:PDF>

As a follow-up of the 2005 European Union Communication titled "A stronger partnership between the European Union and Latin America", this press release provides a general idea of the progress achieved thanks to the EU-LAC summits. This document is helpful since it offers advice and recommendation on the best way to deal with various issues (migration, financial crisis, drugs, climate change, etc). It also gives a summary of the recent challenges that the EU and LAC countries have tackled.

Council of the European Union. (2010). *EU-LAC Summit, Madrid Action Plan 2010-2012*. Retrieved July 17, 2011 from http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/er/114540.pdf

While most EU-LAC summit were concluded by the publication of a Declaration, the 6th summit that was held in Madrid was also followed by the introduction of the 2010-2012 Action Plan. The

³⁰ European Commission, *Mid Term review and regional indicative program 2011-2013 for Latin America*, 2011, p. 11.

³¹ European Commission, *Mid Term review and regional indicative program 2011-2013 for Latin America*, 2011, p. 12.

³² Council of the European Union, *VI EU-LAC Summit in 2010, Madrid declaration*, 2010, p. 11.

³³ European Commission, *Mid Term review and regional indicative program 2011-2013 for Latin America*, 2011, p. 7.

³⁴ European Commission, *Mid Term review and regional indicative program 2011-2013 for Latin America*, 2011, p. 6.

Madrid Action Plan defines practical measures in which the EU Member States and LAC countries will work together on six top of the agenda issues. This document is essential since it lays out the future projects of the EU-LAC Strategic Partnership in preparation for the Santiago summit including the one discussed during our session.

Council of the European Union. (1999). *First European Union and Latin America and Caribbean Summit, Rio de Janeiro Declaration*. Retrieved July 13, 2011 from

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/intcoop/eurolat/key_documents/summits_eu_alc/i_29_6_1999_rio_en.pdf

On the 29th of June 1999, the first summit Meeting of EU and LAC Heads of State and Government was held in Rio de Janeiro. This conference led to the creation of the EU-LAC joint commitment and the declaration that was published as a result of this summit is considered to be the founding text of the EU-LAC Strategic Partnership. This declaration reveals the first aims of this organization in the economic, political and cultural field.

European Commission. (2007). *Latin America-Regional Programming document: 2007-2013*. Retrieved August 21, 2011 from http://www.eeas.europa.eu/la/rsp/07_13_en.pdf

The Regional Strategy Paper published for the 2007-2013 period is a European Union Action plan that describes which regional cooperation programs have been put in place in LAC countries, for what reason and with what consequences. This document assesses the current situation of these programs and policies by underlining their successes and failures. Finally, it describes the new policy initiatives and commitments made by the EU-LAC strategic partnership concerning migration, drugs, and climate change.

European Commission. (2011). *Mid Term review and regional indicative program 2011-2013 for Latin America*. Retrieved August 21, 2011 from http://www.eeas.europa.eu/la/csp/11_13_mtr_en.pdf

The 2007-2013 Regional Strategy Paper (RSP) had three major priorities: social cohesion, reduction of poverty, inequalities and exclusion; regional integration; and investing in people and increasing mutual understanding. These three priorities are still up to date according to this Mid Term. However, this review also presents the results, performances and lessons that have been learnt since the publication of the RSP and underlines the priorities that need to be addresses before 2013(including migration, drugs and climate change).

European Commission. (2008). *The Strategic Partnership between the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean: a joint commitment*. Retrieved July 13, 2011 from http://eeas.europa.eu/la/docs/lima_en.pdf

This document published after the Lima summit gives an overview of the bi-regional EU-LAC Strategic Partnership. It summarizes the historical process that led to the EU-LAC joint commitment and explains the summit process. It also contains details on the EU-LAC Strategic Partnership achievements, challenges and future projects as well as the sub-regional and sub-national agreements that have been developed since its creation.

EuropeAid Co-operation Office. (2010). *Partners in Development Guide*. Retrieved August 1, 2011 from http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/infopoint/publications/europeaid/documents/178a_latinam_dev_coop_guide_2010_en.pdf

Both the EU and LAC countries are committed to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which is why social cohesion and regional integration has always been a priority within the EU-LAC Strategic Partnership. This guide presents the cooperation framework that has been set up between EU and LAC countries in order to do so. It also goes over each regional and sub-regional cooperation program that has been put in place and describes the current situation in each LAC country.

Guillemette L, Villa S. (2005). *Guide to Cooperation the European Union and Latin America*. Retrieved August 3, 2010 from http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/latin-america/regional-cooperation/documents/guidecooperation_eu_la_en.pdf

The EU-LAC Strategic Partnership is based on three pillars: trade, political dialogue and cooperation. This guide tries to sum up what form of cooperation has been set up between both regions. It describes every sub-regional cooperation that has been developed between the EU and the LAC regional groups (Mercosur, CAN, Chile, Mexico). It also gives details on all the regional programs that have been put in place thanks to the EU-LAC joint commitment.

Permanent Secretariat of Sistema Económico Latinoamericano y del Caribe. (2011). *Relations between Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union: Results from the Madrid summit and impact of the economic crisis in Europe*. Retrieved August 3, 2011 from http://www.sela.org/attach/258/EDOCS/SRed/2011/03/T023600004693-0-Relations_between_LAC_and_the_EU_-_Results_from_Madrid_Summit.pdf

The 2008 global crisis and 2010 euro crisis has deeply affected the EU-LAC Strategic Partnership. The crisis underlined the asymmetrical trade relations that have been developed between the two regions. Furthermore, certain aspect of the bi-regional relations has suffered from this economic decline. This document points out the deficiencies in the EU-LAC Strategic Partnership within the economic field and suggests several possible improvements in preparation for the Santiago summit.

I. Strengthening bi-regional agreements and dialogue on environment, climate change, sustainable development and energy

Introduction

When it comes to what environmental issues affect or might affect Europe and Latin America respectively, the environmental issues, are much of the same issues that are of a concern on in the international sphere. Therefore, European Union (EU) and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) cooperation on all things related to the environment like climate change, land degradation, conservation, and biodiversity is necessary as these issues are facing both the EU and LAC regions individually, but also are – like climate change and biodiversity loss – of global nature. Not only is the challenge of addressing environmental issues like climate change, land degradation, conservation, and biodiversity a demanding task in its own right, but doing so while at the same time promoting sustainable development policies in LAC region can reap additional benefits for human development. This delicate balance between addressing environmental challenges and promotion of sustainable development is acknowledged in the Madrid Declaration produced after the 6th EU-LAC Summit held in Madrid in 2010. In the Madrid Declaration, there is recognition that the EU and LAC share a common interest in order to improve energy efficiency in order to reduce the intensity of greenhouse gases being admitted, and step up efforts within the parameters of international conventions like the Convention on Biological Diversity.³⁵ Aside from working to address environmental issues and at the same time promote sustainable development at the international level, the EU and LAC have engaged in efforts that aim at addressing environmental issues and at the same time promote sustainable development and energy. As bi-lateral cooperation and mechanisms intended to address the environmental issues at hand between the EU and LAC are addressed increasingly through EU-LAC bi-lateral agreements and arrangements, these efforts still have their basis in international agreements, which serve as foundation documents for bi-lateral cooperation.

International Agreements/Efforts to Address Climate Change and the Environment

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was adopted on May 9, 1992, entered into force March 21, 1994 the UNFCCC entered into force and currently has 194 Member States.³⁶ The objective of the UNFCCC as stated in Article 2 of the Convention is to stabilize the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere at a certain level that would prevent human activity from interfering with the earth's climate system.³⁷ This would be achieved within a time frame sufficient to allow the earth's ecosystems to naturally adapt to climate change, ensure that food production is not threatened while at the same time not allowing economic development to proceed in a sustainable manner.³⁸ Although the intent of the UNFCCC is to stabilize and concentrate greenhouse gases at a certain level, the Convention does not lay out any specific legally binding requirement as to the set amount that greenhouse gases must be reduced to a certain level or a timetable for reaching a set amount of reduction of greenhouse gases. What the UNFCCC does do is in the Annex of the treaty classify countries between developed and developing countries. Such classifications of Member Parties to the Convention has created and caused controversy

³⁵ Council of the European Union, *Madrid Declaration*, 2010.

³⁶ UNFCCC, *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, 1992.

³⁷ UNFCCC, *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, 1992.

³⁸ UNFCCC, *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, 1992.

as to if it were not more equitable to have both developed and developing countries needing to reduce their emissions equally unilaterally.³⁹ Additionally, other criticisms and observations about the Convention is the question of the potential cost(s) of acting and executing the aim of the Convention versus the potential cost(s) of inaction.⁴⁰ Another feature related to the UNFCCC is the decision-making authority that the Convention has in place known as the Conference of the Parties (COP).⁴¹ Meeting on an annual basis, the COP is charged with the responsibility with keeping international efforts to address climate change on track.⁴² Additionally, the COP reviews the implementation of the Convention and the commitments of the Members Party to the Convention in light of new scientific findings and experienced gained in implementing climate change policies.⁴³

Kyoto Protocol and COP 16

The Kyoto Protocol, adopted at COP 5 set binding targets for 37 industrialized countries and the EU for reducing greenhouse gas emissions to an average of 5% from 1990 levels between 2008-2012.⁴⁴ To meet the 5% average reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels, the Kyoto Protocol sets up three market-based mechanisms to meet the set goal for reduction. These market-based mechanisms are emissions trading, the clean development mechanism (CDM) and joint implementation (JI) to help Member Parties to the Convention mechanisms stimulate investments in emission reducing technology and thus meet their emissions targets in cost-effective ways.⁴⁵ Another component of the Kyoto Protocol was the Adaptation Fund. The purpose of the Adaptation Fund was to finance adaptation projects and developing countries party to the Kyoto Protocol in order to help meet the reduction target.⁴⁶ The Protocol is set to expire in 2012 with the intent that a new international agreement to be negotiated and ratified that can deliver more stringent emission reduction targets in order to reduce greenhouse gases being polluted into the earth's atmosphere.⁴⁷

Apart from the Kyoto Protocol setting clear targets about reduction of greenhouse emissions, what was also hotly debated and scrutinized for the failure of certain countries in their non-ratification of the protocol which would have legitimized the Protocol for developing countries but also signaled a clear commitment to reduction of greenhouse gases on the part of developed countries. The legacy of the Kyoto Protocol and of the events before and during COP 15 increased the pressure for COP 16 to adopt a document amendable to Member Parties to the UNFCCC. The resulting document produced from COP 16 is the Cancun Adaptation Framework. The purpose of the Cancun Adaptation Framework is to strengthen and enhance action and adaptation including the use of international cooperation and coherent consideration of matters related to adaptation under the UNFCCC. In order to accomplish this, the Cancun Adaptation Framework is based around the five "clusters" to strengthen and enhance adaptation. These five "clusters" are Implementation, Support, Institutions, Principles, and Stakeholder Engagement.⁴⁸ Although COP 16 ultimately did produce a document in the form of the Cancun Adaptation Agreement, the conference was not without some controversy. One of the dissenting opinions came from the Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas (ALBA). In particular the main voice of opposition amongst the ALBA quintet came from Bolivia who objected at the undemocratic process that the Cancun Adaptation Framework was adopted, denying that the document would be adopted through consensus.

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (UN-REDD Programme)

The United Nations Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation Programme (UN-REDD) and REDD+ are UN initiatives which are designed and set-up to help developing countries to prevent and stop deforestation and forest degradation, and help to implement conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest stocks policies.⁴⁹ Launched in September 2008, UN-REDD Programme was set up to help developing countries stop deforestation and forest degradation while at the same time helping developing countries prepare and implement REDD+ strategies.⁵⁰ Currently, 3 LAC countries receive direct support from the UN-REDD Programme.

³⁹ The Center for Science and Public Policy, *The Stern Report, Some Early Criticisms*, 2009, p.65.

⁴⁰ The Center for Science and Public Policy, *The Stern Report, Some Early Criticisms*, 2009, p.33.

⁴¹ UNFCCC, *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, 1992, p.7.

