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EU-CELAC ACTION PLAN 2013-2015 ¹

This Action Plan includes a number of initiatives consistent with the priorities established at the VI EU-LAC Summit as encompassed in its Final Declaration as well as in new areas incorporated at the VII EU-LAC Summit / I EU-CELAC Summit held in Santiago de Chile on 26-27 January 2013. The Action Plan identifies instruments and activities which, if properly implemented should lead to concrete results guaranteeing ownership and capacity building in the following key areas, which are directly or indirectly linked with the central theme of the Summit:

1. Science, research, innovation and technology;
2. Sustainable development; environment; climate change; biodiversity; energy;
3. Regional integration and interconnectivity to promote social inclusion and cohesion;
4. Migration;
5. Education and employment to promote social inclusion and cohesion;
6. The world drug problem;
7. Gender;
8. Investments and entrepreneurship for sustainable development.

1. Science, research, innovation and technology

The main objective in this area is to develop the “EU-LAC Knowledge Area” through: i) improving cooperation in research and innovation; ii) strengthening scientific and technological capacities, and infrastructures; iii) to enable sustainable research, innovation and knowledge sharing taking into account the contribution of ancestral and traditional knowledge; iv) to boost the use of new technologies and technology transfer underpinning sustainable socio-economic development and v) to foster cooperation between both regions as regards the digital-economy and the reduction of the digital divide for improving competitiveness while making social inclusion a cross-cutting issue.

¹ This is a courtesy consolidated version of the Action Plan prepared for information purposes following the Santiago Summit

P R E S S

Work Programme:

*** *Dialogue***

- a. Establish a regular bi-regional dialogue on science, research, technology and innovation to consolidate EU-LAC cooperation and to update common priorities, encourage mutual policy learning and ensure the proper implementation and effectiveness of cooperation instruments.
- b. Explore the possibility of working jointly with other institutions in matters related to innovation and knowledge, applied research and technological innovation.

*** *Cooperation activities and initiatives***

- c. Commence the development and implementation of the new mechanism, the “EU-LAC Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation” combining instruments at national, regional and bi-regional level as appropriate in a complementary and synergistic manner.
- d. Establish or strengthen thematic networks on agreed issues of mutual interest, which should facilitate exchanges between EU-LAC universities and research centres and networks and private and public sector institutions.
- e. Strengthened the integration of both regions in the Information Society and Support the development of the information and communication technologies (ICT) sector and the reduction of the digital divide and digital illiteracy through an increase of interconnectivity between the education and research networks within and between regions and enhance access to and use of resources.
- f. Develop and intensify the dialogue and cooperation on information society, strategies, regulation models for the communication sector and in the audiovisual field.
- g. Develop an interface between research and innovation through a knowledge and innovation centres network to facilitate social appropriation of knowledge and technology in particular keeping in mind the micro and SMEs.
- h. Promote the extension of scientific and technological cooperation within all Latin American sub-regions and the Caribbean, as well as the adoption of innovative instruments to strengthen cooperation with special attention to countries with low participation in EU-LAC Science and Technology cooperation activities.
- i. Foster cooperation for human and institutional capacity building and encourage the return of researchers to their countries of origin.
- j. Exchange experiences and best practices in areas of innovation, such as incubation, entrepreneurship, science parks and start-up enterprises.

* *Expected results*

- k. knowledge, science; research and innovation ;as well as business, entrepreneurial, and research centres and networks from the EU and LAC countries, and leading to an improved uptake and dissemination of research results for innovation in particular for the micro and SMEs.
- l. Road Map defining specific targets and associated performance indicators for the implementation of the Joint Initiative will be set up and updated on a regular basis.
- m. A comprehensive joint strategy in research, development and innovation supporting, among other things, an improved use of the possibilities that ICT offers, including in the areas of e-Government, e-Health and e-Education, as well as in relation to climate change-related and other relevant issues.
- n. Reinforced private and public sector efforts for the improvement of the interconnection of education and research networks through the enhancement of transatlantic links, including through new optic fibre cables.
- o. Increased compatibility of regulatory frameworks in the field of electronic communications and improved quality of digital contents.
- p. Improved quality and effectiveness of the scientific and technological cooperation through: i) increased knowledge of EU-LAC scientific and technological communities, ii) increased research focus on agreed items of mutual interest iii) larger scientific and technological capacities of LAC countries, involving also national programmes and capacity building for the Caribbean, to drive their own development and to achieve enhanced cooperation opportunities with the EU iv) increased information exchange.

