



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 8 December 2009

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COLAT 39
DEVGEN 356**

OUTCOME OF PROCEEDINGS

Subject : Council conclusions on the Commission Communication regarding the EU - Latin America relations

At its meeting of 8 December 2009, the Foreign Affairs Council adopted the conclusions on the Commission Communication regarding the EU - Latin America relations, as set out in the Annex.

**Council Conclusions on the Commission Communication
regarding the EU - Latin America relations**

1. The Council reaffirms the importance of the EU's strategic partnership with Latin America in the global context and is determined to further strengthen cooperation in the mutual interest of both regions. In this context, the Council welcomes the submission of the Commission Communication on "The European Union and Latin America: Global players in Partnership"¹.
2. The Council wishes to strengthen the cooperation on the jointly identified priorities and to further reinforce the partnership through promoting our common values and interests by contributing to peace and security, protection and promotion of human rights and strengthening of citizen's participation and democracy.
3. The Council recalls the EU and Latin American countries' commitment to an effective multilateral system, with a central role for the United Nations, to meet global threats and challenges.

In this respect, the Council emphasises the need to enhance our bi-regional partnership through a result-oriented and strategic dialogue, that addresses global and regional issues of common concern, and promotes development of common positions in a multilateral framework.

¹ Doc. ST 14120/09

4. The Council recalls the EU's strategic objective of enhancing the EU-Latin American bi-regional partnership through a network of Association Agreements.

While recognising the current political difficulties, the Council reaffirms its call to finalise the negotiations of a balanced and ambitious Association Agreement with Central America, as a regional partner.

It stresses the political and economic benefits of further regional integration and agrees to intensify its work towards the resumption of negotiations with a view to conclude an ambitious and balanced EU-Mercosur Association Agreement, while recognising the priority it ascribes to the multilateral trading system and to the conclusion of the Doha Development Round, and to promote the advancement of the EU-Mercosur agenda.

It also reaffirms its call to finalise the negotiations for a Multi-Party Trade Agreement with countries in the Andean Community, which, in order to ensure policy coherence, should have a clear link to the existing or to a future updated political dialogue and cooperation agreement between the EU and the Andean Community. The council also confirms its willingness to welcome all countries in the region into the existing negotiation process.

5. The Council welcomes strengthening of the bilateral relations with individual countries in the region.

The Council supports that full advantage should be taken of the existing bilateral agreements and partnerships to develop dialogue and cooperation in areas of common interest.

6. The Council recalls that the Community cooperation in Latin America should continue to aim at eradication of poverty, support sustainable economic and social development, including the realisation of the MDGs, and promote regional integration, security, democracy and human rights, as well as address climate change, and strengthen collaboration in the common fight against narco-trafficking.

The Council notes the creation of the new investment facility for Latin America, and supports supplementing the existing Community cooperation programmes with this complementary bottom up approach, in order to better address the commonly recognised priorities.

7. The Council looks forward to the upcoming 6th EU-Latin American and Caribbean Summit that will take place in Madrid in May 2010, involving Heads of State and Government, civil society and the business community from both regions. The Council considers that the Madrid Summit should focus on reaffirming the common priorities, and concentrate on delivering concrete and tangible strategies and actions; including through the creation of the EU-LAC Foundation.

In this context the Council recognises the value of launching new initiatives at the Summit.