## Basic information

| | |
|---|---|
| **2017/2027(INI)**<br>INI - Own-initiative procedure | Procedure completed |
| EU political relations with Latin America<br>**Subject**<br>6.40.10 Relations with Latin America, Central America, Caribbean islands | |

## Key players

### European Parliament

| Committee responsible | Rapporteur | Appointed |
|---|---|---|
| AFET Foreign Affairs | LÓPEZ Javi (S&D) | 05/09/2016 |
| | Shadow rapporteur<br>DE GRANDES PASCUAL Luis (PPE)<br>TANNOCK Timothy Charles Ayrton (ECR)<br>NART Javier (ALDE)<br>COUSO PERMUY Javier (GUE/NGL)<br>URTASUN Ernest (Verts/ALE)<br>CASTALDO Fabio Massimo (EFDD) | |

| Committee for opinion | Rapporteur for opinion | Appointed |
|---|---|---|
| DEVE Development | GUERRERO SALOM Enrique (S&D) | 08/11/2016 |

### European Commission

| Commission DG | Commissioner |
|---|---|
| European External Action Service | MOGHERINI Federica |

## Key events

| Date | Event | Reference | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|
| 16/03/2017 | Committee referral announced in Parliament | | |
| 11/07/2017 | Vote in committee | | |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 20/07/2017 | Committee report tabled for plenary | A8-0268/2017 | Summary |
| 12/09/2017 | Debate in Parliament | | |
| 13/09/2017 | Decision by Parliament | T8-0345/2017 | Summary |
| 13/09/2017 | Results of vote in Parliament | | |
| 13/09/2017 | End of procedure in Parliament | | |

| Technical information | |
|---|---|
| **Procedure reference** | 2017/2027(INI) |
| **Procedure type** | INI - Own-initiative procedure |
| **Procedure subtype** | Initiative |
| **Legal basis** | Rules of Procedure EP 55 |
| **Other legal basis** | Rules of Procedure EP 165 |
| **Stage reached in procedure** | Procedure completed |
| **Committee dossier** | AFET/8/07845 |

Documentation gateway

**European Parliament**

| Document type | Committee | Reference | Date | Summary |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Committee draft report | | PE601.107 | 30/03/2017 | |
| Amendments tabled in committee | | PE604.672 | 16/05/2017 | |
| Committee opinion | DEVE | PE600.959 | 31/05/2017 | |
| Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading | | A8-0268/2017 | 20/07/2017 | Summary |
| Text adopted by Parliament, single reading | | T8-0345/2017 | 13/09/2017 | Summary |

# EU political relations with Latin America

2017/2027(INI) - 20/07/2017 - Committee report tabled for plenary, single reading

The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted an own-initiative report drawn up by Javi LÓPEZ (S&D, ES) on EU political relations between the EU and Latin America.

Members recalled that the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region is an **ideal partner for the European Union** to respond to the major challenges currently facing the world.

The long-standing EU-LAC partnership, based on historical, cultural, human and economic ties, should take on a more cross-cutting character, based on common values and principles such as **respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, the rule of law, international peace and security** and a common commitment to a multilateral system of global governance based on common standards and dialogue.

**Expanding political and economic cooperation with LAC countries**: while the two regions share a common vision of the world based on multilateralism and face the same challenges, Members suggested building stronger partnerships with LAC countries. Such cooperation would help to consolidate economic growth through sustainable socio-economic development policies while ensuring social integration, civil liberties and human rights and reduce poverty.

The report called on the EU-CELAC (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States) to strengthen their partnership and political dialogue:

- by incorporating them into thematic dialogues and main initiatives, such as the Joint Initiative on Research and Innovation, the Structured Dialogue on Migration, and the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs;
- working on clearly defined common interests in order to jointly address major global challenges, such as good governance, economic growth, social cohesion, culture, innovation and the environment, in multilateral forums such as the United Nations and the G20.

**Regional integration**: Members stressed the need for greater coordination between the different regional integration schemes in place, while respecting differences in the pace of integration. They recommended enhancing dialogue, cooperation and exchange of best practices with CELAC, Mercosur, the Andean Community of Nations (ACN), the Central American Integration System (SICA) and the Pacific Alliance which brings together the Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru.

The importance of **stimulating interparliamentary cooperation** between the EU and the LAC region, in particular between the European Parliament and the various regional parliaments, is underlined.