2. Sustainable Development; Environment; Climate Change; Biodiversity; Energy

The following main objectives in this area for ensuring environmental sustainability taking into account the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities are: i) to promote the sustainable development of all countries and to support the achievement of the MDG and the other international agreements on these issues; ii) to ensure the effective implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol, recognizing the scientific views regarding the limit for the increase in the global temperature; iii) to develop policies and instruments for adaptation and mitigation, to address the adverse effects of climate change and enhance long-term cooperation initiatives and to reduce the vulnerability to natural disasters; iv) to support activities oriented to reduce intensity of greenhouse gas emissions in consumption and production activities in our countries, according to existing international commitments; v) to facilitate access to and exchange of information related to best environmental practices and technologies; vi) to ensure and support the full implementation of the three objectives of the Convention on Biological Diversity; vii) to improve energy efficiency and saving as well as accessibility; viii) to develop and to deploy renewable energies and to promote energy interconnection networks, ensuring the diversification and complementarity of the energy matrix.

Work Programme:

**** Dialogue***

- a. Step up regular dialogue to develop the relevant aspects of the “Lima Agenda on Sustainable Development; Environment; Climate Change; Energy” as well as on Biodiversity; with the objective, amongst others, of fostering consensus and facilitating the proper implementation of international agreements and other decisions in these areas.

**** Cooperation activities and initiatives***

- b. Strengthen bi-regional cooperation in the field of environment and disaster risk reduction and management, including by increasing the knowledge of the problems and consequences of climate change and biodiversity loss and the importance of climate resilient development and climate adaptation, and by promoting the integration of these issues into sustainable development strategies and in policy design.
- c. Exchange of experiences and information among our countries and between our regions, with a view to facilitate the design of adaptation and mitigation strategies and policies notably among others through the EUrocLIMA programme and triangular and South-South cooperation.
- d. Seek the necessary financial resources that will i) contribute to sustainable development, biodiversity conservation and sustainable use, as well as adaptation to and mitigation of climate change, ii) ensure coordination of activities aiming at reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, taking into account the capacities of the different countries.
- e. Promote the development of projects in the areas of renewable energy and energy efficiency.
- f. Support for capacity building on safe and sustainable low carbon technologies and low emission development strategies, climate change monitoring, greenhouse gas emission reporting and verification, forest and soil management among others.
- g. Work together to give due follow-up to the EU-LAC Forum on Technological Cooperation, Renewable Energies and Energy Efficiency.

**** Expected results***

- h. Improved knowledge on problems and consequences of climate change including vulnerability and risk assessment, biodiversity loss and environment issues in its widest meaning, and integration of these issues into sustainable development and climate adaptation strategies and other adaptation activities.
- i. Strengthened capacities and emergency networks to prevent and address the effect of natural disasters.

- j. Improved capacity for sustainable development, environmental and climate change-related challenges and for the conservation and sustainable use of the biodiversity.
- k. Improved use and accessibility of renewable energies, increased energy efficiency and saving as these play an important role in the diversification and complementarity of the energy matrix.

3. Regional integration and interconnectivity to promote social inclusion cohesion

The main objectives in this area are i) to increase regional integration and social inclusion and cohesion, ii) contributing to the overall goal of poverty eradication, especially in vulnerable population, in the context of sustainable development, including the pursuit of the MDGs. Some key elements to achieve these goals are the promotion of investments in infrastructures favouring interconnectivity and the development of social and economic networks.

Work Programme:

**** Dialogue***

- a. Use all available instruments to ensure adequate dialogue on this matter between the EU, Latin American and Caribbean countries, such as those available under the EUROsociAL II programme (including institutional cooperation), the dialogue linked to the implementation of the governance tranche under the 10th European Development Fund (EDF), as well as in the context of present and future trade, economic and association agreements with Latin America and the Caribbean.
- b. Continue the bi-regional dialogue within the EU-LAC Forum on Social Cohesion.

**** Cooperation activities and initiatives***

- c. Mobilise the necessary financial resources to improve and develop sustainable infrastructures and networks favouring regional integration and social inclusion and cohesion, including through the Latin America Investment Facility (LAIF). LAIF grants are expected to have a leverage effect to mobilise resources from financial institutions to finance investment projects and technological transfer notably in three areas: i) interconnectivity and infrastructure in particular in the areas of energy efficiency and saving and renewable energy systems, research, sustainable transport, and telecommunication networks; ii) social and environmental sectors including climate change mitigation and adaptation; iii) providing for growth of the private sector (in particular of micro and SMEs).
- d. Mobilise the required resources for the establishment of the EU-Caribbean Infrastructure Fund with the purpose to contribute to strengthening regional integration and access to basic social services through improvements of physical infrastructure and related services. The fund is expected to facilitate the mobilisation of additional resources by leveraging of grants with loans and private capital.