⁴² UNFCCC, *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, 1992, p.7.

⁴³ UNFCCC, *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, 1992, p.7.

⁴⁴ UNFCCC, *Kyoto Protocol*.

⁴⁵ UNFCCC, *Kyoto Protocol*.

⁴⁶ UNFCCC, *Kyoto Protocol*.

⁴⁷ UNFCCC, *Kyoto Protocol*.

⁴⁸ UNFCCC, *Cancun Adaptation Framework*.

⁴⁹ United Nations-Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation Programme, 2011.

⁵⁰ United Nations-Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation Programme, 2011.

They are Bolivia, Ecuador, and Panama, with Ecuador the only one of the three to receive approval of a pilot programme.⁵¹ REDD+ is meant to build upon UN-REDD policies by addressing the conservation, sustainable development of forests, and enhancement of forests stockpile strategies.⁵² At the same time, REDD+ is intended to serve as a complement for deep cuts in greenhouse gas emissions that should be also taken by develop countries.⁵³ This is especially the case after the provisions in the *Kyoto Protocol* expire in 2012 and the commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions will continue to be of importance.

International Agreements that Address Conservation and Biodiversity

Addressing environmental challenges does not just mean addressing emission of greenhouse gases, ending deforestation and forest degradation; it also entails the promotion of biodiversity and conservation of resources and land. The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, also known as the Ramsar Convention focuses on the conservation and sustainable utilization of wetlands.⁵⁴ The importance in focusing on the conservation and utilization of wetlands is acknowledging that the encroachment and loss of wetlands needs to be stemmed in order to fulfill the capacity for wetlands to fully carry out their fundamental ecological, cultural, scientific, economic, and recreational functions to be adequately explored. Since the adoption of the Convention in 1971 and then the subsequent entry into force in 1975, the Convention has been amended twice, the first time in 1982 and the second time in 1987.

A second international agreement related to conservation adopted at the international level is the International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA). First adopted in 1994 during a session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the purpose of the ITTA that focused on forest conservation and sustainable development.⁵⁵ By doing so, the idea was to promote exports of tropical timber from sustainably managed sources and to establish a fund to assist tropical timber producers in obtaining the resources necessary to meet this objective.⁵⁶ The 1994 version of the ITTA will be replaced with the 2006 version that was adopted during the 2006 UNCTAD meetings once it enters into force. This will happen once 12 of the governments classified as producers of states party to the treaty have ratified the treaty.⁵⁷

The efforts to reduce the loss of biodiversity mirror those undertaken in promoting conservation. The international agreement of note is the Convention on Biological Diversity. The goal(s) of the Convention are conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of the components of biodiversity, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from genetic resources. In addition to the Convention itself, protocols have also been adopted to strengthen the Convention and set-up mechanisms for funding. The Nagoya Protocol, adopted on October 29, 2010 aims at sharing the benefits that arise from the use of genetic resources in a fair and equitable way through appropriate funding.⁵⁸ Development of these funding mechanisms has been discussed within Latin America through regional workshops that seek to address and promote financial mechanisms to meet the goals of the Nagoya Protocol. Another funding mechanism to promote biodiversity is the Global Environment Facility (GEF). GEF is comprised of national governments, inter-governmental organizations (IGOs), and the private sector to address environmental issues like biodiversity.⁵⁹ Since its creation in 1991, the GEF has allocated \$9.5 billion to more than 2,700 projects.⁶⁰ Equally as important, the GEF is the entrusted financial mechanism for the *Convention on Biological Diversity* and therefore, serves as the blueprint for any financial mechanisms that may be developed in the future. Based on the same idea of payments for ecosystem services, the Ecuadorian government continues to look for co-funding partners from the international community to preserve the Yasuni national park. The Yasuni-ITT initiative is an initiative where by the Ecuadorean government would not develop the significant oil reserves found under ground in the national park and maintain it there in perpetuity in exchange for monetary compensation for half the expected value of the oil reserves.⁶¹ Advancement of implementing the initiative are currently on hold with it's future to be decided as the lack

⁵¹ United Nations-Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation Programme, 2011.

⁵² United Nations-Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation Programme, 2011.

⁵³ United Nations-Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation Programme, 2011.

⁵⁴ Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, *About the Ramsar Convention*, 1972.

⁵⁵ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *International Tropical Timber Agreement*, 1994.

⁵⁶ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *International Tropical Timber Agreement*, 1994.

⁵⁷ United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, *International Tropical Timber Agreement*, 1994, p. 28.

⁵⁸ United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, *The Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit-Sharing*.

⁵⁹ Global Environment Facility, *What is the Global Environment Facility (GEF)*, n.d.

⁶⁰ Global Environment Facility, *What is the Global Environment Facility (GEF)*, n.d.

⁶¹ Sustainable Policy and Development, *ALBA Nations Adopt Declaration Opposing Sustainable Development and Policy Practice*, n.d.

of promised funds to support the initiative have not materialized and therefore put the future of the initiative into question.

EU-LAC Efforts to Strengthen Bi-Lateral Ties

Because environmental issues in either the EU or LAC will affect the other increasingly over the years, the EU and LAC have undertaken several initiatives, which are intended to strengthen and promote collaboration on addressing environmental issues while at the same time promoting sustainable development. The first of these collaborative initiatives is through Scientific and Technology (S&T) Cooperation Agreements. These S&T Cooperation Agreements came into existence in 2002 with each project focused on a specific environmental issue of challenge and consequence in LAC. A few of the S&T Cooperation Agreements were the Catchment Management and Mining Impacts in Arid and Semi Arid South America (CAMINAR), Cost Assessment for Sustainable Energy Systems (CASES), and the Integrated Water Resource Management by the Implementation of Improved Agro-Forestry concepts in the arid and semi-arid areas in Latin America (WAFLA). The aim(s) of the CAMINAR Project was to contribute to the establishment of policy options, management strategies and technologies for the sustainable management of ecosystems in those river basins impacted by mining.⁶² The CASES Project was based around three principle objectives. The first objective was to compile detailed estimates of both external and internal costs of energy production for different energy resources for EU Member States and non-EU states under energy scenarios to 2030.⁶³ The second objective of the project was to evaluate policy options for improving the efficiency of energy use, while the third objective was to disseminate research findings to energy sector producers and users in the policy-making arena.⁶⁴ The objective of the WAFLA Project was to coordinate research, technological innovation, and social and policy development strategies in order to promote the adoption of integrated water resource management (IWRM) techniques.⁶⁵ This in turn would improve agro-forestry systems to combat degradation and enhance rural development in Latin America.⁶⁶

An offshoot of the S&T Cooperation Agreements has been the Claris La Plata Basin (Claris LPB) Project. The Claris LPB Project aims at predicting the regional climate change impacts in the La Plata Basin in South America.⁶⁷ The project aims at addressing four general objectives, which are addressed through four inter-related and complementary subprojects (SP).⁶⁸ The work of each of these SPs is then presented at regular meetings held during the year with the most recent Claris LPB meeting having been held on 5-9 September 2011 in Toledo, Spain.⁶⁹

After the 5th EU-LAC Summit in Lima, the Lima Declaration declared that climate change was an important theme in relations between the EU and LAC.⁷⁰ With this, EUroclIMA was established as a EU-LAC environmental program with a specific focus on climate change.⁷¹ Another mechanism where the EU and LAC are beginning to strengthen their bi-lateral ties is in the promotion of the EU Water Initiative. The EU Water Initiative is an initiative in which the EU seeks to help developing countries meet their water-related Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by improving the quantity and quality of water supply in partner countries and regions.⁷² A programme that the EU currently has in place as one of several programmes with Latin America is RALCEA: Latin American Network of Knowledge Centres in the Water Sector. The purpose of RALCEA is aimed at improving water management governance.⁷³ The project would also contribute to sustainable management of water resources, in line

⁶² European Commission, *Scientific and Technical Cooperation on Environment Challenges Latin America, the Caribbean, and the European Union*, 2008.

⁶³ European Commission, *Scientific and Technical Cooperation on Environment Challenges Latin America, the Caribbean, and the European Union*, 2008, p.6.

⁶⁴ European Commission, *Scientific and Technical Cooperation on Environment Challenges Latin America, the Caribbean, and the European Union*, 2008, p.7.

⁶⁵ European Commission, *Scientific and Technical Cooperation on Environment Challenges Latin America, the Caribbean, and the European Union*, 2008, p.8.

⁶⁶ European Commission, *Scientific and Technical Cooperation on Environment Challenges Latin America, the Caribbean, and the European Union*, 2008, p.8.

⁶⁷ Claris La Plata Basin (LPB) Project, *Claris LPB Homepage*, n.d.

⁶⁸ Claris La Plata Basin (LPB) Project, *Claris LPB Homepage*, n.d.

⁶⁹ Claris La Plata Basin (LPB) Project, *Claris LPB Homepage*, n.d.

⁷⁰ European Commission, *EUroclIMA-Climate Change Regional Cooperation Programme*, 2010.

⁷¹ European Commission, *EUroclIMA-Climate Change Regional Cooperation Programme*, 2010.

⁷² European Union Water Initiative, *EU Council Resolution Water Management in Developing Countries*, n.d.

⁷³ European Commission, *RALCEA: Latin American Network of Knowledge Centres in the Water Sector*, 2010.

with objectives set out by the EU Water Initiative for the region.⁷⁴ The project was created in December 2009 and was approved to run for 4 years with a total budget of 2.5 million euros.⁷⁵

LAC Efforts to Address Environmental Challenges

As already mentioned earlier, there are several UN-REDD and REDD+ projects being carried out in Latin America. One of those is in Bolivia where a UN-REDD Programme is currently in place. The program in place with the Bolivian government is seeks to improve development strategies and plans, and regulations within the Forestry Sector.⁷⁶ By addressing these policy points, this should allow Bolivia to be ready to then undertake REDD+ strategies.⁷⁷ Before reaching REDD+ readiness, the UN-REDD Programme must fulfill three outcomes by supporting capacity building at the national and local level.⁷⁸ By achieving these desired outcomes, the hope is that Bolivia will be better positioned to implement REDD+ policies, which address deforestation and forest degradation while at the same time emphasizing the involvement of all individuals and actors, especially indigenous people and groups most affected by deforestation and forest degradation.⁷⁹ Another LAC country which also is working on executing a UN-REDD Programme and then subsequently a REDD+ is Ecuador. The current national joint program in place for Ecuador has six outcomes that the Ecuadorean program seeks to accomplish, for example are designing and implementing a National Forest Monitoring System, implementation of a national REDD+ consultation process involving such individuals and groups like Afro-Ecuadoreans and the Montubio.⁸⁰ The EU and it's involvement with UN-REDD programs is manifested in the view about how REDD programs should be structured. The EU proposed that REDD policies should focus on positive incentives to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation while additional measures like enhancement of forest carbon stocks could complement REDD measures.⁸¹ Looking at the REDD activities in Bolivia and Ecuador, both incorporate EU policies on what REDD measures should include in them.

Individual LAC countries are also taking ownership on a national basis to address climate change, biodiversity, and protection of soil. Brazil is the best example of a LAC country tackling these particular issues. Some of the measures that Brazil has taken include the adoption of a National Plan on Climate Change in 2009, which set at reducing greenhouse gas emissions between 36 and 39% by the year 2020.⁸² Apart from the National Plan on Climate Change, Brazil has also enacted an action plan for protecting and controlling deforestation of the Amazon and investing in sustainable production and extractive activities which promote sustainable forest use.⁸³ Finally, Brazil has set-up a couple of funds in order to ensure the execution of said policies. The National Climate Change Fund was set-up in 2009 with an initial \$100 million budget to be applied to a range of activities while the Amazon Fund, also created in 2009 will support activities that support seven priority areas.⁸⁴ The fund received an initial 18 million euro pledge from Germany.⁸⁵

⁷⁴ European Commission, *RALCEA: Latin American Network of Knowledge Centres in the Water Sector*, 2010.