The report stressed, among other things, the need to:

- integrate economies into global value chains based on a circular economic model and recognise the importance of developing bilateral and multilateral trade agreements;
- create conditions allowing the economies of both regions to diversify so that they are less dependent and vulnerable to global cyclical variations;
- create public and private partnerships to foster economic development, entrepreneurship, growth and foreign investment, and to fight the informal economy;
- establish sustainable and efficient tax systems in both regions;
- strengthen environmental cooperation with particular emphasis on energy transition and decarbonisation.

**Sustainable development**: Members stated that economic growth and trade alone are not sufficient to reduce poverty, inequality and exclusion. However, achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) must be the foremost objective of cooperation between Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and the EU.

**Employment, training**: Members considered that public policies, in particular health, education and training, are essential, as are initiatives aimed at opening up prospects for the nearly 30 million young people who are not yet in employment. They advocated **further cooperation** with economic funds in the form of bilateral agreements between universities, scholarships, knowledge exchange and international mobility between EU and LAC students, in particular by boosting the Erasmus + programme.

Members also advocated systematically including rules on corporate responsibility and clauses safeguarding human rights and social rights in association, trade and investment agreements between the EU and LAC countries.

**Security, corruption**: the report highlighted the issues facing the two regions in the area of defence and security, including terrorism and the fight against drug trafficking and organised crime. It called on the EU and the LAC countries to tackle the problem of corruption by adopting measures ranging from prevention to law enforcement and criminal prosecution and through the effective implementation of multilateral and international conventions.

Deeply concerned about the serious deterioration of the democratic and human rights situation in **Venezuela**, Members urged the Venezuelan Government to safeguard the separation and independence of branches of government and to restore full constitutional authority to the National Assembly.

# EU political relations with Latin America

2017/2027(INI) - 13/09/2017 - Text adopted by Parliament, single reading

The European Parliament adopted by 526 votes to 96, with 59 abstentions, a resolution on EU political relations between the EU and Latin America.

Members recalled that the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region is an **ideal partner for the European Union** to respond to the major challenges currently facing the world such as mass migration, terrorism, climate change and poverty.

The EU-LAC partnership is based on common values and principles such as respect for **human rights and fundamental freedoms**, **the rule of law, international peace and security** and a common commitment to a multilateral system of global governance based on common standards and dialogue.

**Expanding political and economic cooperation with LAC countries**: while the two regions share a common vision of the world based on multilateralism and face the same challenges, Parliament considered it essential to **expand political and economic cooperation** and build of stronger partnerships with LAC countries to be crucial at bi-regional, sub-regional and bilateral level.

The Union and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) should **strengthen their partnership and political dialogue by cooperating on clearly defined common interests** in order to jointly address major global challenges.

**Regional integration**: stressing the need for greater coordination between the different regional integration schemes in place, Members recommended enhancing dialogue, cooperation and exchange of best practices with CELAC, Mercosur, the Andean Community of Nations (ACN), the Central American Integration System (SICA) and the Pacific Alliance which brings together the Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru.

Parliament suggested speeding up the ongoing negotiations updating the **EU-Mexico** Global Agreement finalising the updated EU-Chile Association Agreement before the first trimester of 2018.

The resolution stressed, *inter alia*, the need to:

- integrate economies into global value chains based on a **circular economic model**;
- create conditions allowing the **economies of both regions to diversify** so that they are less dependent and vulnerable to global cyclical variations;
- create public and private partnerships to foster economic development, entrepreneurship, growth and foreign investment, and to fight the informal economy;
- establish sustainable and efficient **tax systems** in both regions;
- strengthen **environmental cooperation** with particular emphasis on energy transition and decarbonisation.
- strengthen cooperation with economic funds in the form of bilateral agreements between universities, scholarships, knowledge exchange and international mobility between EU and LAC students, in particular by **boosting the Erasmus + programme**;
- systematically include rules on **corporate responsibility** and clauses safeguarding human rights and social rights in association, trade and investment agreements between the EU and LAC countries;
- cooperate in the area of **defense and security**, including terrorism, combating drug trafficking, organised crime and tackling the problem of corruption;
- strengthen military cooperation for developing **special emergency aid corps** for natural and humanitarian disasters.

**Situation in Venezuela**: deeply concerned about the serious deterioration of the democratic and human rights situation in **Venezuela**, Members urged the Venezuelan Government to safeguard the separation and independence of branches of government and to restore full constitutional authority to the National Assembly.

Lastly, Parliament called on the VP/HR and the European Council to give consideration to the **freezing of assets**, as well as placing restrictions on access to EU territory for all those involved in the serious violations of human rights in Venezuela, including the members of the non-recognised Constituent Assembly.