- e. Support the development of more effective public social policies as well as policies aiming at strengthening local entrepreneurial environment and corporate social responsibility, promoting national and foreign investment and technological transfer.

- ***Expected results***

- f. Implementation of projects, in areas such as energy efficiency and saving and renewable energy, sustainable transport, communication networks, climate change adaptation and mitigation, social and economic networks - leading to increased regional integration and social inclusion and cohesion, including technological transfer and innovation when appropriate.
- g. Establishment of partnerships between EU and LAC public administrations, through institutional strengthening and cooperation, to support the management and implementation of social policies in areas such as education, health, lifelong learning, social security and social services, administration of justice, taxation and employment. These partnerships may also involve different Latin American and Caribbean countries in triangular cooperation.

4. Migration.

The main objectives in this field are:

- i) to enhance bi-regional cooperation by identifying common challenges and opportunities that require common solutions;
- ii) to build a stronger evidence base for EU-LAC migration, in order to better understand its realities;
- iii) to address the positive synergies between migration and development, as well as address regular and irregular migration and other related issues;
- iv) to promote the full respect of human rights of migrants

Work Programme:

- * ***Dialogue***

- a. Further strengthen and develop the Structured and Comprehensive Dialogue on Migration, including all issues agreed in the Lima Summit, emphasizing the issues listed in the June 30th 2009 document, “Basis for structuring the EU-LAC Dialogue on Migration” and advance its implementation.

- * ***Cooperation activities and initiatives***

- b. Continue cooperation along the areas identified within the Basis document.
- c. Promote cooperation programmes to combat and prevent trafficking and migrant smuggling networks and to assist the victims, with special attention to women and children.

- d. Promote technical cooperation between EU and LAC countries to exchange information on migration flows, as well as to support improved policies on migration and development, amongst other through a “Targeted Project” dedicated to strengthening EU-LAC dialogue and cooperation, as well as specific activities regarding the Caribbean countries.
- e. Develop measures to make the transfer of remittances cheaper, safer, more transparent and more conducive to development, while fully respecting their private nature.
- f. Continue intra and bi-regional cooperation in areas of education and health of migrants, as well as on groups of migrants in situation of vulnerability, especially women and children.

** Expected results*

- g. Strengthening the impact of the positive link between migration and development
- h. Promoting full respect of human rights for all migrants and enhancing coherence in the fight and prevention of human trafficking and migrant smuggling networks, as well as in assisting victims. Improved fight against xenophobia, racism and all forms of intolerance.
- i. Increased mutual information on migration policy developments and best practices in both regions, as well as improved knowledge and more accurate data on migration flows between both regions.
- j. Improved qualifications and awareness on migration issues of relevant officials;
- k. Enhanced positive synergies between migration and development in countries of origin, transit and destination, including measures making remittances cheaper, safer, more transparent and more conducive to development;
- l. Enhanced intra and bi-regional cooperation to improve the situation of migrants in areas of education and health, protection of vulnerable groups, in particular women and children as identified through the Dialogue.

5. Education and employment to promote social inclusion and cohesion

Main objectives in this area are to promote education, life-long learning and training (including vocational education and training) taking into account diversity and levels of vulnerability as well as to improve the functioning of labour markets, including through triangular cooperation, taking into account the important role of corporate social action. This should lead to easier access to employment, decent, dignified and productive work and job opportunities, in particular for women and young people, as well as for other vulnerable groups, and should contribute to increased social inclusion and cohesion.

Work Programme:

**** Dialogue***

- a. Establish a regular bi-regional dialogue on education and employment, building upon the results of the II EU-LAC Forum on Social Cohesion

**** Cooperation activities and initiatives***

- b. Support quality and equal access to higher education, life-long learning, vocational education and training and increased regional integration in this domain.
- c. Promote mobility of students, teachers, and staff and exchanges between higher education institutions from the EU and LAC countries.
- d. Promote technical and vocational education and training systems, including transversal, that respond to the needs of the labour market and national development objectives.
- e. Contribute to meeting the educational objectives 2021 as referred in the EU-LAC Ministerial Forum on “Education, Innovation and Social Inclusion”.
- f. Implement programmes for fostering formal employment starting with the first job experiences, including through the promotion of entrepreneurship and improving access by young people to social protection mechanisms.
- g. Implement programmes to reduce discrimination at work of young people, women and persons with disabilities.
- h. Promote bi-regional programmes to exchange experiences and know-how on the labour systems and their link with the system of technical education and training for employment.