⁷⁵ European Commission, *RALCEA: Latin American Network of Knowledge Centres in the Water Sector*, 2010.

⁷⁶ United Nations-Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation Programme, *National Programme Document-Bolivia*, 2010.

⁷⁷ United Nations-Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation Programme, *National Programme Document-Bolivia*, 2010.

⁷⁸ United Nations-Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation Programme, *National Programme Document-Bolivia*, 2010.

⁷⁹ United Nations-Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation Programme, *National Programme Document-Bolivia*, 2010.

⁸⁰ United Nations-Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation Programme, *National Programme Document-Ecuador*, 2011.

⁸¹ United Nations-Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation Programme, *The Little REDD Book: A Guide to Governmental and Non-Governmental Proposals for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation*, 2008, p. 22.

⁸² Presidency of the Federative Republic of Brazil, *Climate Change and Biodiversity in Brazil: Key Facts and Figures*, 2010, p. 7-8.

⁸³ Presidency of the Federative Republic of Brazil, *Climate Change and Biodiversity in Brazil: Key Facts and Figures*, 2010, p. 12.

⁸⁴ Presidency of the Federative Republic of Brazil, *Climate Change and Biodiversity in Brazil: Key Facts and Figures*, 2010, p. 15-16

⁸⁵ Presidency of the Federative Republic of Brazil, *Climate Change and Biodiversity in Brazil: Key Facts and Figures*, 2010, p. 15-16.

Conclusion

Addressing environmental issues and concerns while at the same time cooperating to find solutions that adequately address these concerns, promoting sustainable development policies through bi-lateral dialogue and action between the EU and LAC is clearly of the utmost importance. Yet, one barrier that stands in the way of being able to address is the various environmental challenges facing the EU and LAC ties in bi-lateral efforts is a result in how the issues have been framed. A challenge that faces strengthening bi-lateral ties on environmental issues between the EU and LAC are that environmental issues are framed as being a global issue and not necessarily a specific country or countries issue.⁸⁶ Therefore, initiatives like the RALCEA serve in helping dispel such perceptions through clean water initiatives that are visible to the general public. In turn, there is then a situation where national organizations and institutions set-up to handle and address the environmental issues of pressing concern in their respective countries.⁸⁷ Furthermore, this can lead to an inability at a regional level to solve trans-boundary environmental issues that may arise.⁸⁸ All this highlights how strengthening bi-lateral ties between the EU and LAC necessary in order to strengthen the capacity to address environmental issues while at the same time promoting sustainable development.

Therefore, what kind of policies and initiatives can be undertaken to strengthen bi-lateral agreements and policies between the EU and LAC as far as addressing environmental issues and promotion of sustainable development is concerned? Are current agreements and potential collaborative initiative efforts like the EU Water Initiative and EUroCLIMA sufficient and serve as good a basis for deepening bi-lateral efforts? Or are bi-lateral efforts better off achieving the intended goals by modeling efforts after internationally support initiatives like the UN-REDD Programme and REDD+ Programme? Finally, how should such bi-lateral efforts encourage and promote the ability of national organizations to show initiative in addressing environmental issues while allowing for intra and inter-regional efforts to continue being of importance in addressing the matter at hand?

Annotated Bibliography

I. Strengthening bi-regional agreements and dialogue on environment, climate change, sustainable development and energy

Council of the European Union. (2010, November 15). *Madrid Declaration*. Retrieved July 1, 2011 from http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/lac/index_en.htm

The Madrid Declaration was one of the documents adopted after the 6th European Union-Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Summit. One of the main significant points about the Madrid Declaration is the focus on strengthening and committing the efforts of both regions as it relates to addressing environmental issues. For example, one of the specific environmental issues that the Madrid Declaration acknowledges as an area where strengthening bi-lateral relations between the EU and LAC is to step up efforts within the framework of the Convention of Biological Diversity for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

European Commission. (2008). *Scientific and Technical Cooperation on Environment Challenges Latin America, the Caribbean, and the European Union*. Retrieved August 19, 2011 from http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/pdf/eu-lac_envleaflet_en.pdf

This document is a general information document related to some of the scientific and technical cooperation agreements and initiatives that have taken place between the EU and LAC. The scope of these agreements range from the establishment of policy options, management strategies and technologies for the sustainable management of ecosystems in those river basins impacted by mining to the coordination of research, technological innovation, and social and policy development strategies in order to promote the adoption of integrated water resource management (IWRM) techniques. Apart from the 4 agreements mentioned, the document provides general information on other agreements and initiatives.

⁸⁶ Lopez, Alexander and Jimenez, *Challenges for Trans-boarder Environmental Governance in Latin America, 2009*, p.2.

⁸⁷ Sustainable Policy and Development, *ALBA Nations Adopt Declaration Opposing Sustainable Development and Policy Practice*.

⁸⁸ Lopez, Alexander and Jimenez, *Challenges for Trans-boarder Environmental Governance in Latin America, 2009*, p.4.

Global Environment Facility. (ND). *What is the Global Environment Facility (GEF)*. Retrieved August 18, 2011 from <http://www.thegef.org/gef/whatisgef>

The page outlines the purpose, concept, and what the Global Environment Facility (GEF) exactly is and what are its specific functions. The GEF is a partnership between Member State governments, international institutions, nongovernmental organizations, and the private sector to address global environmental issues. The GEF was established in 1991 and is currently the largest funder of projects related to improving the global environment. Another one of the main attributes of the GEF is that it is engaged in partnerships with 10 agencies like the United Nations Environment Programme and the United Nations Development Programme to name a few.

Inter-American Development Bank. (2008, March 4). *Sustainable Development: Environment, Climate Change, and Energy*. Retrieved August 19, 2011 from <http://www.iadb.org/document.cfm?id=35216941>

The report, which was published by the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) examines and makes suggestions in areas that both the EU and LAC can cooperate on addressing environmental issues while at the same time promoting sustainable development policies. The report is broken down into four sections. The first looks at the challenges to sustainable development in Latin America, the second examines the challenge of energy sustainability, while the third the threats posed by climate change to Latin America as well as the potential opportunities to mitigate its impact. The final section is the conclusion, which outlines opportunities where the EU and LAC can enhance their bi-lateral ties as it relates to the environment and sustainable development.

United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity. (1992). *Convention on Biological Diversity*. Retrieved August 18, 2011 from <http://www.cbd.int/convention/text/>

The Convention on Biological Diversity was adopted in 1992 and entered into force on December 29, 1993. The principle goals of the Convention are conservation of biological diversity, sustainable use of the components of biodiversity, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits that arise from genetic resources. The Convention serves as a principle tool for outlining internationally agreed to principles as it relates to the topic of biodiversity as well as the promotion of sustainable development within the context of biodiversity. Another feature of the Convention is the Convention of the Parties (COP) which meet on a bi-annual basis which is charged with advancing the implementation of the Convention.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (1994). *International Tropical Timber Agreement*. Retrieved August 18, 2011 from <http://www.itto.int/itta/>

The International Timber Agreement (ITTA) was adopted in 1994 under the auspices of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). The purpose of the ITTA was to focus on tropical forest conservation and sustainable development while at the same time promoting exports of tropical timber from sustainably managed sources and to establish a fund to assist tropical timber producers in obtaining the resources necessary to meet the stated objective. Although a enhanced ITTA was adopted in 2006, it has still to yet enter into force and thus replacing the 1994 agreement and with that, the 1994 agreement is still the ITTA in force.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (1992). *United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*. Retrieved August 17, 2011 from http://unfccc.int/essential_background/items/2877.php

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), adopted in 1992 was done so in order for UN Member States to consider what could and can be done to reduce global warming and to cope with the inevitable temperature rises. One of the main features of the UNFCCC is the decision-making authority apparatus in place, which is the Conference of the Parties (COP). The COP meets each year, with the last COP having been held in Cancun, Mexico. The duties and activities carried out by COP are those of reviewing the implementation of the Convention and the commitments made on the part of the Members Party to the Convention in light of new scientific findings and experienced gained in implementing climate change policies.

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (1998). *Kyoto Protocol to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*. Retrieved July 17, 2011 from http://unfccc.int/essential_background/items/2877.php

The Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC, better known as and referred to as the Kyoto Protocol was adopted after COP 7. The Kyoto Protocol is significant in that it set-up binding targets for 37 industrialized countries, along with the European Community, for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This meant that these countries and regional economic organizations committed to their greenhouse gas emission production by 5% over the five-year period between 2008-2012 against 1990 levels. In addition, the Kyoto Protocol called on these targets to be met under national measures with the support of a three-pronged market based mechanism.

United Nations-Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation Programme. (2010). *National Programme Document- Bolivia*. Retrieved August 19, 2011 from <http://www.un-redd.org/AboutUNREDDProgramme/NationalProgrammes/tabid/584/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

United Nations-Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation Programme, also referred to as UN-REDD helps UN Member States fulfill three specific outcomes before these states can then undertake UN-REDD+ policies. One of the states currently undertaking a UN-REDD Programme is Bolivia. The Bolivia project is focused on addressing three desired policy outcomes in order for Bolivia to be better positioned to implement REDD+ policies which address deforestation and forest degradation while at the same time emphasizing the involvement of all individuals and actors, especially indigenous people and groups most affected by deforestation and forest degradation. The project currently is currently in place and will run until 2013.

United Nations-Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation Programme. (2011). *National Programme Document- Ecuador*. Retrieved August 19, 2011 from <http://www.un-redd.org/AboutUNREDDProgramme/NationalProgrammes/tabid/584/language/en-US/Default.aspx>

Like Bolivia, Ecuador also is currently undertaking and is involved in a UN-REDD Programme project. The Ecuador project seeks to achieve six outcomes. A few of the six outcomes are the design and implementation of a National Forest Monitoring System, national implementation of REDD+ consultation process involving civil society, and indigenous groups and people, and the design and implementation of a benefit-sharing system. The Ecuador project was established in March of this year and will run until 2013.

II. Developing the Structured and Comprehensive Dialogue on migration from LAC to EU. Implementing bi-regional cooperation activities and initiatives on migration

Introduction: the Characteristics of EU-LAC Migration

Migration between Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and the European Union (EU) isn't a recent phenomenon. In the nineteenth century LAC countries received millions of immigrants from Europe. In the 1980s this situation reversed itself, and EU-LAC migration is now mostly consists of population flows from LAC to the EU.⁸⁹ Over 3 million LAC migrants currently reside in Europe and this figure is expected to increase.⁹⁰ LAC immigrants have favored a transoceanic migration because of the historic ties that exist between both regions.⁹¹ They can easily go to Europe thanks to legal rights accorded to descendants of former emigrants as well as by joining distant families still residing in Europe.⁹² Nevertheless, this migration has gradually become more of a "labor" immigration rather

⁸⁹ Pellegrino, *Migration from Latin America to Europe: Trends and Policy Challenges*, 2004, p. 7.

⁹⁰ Pellegrino, *Migration from Latin America to Europe: Trends and Policy Challenges*, 2004, p. 7.

⁹¹ Durand & Massey, *New World Orders: Continuities and Changes in Latin American Migration*, 2010, p. 14.

⁹² Padilla, *Latin American Immigration to Southern Europe*, 2007.

than a “return” immigration. Indeed, the EU has become an economically attractive zone and a politically stable region.⁹³ Furthermore, the EU’s ageing population has led to a broader immigration policy.⁹⁴

There are several explanations that cause the LAC population to leave their home countries. One of the initial reasons was political instability. The collapse of democracy and the appearance of military regimes in Bolivia, Brazil, Argentina, and Chile in the 1960s and 1970s were a source of violence, insecurity and even at times repression.⁹⁵ During that period European countries such as Norway or Sweden welcomed refugees and asylum seekers.⁹⁶ Even though violence and political unrest is no longer an issue for most LAC countries, some LAC democracies remain in a precarious position as can be illustrated by the recent situation in Colombia.⁹⁷ In addition, LAC women are particularly exposed to this threat which has led to an important feminization of the EU-LAC migration. Sex trade is another source of migration which particularly underlines the vulnerability of women in both regions.⁹⁸

Economic hardship and inequalities are another cause of immigration. The LAC region has faced recurrent economic and financial crises in the past, such as in Argentina in 2002.⁹⁹ Consequently, social inequalities have appeared in parallel with the rise of unemployment rates and the decline of welfare states. In 2005, over 213 million LAC inhabitants lived in poverty which represents 38% of their population.¹⁰⁰ In comparison, the EU has grown more attractive especially after 9/11, which led to tighter immigration controls in the United States.¹⁰¹ Nowadays, LAC immigrants occupy jobs that EU citizens turn down especially low paid agricultural and service jobs.¹⁰² The economic pressure in departing countries and the need for low qualified workers in hosting countries has increased the number of illegal immigrants coming to work in the EU.