**** Expected results***

- i. Increased mobility, academic exchanges and long-lasting partnerships between EU and LAC students/teachers/higher education institutions, taking into account the need to prevent the “brain drain” phenomenon.
- j. Strategic reviews on the functioning of contemporary labour market information systems leading to the establishment and implementation of the necessary capacity-building plans and the improvement of the relevant statistical services.
- k. Emergence of a network of high-quality and inclusive technical and vocational education and training institutions.
- l. Improved integration of young workers into decent, dignified and productive jobs.
- m. School dropout rates reduction and links among basic, vocational and higher education strengthened.

- n. Progress towards meeting the Educational Objectives 2021

6. The world drug problem

The objective is to strengthen bi-regional dialogue and effectiveness of joint efforts to tackle the world drug problem as identified and developed in the framework of the EU-LAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs in accordance with the principle of common and shared responsibility through an integrated and balanced approach and in conformity with international law.

Work Programme:

**** Dialogue***

- a. Further develop and strengthen the EU-LAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs.
- b. Intensify our cooperation in the framework of the United Nations, notably within the Commission on Narcotic Drugs to combat, among other issues, drug trafficking carried out by organized crime and criminal organizations.

**** Cooperation activities and initiatives***

- c. Support the establishment of EU-LAC networks to share experiences, know-how and best practices to tackle the world drug problem, via policy development and capacity building such as the “COPOLAD” programme.
- d. Strengthen regional security cooperation structures and fostering regional cooperation in the fight against illicit drugs and related crimes, in the Caribbean under the 10th EDF regional programme.
- e. Strengthen cooperation against the diversion and illicit trafficking of chemical precursors.
- f. Strengthen cooperation against drug related money laundering.
- g. Promote comprehensive prevention programmes, health assistance, drug addiction and social treatment and social re-integration to reduce drug consumption and abuse.
- h. Cooperate on alternative development in regions where crops are cultivated for the production of illicit drugs, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development, with an integrated and sustainable approach. Give due attention to technical assistance, in relation to the chain of production and commercialization of products of alternative development.
- i. Promote initiatives to tackle the consequences of the world drug problem on the environment, in accordance with national policies.
- j. Advance implementation of commitments adopted in the Political Declaration and Plan of Action approved at the 52nd session of the CND held in 2009.

* *Expected results*

- k. Strengthened bi-regional cooperation, coordination and exchange of information on:
- demand reduction;
 - supply reduction;
 - alternative development, including, as appropriate, preventive alternative development;
 - law enforcement, customs and judicial matters;
 - drug related trafficking in arms and ammunition;
 - drug related money laundering and the diversion of precursors;
 - judicial organization and drug legislation and institutional capacity building, at both political and technical level;
 - increased prevention campaigns and enhanced programmes for rehabilitation of drug users
 - drug related environmental impact.
- l. Strengthened capacity of institutional actors in reducing drugs demand and supply, and in dealing with the overall consequences of the world drug problem.
- m. Presentation of joint initiatives in the UN framework and enhanced implementation of commitments

7. Gender

The main objective is to prioritise the gender issue in the context of bi-regional relations and underscore the political will in both regions to guarantee gender equality and the protection, exercise and promotion of women's rights, including i) Political participation of women; ii) Elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, including sexual violence; and iii) Economic empowerment of women and their participation in the world of work and in all decision-making processes.

Work Programme:

* *Dialogue*

- a. Create a bi-regional space for the exchange of experiences and cooperation on gender issues aimed at promoting gender equality and women's empowerment in the different fields of the CELAC-EU dialogue.

* *Cooperation activities and initiatives*

- b. Promote the political and popular participation of women in terms of equality.
- c. Promote actions to combat and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, through activities such as publishing gender educational programmes and manuals and standardising protocols of investigation to prosecute and punish the perpetrators, among other actions.

- d. Continue close cooperation at the UN, including for the forthcoming UN 57th Commission of the Status of Women and in the UN General Assembly.
- e. Promote the economic empowerment of women and their participation in the economy and paid labour markets, with social security and conditions of fairness, as well as to promote policies and laws to ensure equal pay for equal work.
- f. Identify the state of play of the main working topics in each region.
- g. Identify areas of exchange and cooperation for the creation of synergies and mutual learning to optimise existing practices and lessons learned in the area of gender mainstreaming in all public policies.
- h. Identify common areas to cooperate in technical assistance, training and exchange of experiences.

* ***Expected results***

- i. Establishment of an intergovernmental bi-regional working group aimed at defining shared objectives. The main working topics at this first stage are:
 - Political participation of women.
 - Elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls .
 - Economic empowerment of women and their participation in the world of work.
- j. Bi-regional seminar for the exchange of experiences on gender-based violence, to share best practices and the most effective measures to prevent and combat it.
- k. Promote concrete measures for the investigation of gender-based killing.
- l. Bi-regional seminar on "Economic empowerment of women and participation in the world of work", for exchanging experiences and best practices in the field of education and training in ICT.
- m. Exchange of information, on a voluntary basis, regarding the state of art on gender policies, including equality and empowerment of women by countries.
- n. Bi-regional seminar with State representatives, which may include experts and women's organizations, to exchange experiences on the achievements of peace, conflict resolution and participation of women in those processes, including the implementation of relevant resolutions of the UN General Assembly in this regard, as well as Resolution 1325. (Women - Peace and Security).
- o. Agreed language, when possible, to be used in common positions in international fora, especially resolutions to be negotiated at the UN General Assembly and the Commission on the Status of Women.

8. Investments and entrepreneurship for sustainable development

In line with the I CELAC–EU Santiago Declaration, the main objectives in this area are: i) to promote bi-regional investments of social and environmental quality to achieve sustained economic growth while promoting social cohesion and inclusion and protecting the environment. Such investments contribute, among others, to increased trade flows, job creation, technology transfer, stimulation of innovation, fiscal revenues, support and development of auxiliary industries; ii) to promote entrepreneurship as a driving force of economic and social development and; iii) to facilitate the conditions that foster entrepreneurship and innovation, remove obstacles, build capacity and increase competitiveness of micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and new social actors of the economy.

Work Programme:

**** Dialogue***

- a. Set up a dialogue at an appropriate level to develop the main aspects of investments and entrepreneurship between both regions, such as the CELAC-EU Ministers of Economy Meeting, held in Puerto Varas, Chile.

**** Cooperation activities and initiatives***

- b. Encourage cooperation between investment promotion agencies of each country and the coordination of investment efforts, in order to share information on investment opportunities in our countries and exchange effective public policies in productive development.
- c. Promote open, stable, predictable and transparent regulatory frameworks to encourage investment and provide legal certainty to investors and local stakeholders, while recognising the sovereign right of states to regulate. Promote also compliance with national and international law, in particular, inter alia on taxes, transparency, the protection of environment, social security and labour.
- d. Promote the implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption and, within this framework, consider participating in the work of the International Anti-Corruption Academy.
- e. Promote public policies facilitating and expediting the creation and operation of enterprises, as well as those improving their conditions and access to financing, especially in the case of MSMEs. In this regard, all available financial instruments should be mobilized, including but not limited to public investment, investment facilities financed by Official Development Aid (ODA), private equity, venture capital, micro-credits, risk capital, business angels and guaranties.
- f. Strengthen the support of the financial institutions and international organizations – in their evaluation processes of lending– to those investment projects which respect internationally recognised social and environmental criteria within the context of sustainable development, taking into account, where appropriate, the needs of the developing countries.

- g. Promote entrepreneurship within higher, technical and vocational education and training systems, in order to adapt the skills and competences of students to labour market needs.
- h. Promote decent work inter alia through the ILO programme for sustainable enterprises.
- i. Include, when possible, the guidelines and internationally recognised principles of corporate social responsibility (CSR) in the definition of policies and national plans to promote good corporate behaviour, such as encouraging the timely payment to suppliers, particularly (MSME) by the public and private sectors.
- j. Promote public policies which encourage transparency on the part of enterprises as regards social, environmental and human rights matters.

* *Expected results*

- k. Seminar of national investment promotion entities, aimed at exchanging experiences and promoting coordination of investment efforts.
 - l. Appointment in each country, as appropriate, of an official at the highest possible political level ("Mr. or Ms. MSMEs") to deal with the issues related to MSMEs, exchanging best practices with their counterparts from other countries.
 - m. Holding, as appropriate, of a "week for the promotion of MSMEs" in each country simultaneously, an initiative that has already been done successfully in countries of both regions.
 - n. Invite countries to consider submitting a report of national action plans on CSR - if applicable - at the next CELAC-EU Summit of Heads of State and Government, in 2015.
 - o. Bi-regional meeting on model enterprises applying the concept of corporate social responsibility as regards social, environmental and human rights matters.
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