Even if insecurity and economic pressure are the main reason for immigration in LAC, other explanations can’t be excluded. In 1990, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) declared that “one of the gravest effects of climate change may be those on human migration.”¹⁰³ The LAC region is particularly affected by these environmental degradation and natural disasters. For example, Mexico’s dry land regions forces more than 700,000 people to migrate each year and the recent Haitian earthquake has only exacerbated the island’s situation.¹⁰⁴ While this issue currently causes mostly regional migration, it does not preclude international migration.

Since EU-LAC migration is caused by different factors, a diversification of migrant’s profiles has occurred. The immigrants are often young people who work for low qualified jobs in the hosting country.¹⁰⁵ Women currently represent more than half of all LAC migrants. In general, the common culture and language between both regions has smoothed the integration process. Thus, even if most migrants are low qualified, a highly qualified LAC Diaspora is appearing in Europe and is becoming the impetus for additional migration.¹⁰⁶

Unfortunately, since the migration phenomenon between the EU and LAC is a recent trend there is very little data available.¹⁰⁷ This is due to several issues such as the presence of unauthorized immigrants, as well as increasing numbers of dual citizenship. In addition, Latin American citizens have up until recently been exempted from needing a visa to enter Spain or Portugal.¹⁰⁸ Consequently, migration from LAC to EU is often underestimated (predominantly in Southern Europe) which only serves to minimize the issue of migration between the EU and LAC countries. However, it is roughly estimated that there are over 1 million LAC immigrants in Spain; 205,000 in Italy;

⁹³ Pellegrino, *Migration from Latin America to Europe: Trends and Policy Challenges*, 2004, p. 13.

⁹⁴ Pellegrino, *Migration from Latin America to Europe: Trends and Policy Challenges*, 2004, p. 9.

⁹⁵ Solimano, *Migration and Democracy: Issues for Latin America and Europe at a time of Global Recession*, 2009, p. 8.

⁹⁶ Durand & Massey, *New World Orders: Continuities and Changes in Latin American Migration*, 2010, p. 15.

⁹⁷ Torres, *Colombian migration to Europe: Political transnationalism in the middle of conflict*, 2006.

⁹⁸ Pellegrino, *Migration from Latin America to Europe: Trends and Policy Challenges*, 2004, p. 59.

⁹⁹ Solimano, *Globalization, history and international migration: a view from Latin America*, 2004, p. 4.

¹⁰⁰ Solimano, *Migration and Democracy: Issues for Latin America and Europe at a time of Global Recession*, 2009, p. 7.

¹⁰¹ Pellegrino, *Migration from Latin America to Europe: Trends and Policy Challenges*, 2004, p. 65.

¹⁰² Solimano, *Migration and Democracy: Issues for Latin America and Europe at a time of Global Recession*, 2009, p. 5.

¹⁰³ IOM, *Compendium of IOM’s activities in Migration, Climate Change and the Environment*, 2009, p. 17.

¹⁰⁴ IOM, *Compendium of IOM’s activities in Migration, Climate Change and the Environment*, 2009, p. 176.

¹⁰⁵ Pellegrino, *Migration from Latin America to Europe: Trends and Policy Challenges*, 2004, p. 29.

¹⁰⁶ Pellegrino, *Migration from Latin America to Europe: Trends and Policy Challenges*, 2004, p. 65.

¹⁰⁷ Pellegrino, *Migration from Latin America to Europe: Trends and Policy Challenges*, 2004, p. 15.

¹⁰⁸ Padilla, *Latin American Immigration to Southern Europe*, 2007.

113,000 in the United Kingdom; 94,000 in Germany; and 56,000 in Portugal.¹⁰⁹ While these numbers reveal extensive LAC communities in Europe, it is important to keep in mind that 86.2% of LAC immigrants live in the United States.¹¹⁰ At first EU-LAC migration only concerned Southern European countries, particularly Spain, Italy and Portugal. This is because, before the 1980s, countries such as France, Germany and England experienced immigration growth coming from Africa and Asia colonies, which subsequently limited their capacity to keep a broad immigration policy in recent years.¹¹¹ Nevertheless, now other EU countries have become host to LAC immigration.¹¹² Central American immigrants favor Europe's Nordic countries and Germany. Conversely, the Caribbean population can mostly be found in the United Kingdom, or in Switzerland and France. Finally, South American immigrants generally choose Spain, Italy or Portugal as hosting countries.¹¹³

The challenges of EU-LAC Migration

While migration is often perceived negatively due to its consequences, it also represents an opportunity to develop economic, social and cultural links between both regions. However, several issues come forward when dealing with EU-LAC Migration. Remittances are one of the most important consequences of the EU-LAC migration. In 2003, LAC households were sent over \$38 billion, \$2 billion of which came from Europe including \$1 billion from Spain, and \$30 billion of which came from the United States.¹¹⁴ The impact of these remittances is enormous. For example, in 2004 remittances made up for 17% of El Salvador's GDP.¹¹⁵ With the increase of EU-LAC migration, remittances corridors have appeared between the two regions mostly from Spain to Colombia and Ecuador and from Portugal to Brazil.¹¹⁶ Remittances are a concern since they create dependency, underline (national and individual) inequalities, and there is always a risk of fluctuation in the flows of remittance as was illustrated by the recent European crisis. Nonetheless, remittances are often perceived positively given that they are a source of income. If they are well managed, remittances represent an opportunity of investment and development for the receiving country.¹¹⁷

Another issue created by migration flows is 'brain drain'.¹¹⁸ In the past years European Countries have put in place different policies in order to attract skilled immigrants. LAC countries have a difficult time preventing this loss of human capital seeing as they can't face the high salary competition of EU countries. Thus, 'brain drain' is often perceived negatively as it represents a loss of skilled researchers for LAC countries and it lowers their ability to develop their own research and development. For example, 14% of PhD student in France come from Latin America and only approximately 20% of those students return to their country of origin.¹¹⁹ However, 'brain drain' can become positive if the EU helps by setting up bi-national or bi-regional research programs and encouraging the return of highly qualified students after their training in Europe. The presence of EU-LAC scholarship programs such as Erasmus Mundus should be encouraged.¹²⁰ The EU could also promote the creation of a scientific LAC Diaspora in order to foster the implementation of scientific and economic projects in the LAC region. Thus, skilled migration or 'brain drain' can have positive aspects and some countries chose to view it as a 'brain gain' or 'brain exchange'.¹²¹

Illegal migration, otherwise known as irregular migration, is also a growing concern in Europe. When talking about illegal migration, it is important to point out it takes on in two forms. First there is human trafficking which according to the *United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons especially Women and Children* includes persons trafficked for purposes of forced labor, slavery and prostitution.¹²² The trafficking of women and children for sex trade is a growing concern in LAC countries since they represent one of the primary suppliers of sex workers in Europe. In Latin America, the rise of female sex trade is evident, particularly in Brazil,

¹⁰⁹ Padilla, *Latin American Immigration to Southern Europe*, 2007.

¹¹⁰ Peixoto, *A Socio-political view of International Migration from Latin America and the Caribbean*, 2005, p. 5.

¹¹¹ Peixoto, *A Socio-political view of International Migration from Latin America and the Caribbean*, 2005, p. 3.

¹¹² European Commission, *Migration in EU-Latin relations*, 2006.

¹¹³ Peixoto, *A Socio-political view of International Migration from Latin America and the Caribbean*, 2005, p. 4.

¹¹⁴ Pellegrino, *Migration from Latin America to Europe: Trends and Policy Challenges*, 2004, p. 47.

¹¹⁵ Solimano, *Globalization, history and international migration: a view from Latin America*, 2004, p. 5.

¹¹⁶ European Commission, *Migration in EU-Latin relations*, 2006.

¹¹⁷ Pellegrino, *Migration from Latin America to Europe: Trends and Policy Challenges*, 2004, p. 47.

¹¹⁸ Pellegrino, *Migration from Latin America to Europe: Trends and Policy Challenges*, 2004, p. 52.

¹¹⁹ Pellegrino, *Migration from Latin America to Europe: Trends and Policy Challenges*, 2004, p. 54.

¹²⁰ Bridges-LAC, *Accessibility of Latin American Students to European Higher Education*, (2009), p. 3.

¹²¹ Pellegrino, *Migration from Latin America to Europe: Trends and Policy Challenges*, 2004, p. 55.

¹²² United Nations, *United Nations Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons especially Women and Children*, 2000.

Colombia and the Dominican Republic. According to the 2005 *Trafficking in persons report*, over 70,000 Brazilian and 45,000 Colombian women are thought to be a victim of the international sex industry and can essentially be found in Europe.¹²³ However, because of the illegal nature of these flows, these numbers have never been confirmed and are only estimates.¹²⁴ This human trade is only possible through the development of a mafia within the countries of origin and the hosting states.¹²⁵ It is interesting to note that the sex trade mafias are often linked to the drug trade.¹²⁶ These criminal groups see their victims as commodities that are exchanged on the market according to the law of supply and demand.¹²⁷ Within the group, each trafficker holds a different position and is responsible for organizing the prostitution network by producing fraudulent documents, assuring the reception and accommodation of the victims or establishing trading routes.¹²⁸ Women fall prey to these organized groups because of the difficult economic and social conditions in their country of origin.¹²⁹ They are told that they will be able to find work abroad and once they have arrived, they are coerced into the sex industry by the retention of their identity documents. Thus, one of the measures that could prevent human trafficking would be to increase employment opportunities for women in general.¹³⁰ The organized criminals sell their victims to brothels once they have arrived in the hosting states and even at times arrange for a rotation of the victims between different cities and countries.¹³¹

However illegal immigration does not only concern human trafficking. It is also due to poverty and the vulnerability of the migrants themselves.¹³² Indeed, the political unrest in Colombia due to drug wars, as well as the recession in the Southern Cone of America has created important immigration pressures in the LAC region. At the same time, 9/11 caused a tightening of immigration policies in the United States. Thus irregular immigrants that would have gone to the United States choose to migrate illegally to Europe instead.¹³³ For example, two thirds of the Colombian community in Spain is estimated to be irregular. These immigrants are often ill-perceived in the EU and are forced to deal with discrimination. Furthermore, these illegal immigrants often moonlight and are always the first concerned by economic instability as it was illustrated in the recent euro crisis.¹³⁴ In addition, they do not benefit equally of education and social welfare.¹³⁵ Since illegal immigration is due to the lack of a legal low-skilled labor migration channel, the EU-LAC Strategic Partnership could prevent putting at risk further irregular migrants by creating a broader immigration policy.¹³⁶

Nonetheless, European countries are currently toughening their immigration policies. The EU is currently attempting to implement a 'Blue card' which would only favor skilled migration.¹³⁷ Italy recently adopted a new Security Law, which defines illegal immigration as a crime against public safety.¹³⁸ Equally, France now requires an airport transit visa as well as the common European visa for the Schengen Area. According to the 9th South American Conference on Migration these measures "criminalize" illegal immigrants.¹³⁹ Furthermore, the EU-LAC partnership has to face another challenge regarding this topic. In addition to the lack of cooperation on illegal immigration, the two regions seem to disagree on the concept of return migration. While the EU countries approve the idea since it allows them to lighten the pressure caused by immigration, LAC countries often perceive this as a harmful measure which penalizes the migrants since it involves forced return.¹⁴⁰ For the LAC region return immigration entails psychological discomfort in addition to the dismissal of certain human rights. Furthermore, return immigration requires reintegration programs and financial aid which involve financial means that LAC countries can't spare.¹⁴¹ This

¹²³ U.S. Department of State Publication, *Trafficking in Persons Report*, 2005, p. 72 and p. 85.

¹²⁴ U.S. Congressional research service, *Trafficking in Persons in Latin America and the Caribbean*, 2007, p. 9.

¹²⁵ Pellegrino, *Migration from Latin America to Europe: Trends and Policy Challenges*, 2004, p. 59.

¹²⁶ Pellegrino, *Migration from Latin America to Europe: Trends and Policy Challenges*, 2004, p. 60.

¹²⁷ OSCE, *Analyzing the Business model of Trafficking in Human Beings to Better prevent Crime*, 2010, p. 25.

¹²⁸ OSCE, *Analyzing the Business model of Trafficking in Human Beings to Better prevent Crime*, 2010, p. 24.

¹²⁹ OSCE, *Analyzing the Business model of Trafficking in Human Beings to Better prevent Crime*, 2010, p. 71.

¹³⁰ Kanics & Reiter, *A year of significant achievements in the fight against trafficking in human beings*, 2000.

¹³¹ OSCE, *Analyzing the Business model of Trafficking in Human Beings to Better prevent Crime*, 2010, p. 23.

¹³² Pellegrino, *Migration from Latin America to Europe: Trends and Policy Challenges*, 2004, p. 58.

¹³³ Pellegrino, *Migration from Latin America to Europe: Trends and Policy Challenges*, 2004, p. 59.

¹³⁴ Solimano, *Migration and Democracy: Issues for Latin America and Europe at a time of Global Recession*, 2009, p. 3.

¹³⁵ Solimano, *Migration and Democracy: Issues for Latin America and Europe at a time of Global Recession*, 2009, p. 5.

¹³⁶ Pellegrino, *Migration from Latin America to Europe: Trends and Policy Challenges*, 2004, p. 62.

¹³⁷ Black, *How EU integration bars the persecuted from finding refuge in Europe*, 2010.

¹³⁸ Landivar, *South America concerned over tougher European immigration policies*, 2009.

¹³⁹ Landivar, *South America concerned over tougher European immigration policies*, 2009.

¹⁴⁰ Report of the Co-presidencies, *IV High Level EU-LAC Meeting on migration: "Addressing irregular migration"*, 2010, p. 3.

¹⁴¹ Solimano, *Migration and Democracy: Issues for Latin America and Europe at a time of Global Recession*, 2009, p. 5.

concern could be resolved by fostering bi-regional programs encouraging voluntary return so as to implement productive projects in the LAC region. The lack of consent between both regions has slowed this process.

The Framework for EU-LAC Migration

There are a few cornerstone documents that represent the international legal framework for migration law and that deal with the respect of human rights. The first one is *the Universal Declaration of Human Rights* which has two articles (13 and 14) dedicated to this issue.¹⁴² The second text is *The International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights*.¹⁴³ *The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights* should also be mentioned.¹⁴⁴ More specifically there is *the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Their Families* which aims at protecting working migrants and their families.¹⁴⁵

The EU-LAC Partnership has always taken into consideration migration policies. Thus, the EU and LAC countries emphasized the importance of human rights issues and condemned human trafficking in points 13 and 26 of the 1999 Rio de Janeiro Declaration.¹⁴⁶ However, even though migration was also discussed in the other summits, it was only during the First Expert Meeting on migration held in 2004 that both parties were able to finally express their personal concerns on migration flows.¹⁴⁷ In addition to implementing dialogue, the EU-LAC association benefitted from the “Thematic Program for Cooperation on Migration and Asylum” (Aeneas) in 2005 which spent over 3 million Euros in LAC countries in order to collect data and facilitate the transfer of remittances particularly within rural areas.¹⁴⁸

In the Third Expert Meeting that took place in 2008 before the Lima summit, the dialogue on migration became more focused and certain priorities were called to attention.¹⁴⁹ These priorities are remittance, integration of migrants, migration policies and the fight against irregular migration and human trafficking. While the Fourth Expert Meeting in 2010 in Brussels was the opportunity to discuss these concerns, it also revealed the conflict between LAC countries and the EU. EU Member States used this meeting to present the recently adopted European Pact on Migration and Asylum which harmonizes the different European immigration policies.¹⁵⁰ This pact also aims at preventing regularization programs and promoting choice migration depending on the needs of the European labor market. Furthermore, EU Member States also introduced the Return Directive in 2008 that implemented tougher restrictions on unauthorized migrants.¹⁵¹ This directive includes the possibility to detain for a period of 18-month irregular migrants in open centers if they refuse to leave the EU territory willingly. LAC countries believe that regularization is the best solution. Thus, all LAC countries are clearly opposed to this Return Directive and perceive it as a violation of human rights. Evo Morales even described it as the “directive of shame”.¹⁵² The different opinions between both regions on migration policies represent a major challenge for the future.

In June 2009, the Structured and Comprehensive bi-regional dialogue was launched as an aftermath of the Lima summit.¹⁵³ Its main aim is to strengthen the dialogue between the two regions and to deal with the priorities that have been previously discussed. In addition, several sub-agreements between individual countries have been reached. For example, six Central American countries (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama) have signed the *Cooperation on Migration* with the EU to promote regional integration and deal with the return of illegal migrants.¹⁵⁴ Furthermore, to counter the lack of data, a “Statistic Yearbook on EU-LAC Migrations” should be presented at the EU-LAC summit in 2012.¹⁵⁵

¹⁴² United Nations General Assembly, *The Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, 1948.

¹⁴³ **United Nations General Assembly, *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*, 1966.**

¹⁴⁴ **United Nations General Assembly, *International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*, 1966.**

¹⁴⁵ **United Nations General Assembly, *International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families*, 1990.**

¹⁴⁶ Pellegrino, *Migration from Latin America to Europe: Trends and Policy Challenges*, 2004, p. 10.

¹⁴⁷ EU-LAC Co-Presidencies, *Information Report by the Co-presidencies on EU-LAC cooperation*, 2006, p. 3.

¹⁴⁸ European Commission, *Migration in EU-Latin relations*, 2006.

¹⁴⁹ Report of the Co-presidencies, *Meeting of experts between the European Union and the Latin American and Caribbean Countries on Migration*, 2006.

¹⁵⁰ Report of the Co-presidencies, *IV High Level EU-LAC Meeting on migration: “Addressing irregular migration”*, 2010.

¹⁵¹ Tedesco, *Immigration and Foreign Policy: The Economic Crisis and its Challenges*, 2010, p. 4.

¹⁵² Tedesco, *Immigration and Foreign Policy: The Economic Crisis and its Challenges*, 2010, p. 4.

¹⁵³ Council of the European Union, *Launch of EU-LAC Dialogue on migration*, 2009.

¹⁵⁴ Pellegrino, *Migration from Latin America to Europe: Trends and Policy Challenges*, 2004, p. 12.

¹⁵⁵ Report of the Co-presidencies, *IV High Level EU-LAC Meeting on migration: “Addressing irregular migration”*, 2010.

EU-LAC migration is a very recent phenomenon and has only recently become a top of the agenda priority during EU-LAC summits. The issue was also tackled in the 2010 Madrid Action Plan.¹⁵⁶ Indeed, the EU and LAC countries underlined the need to complete the implementation of the EU-LAC Dialogue on Migration. They also insisted on the need to find a “cheaper, safer, and more transparent” way to transfer remittances and to encourage information exchange on the subject. However despite what has been set up since these conferences, it is necessary to foster bi-regional cooperation activities and initiatives on migration. In addition, the recent global crisis seems to have exacerbated the situation by increasing migration flows. Conversely, the EU is progressively implementing further immigration restrictions and protectionism. This is due to the fact that hosting countries such as England and Spain are among the most affected by this crisis especially in the construction sector where numerous immigrants work.¹⁵⁷

Case-study: the LAC migration in Spain

Spain is understandably the main destination country in Europe for LAC migration. Due to the cultural, linguistic and historic ties between Spain and the LAC region, it is the country that is the most concerned by the EU-LAC dialogue on migration.¹⁵⁸ It was estimated in 2009 that there were over 441,455 Ecuadorians, 288,255 Colombians and 300,000 Argentinians living in Spain.¹⁵⁹ The immigrants from LAC to Spain chose the south European country over the United States because traveling to Spain used to be cheaper and easier since it didn't require a visa. Moreover, Spain became an attractive country after it joined the EU. Indeed, this membership provided an upturn in the country's economy, particularly in the sectors most immigrants worked in (construction, tourism, health care, domestic services).¹⁶⁰ Up until 2008, Spain was one of the main economies in Europe, creating half the new jobs in the euro zone.¹⁶¹ Migrants were welcome during that period since they took part in the economic boom and were willing to take the jobs Spanish people were reluctant to occupy.¹⁶² However, even if the migrants were welcome it is also important to emphasize the fact that their situation wasn't necessarily satisfying. Many immigrants were offered temporary contracts or lower salaries. They remained vulnerable and did not necessarily benefit from the same social status as Spanish citizens.¹⁶³

Due to Spain's economic boom, the country applied a progressive migration policy. Since 1985, Spain has regularly carried out regularization programs which LAC irregular immigrants have been able to benefit from, the last three dating back to 2000, 2001 and 2005.¹⁶⁴ LAC migrants were also able to move to Spain thanks to a residence permit. In 1999, 130,203 immigrants lived in Spain with a residence permit whereas in 2009 over 1,333,886 could be found.¹⁶⁵ Furthermore, naturalization was also an option that allowed immigrants to integrate better. In 1999, there was over 169,531 Latin American born people who had gained Spanish citizenship, and in 2009 the number 543,591 was reached.¹⁶⁶ In addition, Spain developed individual agreements with Colombia, Ecuador and the Dominican Republic in order to reinforce bi-national cooperation and to create a legal channel for labor migration.¹⁶⁷ This legal structure aimed at reducing the number of irregular immigrants and their exploitation. Finally, in 2007, the Spanish Council of Ministers adopted the Strategic Plan on Citizenship and Integration with a 2,000 million euro budget in order to manage migration and allow integration.¹⁶⁸

However, since the 2008 global crisis and the ensuing euro crisis, the situation has radically changed in Spain. Unemployment rates went from 8% up to 20% and this rate is around 30% for the immigrants.¹⁶⁹ The country has become much more protectionist and is starting to harmonize its migration policies with the ones instituted by the European Commission much to the dismay of its LAC partners. In September 2008, the Spanish Socialist

¹⁵⁶ Council of the European Union, *EU-LAC Summit, Madrid Action Plan 2010-2012*, 2010, p. 8.

¹⁵⁷ Solimano, *Migration and Democracy: Issues for Latin America and Europe at a time of Global Recession*, 2009, p. 5.

¹⁵⁸ Padilla, *Latin American Immigration to Southern Europe*, 2007.

¹⁵⁹ Tedesco, *Immigration and Foreign Policy: The Economic Crisis and its Challenges*, 2010, p. 2.

¹⁶⁰ Padilla, *Latin American Immigration to Southern Europe*, 2007.

¹⁶¹ Matlack, *How Spain Thrives on Immigration*, 2007.

¹⁶² Tedesco, *Immigration and Foreign Policy: The Economic Crisis and its Challenges*, 2010, p. 2.

¹⁶³ Milton, *Spain: Economic Crisis affects Latin American Immigrants*, 2011.

¹⁶⁴ Pellegrino, *Migration from Latin America to Europe: Trends and Policy Challenges*, 2004, p. 25.

¹⁶⁵ Vicente, *Latin American Immigration to Spain*, 2010.

¹⁶⁶ Vicente, *Latin American Immigration to Spain*, 2010.

¹⁶⁷ Padilla, *Latin American Immigration to Southern Europe*, 2007.

¹⁶⁸ Solimano A, *Migration and Democracy: Issues for Latin America and Europe at a time of Global Recession*, 2009, p. 1.

¹⁶⁹ Milton, *Spain: Economic Crisis affects Latin American Immigrants*, 2011.

Government held by Zapatero tried to manage these unemployment rates by organizing a Voluntary Return Plan.¹⁷⁰ This program endeavored at giving twice the unemployment benefits to the legal immigrants that had lost their jobs on the condition that they returned to their former country for a period of at least three years.¹⁷¹ However this project wasn't as successful as expected since most immigrants did not believe that the money offered was sufficient enough nor did they want to face the emotional consequences returning to their country of origin involved. Spain is no longer a symbol of migration integration. Tensions have appeared between Spain and its LAC partners since the country has started to apply European directives such as the controversial European Return Directive and the European Pact on Immigration and Asylum.¹⁷² LAC countries which are the most affected by European migration such as Ecuador, Bolivia and Colombia do not view these measures positively.¹⁷³

Conclusion

In the past decade, immigration from LAC to the EU has become a subject of concern within the EU-LAC Strategic Partnership and has thus received greater attention. The current agreements between both parties that have been mentioned above reveal that significant progress has been made. However, this progress remains insufficient especially considering the consequences of the euro crisis. While discussing this topic during the session, particular focus should be brought on the following issues. How can the EU-LAC regions circumvent their differences relating to migration in order to implement a satisfying migratory program for both regions? Considering that migration is the result of political instability or economic inequalities, how can the EU and LAC countries favor regional integration in order to lower migration flows? What is the best way to manage remittances? How can irregular migration be dealt with? What measures can be promoted in order to achieve consensus on return migration between the EU and LAC countries (especially considering the disagreement on the European Return Directive)? How can human trafficking be prevented and its victims protected? What is the best approach to reducing the influence of brain drain on LAC countries and turn it into a gain for them? While addressing these concerns, it is important to keep in mind that migration is a source of opportunity for both regions and should be treated as such.

Annotated Bibliography

II. Developing the Structured and Comprehensive Dialogue on migration from LAC to EU. Implementing bi-regional cooperation activities and initiatives on migration

Collett E. (2011). *Immigrant Integration in Europe in a Time of Austerity*. Retrieved August 21, 2011 from <http://www.migrationpolicy.org/pubs/TCM-integration.pdf>

The economic crisis has caused discrepancies between the EU and LAC point of view on migration. This document deals with the consequences the global crisis has had on migration policies in the European Union. There are also several case studies of EU members that describe the current migration situation in these countries.

Council of the European Union. (2009). *Launch of EU-LAC Dialogue on migration*. Retrieved July 17, 2011 from http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2009_2014/documents/dlat/dv/basis/basisen.pdf

Developing the Structured and Comprehensive Bi-regional Dialogue on Migration is the main concern of our session. This document points out the steps the EU and LAC countries should take in order to foster an open dialogue on migration. More importantly, it underlines the priorities that the dialogue should focus on, including enhancing the positive synergies between migration and development, better organizing regular migration and addressing irregular migration.

Council of the European Union. (2010). *EU-LAC Summit, Madrid Action Plan 2010-2012*. Retrieved July 17, 2011 from http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/en/er/114540.pdf

The Madrid Action Plan is the most up to date document dealing with the goals that the bi-regional Strategic Partnership wishes to implement concerning immigration. It gives an overview of what has been done and what should be done before the 7th EU-LAC summit in Chile. It is an inclusive

¹⁷⁰ Solimano, *Migration and Democracy: Issues for Latin America and Europe at a time of Global Recession*, 2009, p. 3.

¹⁷¹ Tedesco, *Immigration and Foreign Policy: The Economic Crisis and its Challenges*, 2010, p. 3.

¹⁷² Landivar, *South America concerned over tougher European immigration policies*, 2009.

¹⁷³ Tedesco, *Immigration and Foreign Policy: The Economic Crisis and its Challenges*, 2010, p. 4.

document that describes the EU-LAC work program, the cooperation activities and initiatives that should be put in place, and the expected results of these initiatives.

Padilla B. (2007). *Latin American Immigration to Southern Europe*. Retrieved July 19, 2011 from <http://www.migrationinformation.org/Feature/display.cfm?ID=609>

Several attempts have been made to estimate the number of migrants that are concerned by EU-LAC migration. This article explains why it is so difficult to estimate EU-LAC migration and tries to give an approximation of the actual numbers. Furthermore, it offers an overview of the history of EU-LAC immigration and explains its recent causes.

Peixoto J. (2005). *A Socio-political view of International Migration from Latin America and the Caribbean: The case of Europe*. Retrieved August 4, 2011 from

http://www.un.org/esa/population/meetings/IttMigLAC/P07_JPeixoto.pdf

EU-LAC immigration no longer concerns only Southern Europe. Indeed, recent data has shown that most EU members are now welcoming LAC migrants. Although this document focuses on data, it also describes the policies that have been put in place by the different EU members in order to foster migration integration and to control the inflows. It is interesting to notice the difference of situation and of government action Southern Europe faces compared to Northern and Western Europe.

Pellegrino, A. (2004). *Migration from Latin America to Europe: Trends and Policy Challenges*. IOM Migration Research Series. Retrieved July 19, 2011 from

http://publications.iom.int/bookstore/index.php?main_page=product_info&products_id=199

The International Organization for Migration asked for the publication of this report in order to have a better understanding of the EU-LAC immigration. The report covers several issues linked to migration (remittances, skilled migration, the lack of data and irregular migration) and offers recommendations in ways to best deal with this bi-regional migration. It also includes a history of this migration, describes what caused it, how it evolved and what its consequences are.

Report of the Co-Presidencies. (2010). *IV High Level EU-LAC Meeting on migration: "Addressing irregular migration"*. Retrieved July 19, 2010 from

http://www.europarl.europa.eu/meetdocs/2009_2014/documents/dlat/dv/report_co_presidencies_180311/_report_co_presidencies_180311_en.pdf

During the 4th High Level EU-LAC meeting on migration two subjects were at the top of the agenda: readmission and voluntary return. In fact, this document is interesting since it mentions the European Return Directive and the way LAC countries view this policy. This meeting was also the occasion to launch the "Statistic Yearbook on EU-LAC Migrations" initiative.

Solimano A. (2004). *Globalization, history and international migration: a view from Latin America*. Retrieved August 3, 2011 from

http://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---dgreports/---integration/documents/publication/wcms_079132.pdf

EU-LAC migration didn't start in the 1980s. It is a phenomenon that dates back to the nineteenth century when LAC countries were hosting countries whereas Europe was a departing continent. A century later the situation has reversed for economic and political reasons. This document summarizes the historical context and consequences of EU-LAC migration from a LAC point of view.

Solimano A. (2009). *Migration and Democracy: Issues for Latin America and Europe at a time of Global Recession*. Retrieved August 3, 2011 from

http://www.idea.int/resources/analysis/upload/Solimano_low_2.pdf

The collapse of democracy in the 1960s in certain LAC countries as well as the frequent economic crises increased skilled immigration from LAC to EU. This document gives an overview of the history of migration between the EU and LAC. It also tries to explain the relationship between migration and democracy. Finally, it gives policy recommendations regarding the current global crisis.

Tedesco L. (2010). *Immigration and Foreign Policy: The Economic Crisis and its Challenges*. Retrieved August 3, 2011 from <http://www.fride.org/publication/712/immigration-and-foreign-policy-the-economic-crisis-and-its-challenges>

The recent economic crisis has completely changed the migration situation in Spain. Up until recently, the country remained open to LAC migrants. However, with the economic downturn Spain has decided to adopt the EU directives on migration. These new circumstances reflect the difficulty the EU and LAC countries have had to adopt a common migration policy since the global crisis.

III. Implementation of Recommendations made from EU-LAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs

“Problems associated with illicit drugs affect public health, social cohesion and political stability of the countries concerned. Addressing them directly contributes to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG)...”¹⁷⁴

Introduction

The *Madrid Declaration*, released after the 6th European Union-Latin America and Caribbean Summit, underscores the need to intensify the existing bi-lateral relationship in order to tackle the global drug problem.¹⁷⁵ The Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs is of prominent importance in each of the European Union (EU)-Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) Summit(s) beginning with the first such summit held in Rio de Janeiro 1999. The effect that drugs have had on both regions has necessitated the need for collaboration to address the societal, economic, security, and political instability caused by the drugs trade. For this reason, the first EU-LAC Summit in Rio de Janeiro (1999) created a parallel bi-lateral mechanism that would address the issue of drugs with the creation of the High-Level Meetings of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs Between EU-LAC. The first of these meetings was held in Panama City in 1999, emphasized by the fact that this very first High Level Meeting produced the first Action Plan on combating drugs.¹⁷⁶ Since the initial High-Level Summit meeting, there have been annual meetings with the latest one having been held in 2010 in Madrid, coinciding with the 6th EU-LAC Summit. This latest meeting in Madrid adopted a report titled *XII High Level Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the EU and LAC Report*, which outlines thirteen outcomes and conclusions on how to intensify the bi-lateral relationship between the EU and LAC in order to tackle the global drug problem. The EU-LAC bi-lateral relationship as it relates to combating drugs begins with agreements at the international level that serve as the foundation for cooperation and coordination.

Drug Production Landscape

The latest data on the world drugs problem shows a mixed bag as it relates to global efforts at combatting drugs. This is highlighted in the 2011 version of the World Drug Report published annually by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). On drug production, the *World Drug Report 2011* notes that cannabis (cannabis herb and resin) is the most produced illicit drug globally while production of cocaine, which is the drug that is of greatest concern to the EU and LAC, remains the second most-produced illegal drug.¹⁷⁷ Although there are no reliable numbers as far as the amount of cannabis herb being produced, the number of seizures reported in 2010 suggests that the level of cannabis herb production has remained stable.¹⁷⁸ As far as the production of cocaine is concerned, although cocaine is the second most produced illegal drug, the data shows that cocaine production has declined.¹⁷⁹ Between 2007-2009, there was a 13% decrease on coca producing areas, which equated which equated 149,000 hectares less being used for illegal coca production between 2007-2010.¹⁸⁰

¹⁷⁴ Council of the European Union, *Comprehensive Action Plan on Drugs*, 2011.

¹⁷⁵ Council of the European Union, *Madrid Declaration*, 2010.

¹⁷⁶ Council of the European Union, *Comprehensive Action Plan on Drugs*, 1999.

¹⁷⁷ *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, World Drug Report 2011, 2011, p.19.*

¹⁷⁸ *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, World Drug Report 2011, 2011, p. 19.*

¹⁷⁹ *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, World Drug Report 2011, 2011, p. 19.*

¹⁸⁰ *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, World Drug Report 2011, 2011, p. 19.*

In terms of the global trends of drug trafficking, the trafficking of cannabis (herb or resin) largely continues to be an intra-regional activity.¹⁸¹ The main exceptions to this rule are cannabis resin produced in Morocco and trafficked to Western and Central Europe, and cannabis resin produced in Afghanistan destined for neighboring regions like Central Asia.¹⁸² Cocaine trafficking continues both intra and inter-regionally. The areas of cultivation and production of cocaine continue to largely be produced in the same area(s), i.e. the Andean countries of Bolivia, Colombia, and Peru with the main final destinations being North America and Western and Central Europe.¹⁸³ The increase of cocaine being trafficked to Western and Central Europe is highlighted by the fact that West Africa now serves as a destination for 13% of the cocaine trafficked to Europe.¹⁸⁴ The case of Guinea Bissau highlights how the production of cocaine in South America and the consumption of the drug in Western and Central Europe impacts other regions such as West Africa. Labeled as West Africa's first 'narco-state', Guinea Bissau has proven to be the perfect place to serve as a transit country for cocaine being trafficked from South America to Western and Central Europe as the lack of a viable state and its institutions served to undermine the ability for Guinea Bissau to combat drug trafficking.¹⁸⁵ An example of Guinea Bissau being a 'fragile state' is 2009 assassination of President Joao Bernardo Vieira, which is seen as having been carried out in retaliation of the murder of General Batista Tagme Na Waie, who had links to drug cartels.¹⁸⁶ In addition to political instability and criminal activities, Guinea Bissau has witnessed a significant increase in drug consumption in its population, which it is hardly able to manage. The country is only the prime example of a fragile transit country for drugs and the array of related problems.

Nearly 100% of global coca leaf production comes from the Andean sub-region. Once drug traffickers have acquired the coca leaves, the process to produce cocaine goes through a three-step process. The first step in the production of cocaine involves extracting crude coca paste from coca leaves.¹⁸⁷ The second procedure involves the purification of the coca paste, and turned into coca paste with the third and final process converting the cocaine base into cocaine hydrochloride.¹⁸⁸ Although there have been busts of laboratories outside the Andean sub-region, the vast majority of laboratories engaged in the cocaine manufacturing process still operate in Bolivia, Colombia, and Peru.¹⁸⁹ The response to addressing the issue of production and manufacturing of cocaine in the last couple of decades has been geared towards counter-narcotics activities. The most prominent and famous eradication scheme is Plan Colombia. Adopted in 2000, Plan Colombia is an integrated strategy between the United States and Colombia with one of the main pillars being counter-narcotics operations.¹⁹⁰ One of the tactics used to eradicate production of coca leaves is aerial spraying of herbicides in order to kill the coca plants that are planted.¹⁹¹ The aerial spraying is criticized for being harmful to individuals and the soil alike and it can foster ill will amongst the populace. Furthermore, Ecuador has a case pending at the International Court of Justice where by it intends to prove the herbicide spraying is crossing over into their territory.¹⁹²

Since Plan Colombia, several LAC countries have developed counter-narcotics strategies with the United States in order to combat and address the trafficking of cocaine. A second US-LAC country initiative is the Merida Initiative between the United States and Mexico. The Merida Initiative, signed into law in 2008 is an agreement where both the US and Mexico cooperate and enhance intelligence sharing and dissemination of intelligence amongst authorities.¹⁹³ In addition, the US would provide financial assistance to Mexico in order for Mexico to enhance the training and equipping of authorities involved in counter-narcotics.¹⁹⁴ Like the Merida Initiative, the Central America Regional Security Initiative (CARSI), developed in 2010 is also an initiative between the US and countries in Central

¹⁸¹ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2011, 2011*, p. 21.

¹⁸² United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2011, 2011*, p. 21.

¹⁸³ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2011, 2011*, p. 35.

¹⁸⁴ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2011, 2011*, p. 36.

¹⁸⁵ Vulliamy, E, *How a Tiny West African country became the World's First Narco State*, 2009.

¹⁸⁶ TIME, *Guinea-Bissau: World's First Narco-State: Photo Essays*.

¹⁸⁷ South African Police Service, *Drug Effects-Cocaine*.

¹⁸⁸ South African Police Service, *Drug Effects-Cocaine*.

¹⁸⁹ European Union European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Addiction, *Cocaine, A European Union Perspective in the Global Context*, 2010, p. 18.

¹⁹⁰ United States State Department, *Counternarcotics and Law Enforcement Country Program: Colombia, 2010*.

¹⁹¹ BBC News, *What's the Future for US-backed Plan Colombia?*, 2010.

¹⁹² International Court of Justice. *Aerial Herbicide Spraying (Ecuador v. Colombia)*.

¹⁹³ United States State Department, *International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, Volume I, 2011*, p. 14.

¹⁹⁴ United States State Department, *International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, Volume I, 2011*, p. 14.

America that addresses the same areas of action.¹⁹⁵ Both the Merida Initiative and the CARSI are based upon addressing the trafficking aspect of the drugs trade, as the region has been de-stabilized as a result of weak institutions. As a consequence, the countries of Central America have seen an increase in drugs related crime and activity that has served to only exacerbate existing issues in the region and the respective countries.

South American Consumption Landscape

The current drug climate in South America mirrors that of the global drug climate. The drug most consumed in the region is cannabis, with cocaine ranking second in consumption (but first in trafficking), particularly from the Andean countries. Close to 100% of the coca leaves used in the production of cocaine originate in Bolivia, Colombia, and Peru.¹⁹⁶ In 2009, the estimated amount of acreage under cultivation for production in the region was 158,000 hectares, which was an 8,800 or 5% decrease from 2008.¹⁹⁷ In 2010, the amount of acreage dedicated to coca leaf cultivation was 149,100.¹⁹⁸ In Colombia, the amount of land used for illegal coca cultivation in 2009 was 68,000 hectares, down 16% from figures in 2008.¹⁹⁹ Although the picture in Colombia represents a positive trend, the trend in Bolivia and Peru has not been as positive. In Bolivia, 30,900 hectares of land was used for illegal coca cultivation, which represented a 1% increase, while in Peru, 59,900 hectares was used for illegal cultivation, representing a 7% increase from 2008.²⁰⁰

Concerning the trafficking of drugs and destination of drugs illegally cultivated in the region, the vast majority of drugs cultivated are trafficked to North America and Western and Central Europe, though there has been an increase in trafficking within South America, primarily to the Southern Cone.²⁰¹ In 2008, North America market accounted for 41% of the final destination for cocaine cultivated in South America, Europe accounts for 29% of the final destination, while the Southern Cone countries of South America, account anywhere between 10-20% of the destination for cocaine.²⁰² The amount of cocaine believed to be shipped from South America to the respective markets of North America, Western and Central Europe, and the Southern Cone, is estimated at 788 metric tons produced in 2009, with 48% shipped to North America; 27.5% to Western and Central Europe; and 24.5% shipped to the Southern Cone.²⁰³ Even though North America continues to be the major destination for cocaine illegally cultivated in South America, the Western and Central European market and the Southern Cone market have begun to increase. Trafficking through Central America has increased as a result of government efforts to combat drug cartels in Mexico, ensuring that North America remains the major final destination for South American cocaine.²⁰⁴

The number of cocaine users in the Southern Cone has increased to 2.5 million people age 15-64 in 2009.²⁰⁵ Although this is a relatively high number of cocaine users, it is still only a third of those using cannabis.²⁰⁶ Continuing the focus on the abuse of cocaine, the prevalence of lifetime abuse of crack cocaine for those age 15-70 in countries like Bolivia and Venezuela in 2008 was 11.9%, with only about a quarter of these individuals having received or will receive treatment for their addiction.²⁰⁷ Cocaine has become the drug most abused by those in the region who are treated for drug addiction.²⁰⁸ Six countries in the region (Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, and Uruguay) carried out a comparative survey of drug use amongst secondary school pupils and found that cannabis is the most abused drug amongst them.²⁰⁹ Eleven per cent of those surveyed stated that they had used drugs at some point in their life to date.²¹⁰ The lowest percentage of recorded users in this survey was in Peru where only

¹⁹⁵ *United States State Department, International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, Volume I, 2011, p. 15.*

¹⁹⁶ *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, World Drug Report 2011, 2011, p. 36.*

¹⁹⁷ International Narcotics Control Board, Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2010, 2011, p. 72.

¹⁹⁸ *United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, World Drug Report 2011, 2011, p. 37.*

¹⁹⁹ International Narcotics Control Board, Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2010, 2011, p. 72.

²⁰⁰ International Narcotics Control Board, Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2010, 2011, p. 72.

²⁰¹ International Narcotics Control Board, Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2010, 2011, p. 72.

²⁰² International Narcotics Control Board, Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2010, 2011, p. 76.

²⁰³ International Narcotics Control Board, Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2010, 2011, p. 76.

²⁰⁴ *United States State Department, International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, Volume I, 2011, p. 56.*

²⁰⁵ International Narcotics Control Board, Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2010, 2011, p. 79.

²⁰⁶ International Narcotics Control Board, Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2010, 2011, p. 79.

²⁰⁷ International Narcotics Control Board, Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2010, 2011.

²⁰⁸ International Narcotics Control Board, Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2010, 2011, p. 79.

²⁰⁹ International Narcotics Control Board, Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2010, 2011, p. 79.

²¹⁰ International Narcotics Control Board, Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2010, 2011, p. 79.

4% of the respondents stated they had used drugs while Chile recorded the highest amount of users at 23%.²¹¹ The abuse of drugs has become a significant issue in the region within the last 5-10 years as indicated by the numbers. In comparison with use of cocaine in Europe, the number of cocaine users in Europe number between 4.3-4.75 million users.²¹² To put this in some context, Europe is home to around 30% of the cocaine users globally and narrowing the focus even further, 90% of cocaine users in Europe are in Western and Central Europe.²¹³ Like in South America, cocaine use and abuse by European users is the number one reason for individuals entering treatment for drug addiction and amongst those age 15-64, 13 million or 3.9% of the European population has at one time used cocaine in their lifetime.²¹⁴

EU-LAC Collaborative Efforts

The first EU-LAC High Level Summit on drugs took place in Panama City, Panama in 1999. Its outcome, the *Panama Action Plan (1999)* was based around four main principles. The first principle was that of shared responsibility.²¹⁵ The second was that of an integrated and balanced approach based on participation while the third principle was that of promotion of sustainable development.²¹⁶ The final principle in the Action Plan was promotion of conformity with international law, particularly with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, non-intervention in territorial affairs of States, and of human rights.²¹⁷ It further laid out four overall objectives as well as the five fields of activities.²¹⁸ The *Panama Action Plan* outlined and defined the parameters for EU-LAC cooperation on drugs.

The latest EU-LAC Summit held in Madrid in 2010, two documents addressed the need for collaborative work on drugs between the EU and LAC to materialize. The first is a report published by the High Level Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs. In their report, they highlight thirteen outcomes and conclusions agreed upon from the latest round of meetings of areas where EU-LAC collaboration could be strengthened in the areas of demand reduction and supply reduction.²¹⁹ The second mention of drugs to come out of the VI EU-LAC Summit in Madrid was in the *Madrid Action Plan 2010-2012* and specifically in section six of the Action Plan. In this section, there is mention of the need to intensify cooperation between both regions as it relates to combatting drugs within the framework of the United Nations and in particular within the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), support the establishment of EU-LAC anti-drug trafficking networks, and promote comprehensive prevention and social re-integration strategies for reduction of drug consumption and abuse.²²⁰ This last point is the area where EU-LAC collaborative efforts in cooperating and coordinating on drugs are most visible is in the area of demand reduction. The EU-LAC Drug Treatment City Partnerships, established in September 2010 is intended to improve the policy making capacity of partner cities in such matters as incorporation of treatment and rehabilitation programs into local health care systems, and to sensitize family court prosecutors and judges to drug treatment and rehabilitation as an alternative to incarceration for petty drug offenders as some of the objectives.²²¹ Currently, there are 30 LAC cities participating with 20 EU cities that participate in the partnership agreement and was created in the *Declaration of Lugo* with standardized treatment protocols at the moment achieving their desired goals to date.²²²

²¹¹ International Narcotics Control Board, Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2010, 2011, p. 79.

²¹² United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2011*, 2011, p. 39.

²¹³ United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, *World Drug Report 2011*, 2011, p. 39.

²¹⁴ European Union European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Addiction, *Cocaine, A European Union Perspective in the Global Context*, 2010, p. 7.

²¹⁵ Council of the European Union, *Comprehensive Action Plan on Drugs*, 1999.

²¹⁶ Council of the European Union, *Comprehensive Action Plan on Drugs*, 1999.

²¹⁷ Council of the European Union, *Comprehensive Action Plan on Drugs*, 1999.

²¹⁸ Council of the European Union, *Comprehensive Action Plan on Drugs*, 1999.

²¹⁹ Government of Spain, *Report of the XII High Level Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the European Union (EU) and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Madrid, 26th and 27th of April 2010, 2010.*

²²⁰ Council of the European Union, *Madrid Action Plan 2010-2012*, 2010.

²²¹ Organization of American States Inter-American Drug Abuse Commission (CICAD), *EU-LAC Drug Treatment City Partnerships*, 2011.

²²² Organization of American States Inter-American Drug Abuse Commission (CICAD), *EU-LAC Drug Treatment City Partnerships*, 2011.

Regional Action Plans in Place Regionally to Combat Drugs

In order to adequately address the challenges posed by drugs and all aspects related to the production of illicit drugs, both the EU and LAC have agencies and plans in place to in order adequately handle the challenge of combatting drugs. On the EU side, the EU Council in 2008 adopted the current *EU Drugs Action Plan 2009-2012* aimed at reducing drug use and addressing the societal and health challenges by focusing on demand as well as supply reduction.²²³ To achieve the ultimate aim and address the two key dimensions, the Action Plan identifies five priorities. These are improving coordination, cooperation, and raising public awareness, reducing the demand for drugs, reducing the supply of drugs, improving international cooperation, and improving understanding of the problem.²²⁴ One of the latest efforts undertaken within the EU to address the drugs problem differently from what can be considered the traditional method of automatically sentencing users to jail has been in Portugal. In Portugal, Law 30/2000, related to decriminalization of drugs changed the status of drug possession from a criminal charge to an administrative charge.²²⁵ Each individual case is then referred to the Commission for the Dissuasion of Drug Abuse (CDT), which then after meeting the individual in question will apply one of a number of possible penalties, which range from a fine to jail sentence as possible punishment if it is determined the individual is just a user of the drug or if they intended to sell their possession of cocaine.²²⁶

In the LAC region, there is an agency under the umbrella of the Organization of American States (OAS), which handles and coordinates regional action(s) on drugs. The Inter-American Drug Abuse Commission (CICAD) in May 2011 released its latest Action Plan titled *Hemispheric Action Plan on Drugs, 2011-2015*. The five topics of importance that are highlighted in the latest Action Plan which at the same time address the desired goals outlined in the CICAD Hemispheric Drug Strategy.²²⁷ The five topics of importance are that of institutional strengthening, demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, and international cooperation.²²⁸ As seen with counter-narcotics initiatives like the Merida Initiative and the CASRI, this remains the principle mechanism undertaken by countries in the LAC region. Recently, two of Andean countries have taken measures or are contemplating measures to decriminalize the production of the coca plant. In Bolivia, the growing of coca plants for medicinal, cultural, and religious purposes is legal while its production to manufacture cocaine continues to remain illegal.²²⁹ In Peru, President Ollanta Humala has put a halt to a coca eradication program in Huallaga while he examines and contemplates decriminalization of coca farmers, and low-level cocaine processors and smugglers.²³⁰

Conclusion

For the EU, in order to help achieve the aim of supply reduction and demand reduction of illegal drugs as outlined in the *EU Drugs Action Plan 2009-2012*, the EU is in a position to make sure that it continues to work and coordinate policies and activities where needed and when needed with the LAC region in order to begin to stem the rising trend of drugs being trafficked to Europe from South America where they are produced. As increasing numbers of Europeans are abusing drugs, a domino effect is created where the costs of such services as health and public safety to increase. At the same time, EU Member States like Portugal have had to take new legal measures in order to address new challenges related to dealing with how to both punish and or help drug users in the country.²³¹ Like the EU, the LAC region also seeks to reduce the supply and demand of drugs. In a number of ways LAC faces similar challenges than those of the EU. Where it differs is in the fact that drug trafficking has placed a heavy social, economic, and political burden on the region. As a result, this prevents any chance these countries from undertaking any effective sustainable development policies in order to improve the quality of life of their citizens.

²²³ European Union Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Addiction, *EU Drugs Action Plan 2009-2012*, 2008.

²²⁴ European Union Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Addiction, *EU Drugs Action Plan 2009-2012*, 2008.

²²⁵ European Union European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Addiction, *Drug Policies Profile, Portugal*, 2011, p. 16.

²²⁶ European Union European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Addiction, *Drug Policies Profile, Portugal*, p. 17.

²²⁷ Organization of American States Inter-American Drug Abuse Commission (CICAD), *Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2011-2015*, 2011.

²²⁸ Organization of American States Inter-American Drug Abuse Commission (CICAD), *Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2011-2015*, 2011.

²²⁹ BBC News, *Peru suspends Coca Eradication Programme in Huallaga*, 2011.

²³⁰ BBC News, *Peru suspends Coca Eradication Programme in Huallaga*, 2011.

²³¹ Organization of American States Inter-American Drug Abuse Commission (CICAD), *Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2011-2015*, 2011.

Therefore, it is important to consider what actions and policies from the EU-LAC Summits and even the High Level Meeting on the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs can be made in order to strike a balance between addressing the most immediate needs and concerns and long term goals of each respective region. Is a new Action Plan, which better reflects the current realities needed in order to adequately address short-term necessities and long term aims? Or do Action Plans and Declarations currently in place provide the sufficient infrastructure and tools necessary to address the short-term necessities and long-term aims sought by the EU and LAC? Additionally, as a result of the growing amount of drugs being trafficked from the LAC region to the EU is being done so through the use of a growing transit destination that is West Africa. What can the EU-LAC High Level Meeting on the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs do to include West Africa in order to ensure that a EU and LAC “problem” does not materialize into a West Africa “problem” as well?

Annotated Bibliography

III. Implementation of Recommendations made from EU-LAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs

Council of the European Union. (2010, November 15). *Madrid Action Plan 2010-2012*. Retrieved July 1, 2011 from http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/lac/index_en.htm

After each of the European Union (EU)- Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) Summit Meetings, an Action Plan is adopted which serves as a guide for the bi-lateral relationship between the EU and LAC between Summits. In the Madrid Action Plan 2010-2012, the issue of drugs is highlighted in section six of the Action Plan that states that the objective is to strengthen bi-lateral dialogue and effectiveness of joint efforts to tackle the drugs problem. In addition, the Drugs Problem section of the Action Plan outlines a work program, in which it highlights points for dialogue, cooperation activities and initiatives between the EU and LAC and expected results form these activities.

Council of the European Union. (1999, April 15). *Comprehensive Action Plan on Drugs*. Retrieved August 10, 2011 from http://www.eeas.europa.eu/drugs/index_en.htm

The Comprehensive Action Plan on Drugs, also known as the Panama Action Plan for its adoption after the I High Level Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs the EU and LAC in Panama City, Panama. The Comprehensive Action Plan on Drugs is based around four principles that were to define EU and LAC cooperation on drugs. The four principles are that of shared responsibility, promotion of an integrated and balanced approach based on participation; the third principle is that of promotion of sustainable development; while the final principle in the Action Plan is promotion of conformity with international law, particularly with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, non-intervention in territorial affairs of States, and of human rights. These four principles have served as the guiding principles for all EU and LAC coordination and cooperation since the adoption of the Action Plan.

Council of the European Union. (2009, June 11). *Quito Declaration*. Retrieved July 1, 2011 from http://eeas.europa.eu/la/drugs/index_en.htm

The Quito Declaration was adopted after the XI High Level Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the EU and LAC. The significance of the Quito Declaration is that it recalls previous Action Plans and Declarations that had been adopted between the EU and LAC since the adoption of the Panama Action Plan in 1999. Additionally, the Quito Declaration stresses the need to continue maximizing the efforts in cooperation; funding and intelligence sharing in order to more effectively combat drugs trafficking.

Council of the European Union. (2007, June 5). *Port of Spain Declaration*. Retrieved August 10, 2011 from http://eeas.europa.eu/la/drugs/index_en.htm

The Port of Spain Declaration was adopted after the IX High Level Meeting of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the EU and LAC. The significance if the Port of Spain Declaration is that the declaration confirmed the EU-LAC Cooperation on Drugs to be based upon an understanding of shared responsibility, compliance with international law, and respect for human rights. Furthermore, the confirmations of these three issue points were to be

applied in the common areas of cooperation of demand and supply reduction, alternative development, and other drug related issues like customs control, police and judicial cooperation.

European Union Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Addiction. (2008, December 20). *EU Drugs Action Plan 2009-2012*. Retrieved August 10, 2011 from <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/html.cfm/index66221EN.html>

The latest EU Drugs Action Plan was adopted in 2008 and covers the EU strategy as it relates to combatting drugs from 2009-2012. The ultimate aim is to significantly reduce the use of drugs amongst the population as well as addressing the societal and health challenges posed by drugs trade and abuse of drugs use amongst the European population. To achieve this aim, the report identifies four areas of importance and then charts the issues to be addressed in each of the areas of importance, the activities that need to be undertaken in order to adequately and properly address the issue area, the indicators to be used to evaluate, and how each of the activities to address these areas of importance will be assessed.

European Union European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Addiction. (2010). *2010 Annual Report, The State of the Drugs Problem in Europe*. Retrieved August 7, 2011 from <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/annual-report/2010>

The 2010 European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Addiction Annual Report is the latest one available from the Centre. The report provides an overview of the latest current picture of the effects drugs are having on Europe. The report in eight chapters outlines different aspects of the current situation as it relates to drugs. The report looks at the various policies and laws, an overview of the response to the drugs problem, dealing with and responding to challenges posed by various drugs, and the new 'threats' currently facing the European response to drugs.

European Union European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Addiction. (2010). *Cocaine, A European Union Perspective in the Global Context*. Retrieved August 7, 2011 from <http://www.emcdda.europa.eu/publications/joint-publications/cocaine>

The report, which is a co-joint publication with the European Police Office (EUROPOL) is unique in that it reports on the process of which cocaine reaches Europe beginning from the time it is illegally cultivated from the main source, Andean countries to the final product being delivered and refined for consumption in Europe. The report breaks down each step of the process to show how coca is illegally cultivated, how coca then is refined to the process of being cocaine, the process of the drug being trafficked to Europe, and then finally distribution of the drug. The report highlights how Africa, in particular West Africa is increasingly becoming a transit destination before cocaine reaches Europe which adds another variable in the EU and LAC collaborative efforts to combat drugs.

International Narcotics Control Board. (2011, March 2). *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2010*. Retrieved August 7, 2011 from <http://www.incb.org/incb/en/annual-report-2010.html>

This is the latest report published by the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) which surveys and analyzes the latest efforts, regional situations, and provides recommendations on how to best tackle the drugs problem globally. In the section of the report that takes an overview of each region, regional analysis of the current situation and developments is broken down into an analysis of major developments, regional cooperation efforts, national legislation, policy, and action; cultivation, production, manufacture, and trafficking of drugs; abuse and treatment of drug addicts. In the Section Four of the Report, there are a number of recommendations outlined which are made by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) which provide recommendations to countries on how to address the security aspect of the drugs trade and how to handle the health and social aspect of drugs on the other end.

Organization of American States Inter-American Drug Abuse Commission (CICAD). (2011, May 6). *Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2011-2015*. Retrieved July 16, 2011 from http://www.cicad.oas.org/Main/aboutcicad/sessions_eng.asp?ie=sr074

The latest Inter-American Drug Abuse Commission (CICAD) Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs 2011-2015 was released on May 17, 2011. The importance of the Hemispheric Plan of Action on Drugs is that it outlines the purpose of the Plan of Action, and outlines the five areas of importance and emphasis in which CICAD and OAS Member States need to address and or fortify in order to achieve the purpose of the Plan of Action on Drugs. The five areas of importance that

the Plan of Action highlights are institutional strengthening, demand reduction, supply reduction, control measures, and international cooperation. In addition, each of the five areas in the Plan of Action has listed objectives and listed actions in order to address that particular area of importance.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2011). *World Drug Report 2011*. Retrieved July 16, 2011 from <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/WDR-2011.html>

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) on a yearly bases releases its World Drug Report. The 2011 version of the World Drug Report is broken down into six sections with the first one providing regional overviews before the corresponding sections analyze the most important and trafficked illegal substances which are those of Opium/Heroin, Coca/Cocaine, Amphetamine-type Stimulants (ATS), and Cannabis. The regional overview section breaks down and analyzes the drugs trade and consumption in each region by analyzing the production, trafficking, illicit drug use, and drug-related deaths that are most prominent in each respective region. In addition, the World Drug Report also provides a number of charts and graphs that allow for comparing and contrasting between previous years and regions in order to demonstrate if progress is being made in a specific area.

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