Dialogue "Sustainable Investments and Transatlantic Cooperation: Opportunities in the European Union- Latin America and the Caribbean Strategic Partnership in a Global Context"

Concept Note

Organisers: EU-LAC Foundation and Club de Madrid

Venue: Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB), Paseo de Recoletos 8, Madrid

Format: In-person

Date: Monday, October 27, 2025

Time: 10:00h-11:30h

About the EU-LAC Foundation

The EU-LAC International Foundation is an intergovernmental organisation composed of the 33 Latin American and Caribbean states, the 27 European Union Member States, and the European Union itself. Its objectives are to strengthen the bi-regional relationship and promote the participation of respective civil societies in political, economic, social, and cultural relations between the two regions.

About the Club de Madrid

The Club of Madrid is a forum of former democratic Presidents and Prime Ministers who use their individual and collective leadership experience, as well as their global reach, to strengthen inclusive democratic practices and improve the well-being of people worldwide. This alliance of 130 members from over 70 countries, together with a global network of advisors and partners, promotes dialogue, builds bridges, and carries out advocacy to strengthen public policy and effective leadership, offering recommendations on challenges such as inclusion, sustainable development, and peace at both national and international levels.

Background

The Summit of Heads of State and Government between the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the European Union (EU), to be held in Santa Marta, Colombia, in November 2025, represents a strategic opportunity to strengthen cooperation between Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and the EU in key areas such as sustainable economic development, fair trade, and investment.

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In a global context marked by profound changes in trade dynamics, as well as technological and infrastructure advances, it is essential to inform key stakeholders, including policymakers, bank representatives, business leaders, and investors, about the current situation and future prospects of the partnership between the two regions, promoting fair trade, investment opportunities, innovation, decent employment, and competitiveness.

In this context, the EU-LAC Foundation commissioned a discussion paper that provides bi-regional stakeholders with a valuable synthesis of the existing potential and opportunities. The paper emphasises the economic and political importance of the EU-LAC strategic partnership in the current volatile global context, examines trade relations with special attention to recent political developments, and explores possible avenues for collaboration to manage fragmentation while leveraging the potential of the EU-LAC bi-regional acquis. Finally, it focuses on investment by analysing trends, existing instruments, and identifying areas of opportunity.

This launching event also complements the work of the Club of Madrid and the Atlantic Council on the trilateral relationship between the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean, and North America, aiming to consolidate structured cooperation among the three regions. The third phase of this initiative, titled "From Fragmentation to Cooperation: Democracy and Multilateralism at the 2025 EU-CELAC and Americas Summits," seeks to identify common issues and create synergies between the two summits around four pillars: democracy and governance, security and stability, sustainable prosperity, and inclusion and renewal of multilateralism.

The Club of Madrid has promoted a trilateral agenda connecting the EU-CELAC and Americas Summit processes, identifying synergies for joint action. In this regard, the collaboration between the Club of Madrid and the EU-LAC Foundation adds a political and strategic dimension to the debate on sustainable investment, situating it within a broader framework of Transatlantic and Inter-American cooperation.

It is worth mentioning that the event will be supported by the Ibero-American General Secretariat (SEGIB), which will host the activity at its Madrid headquarters. SEGIB has promoted the Latin America, Europe, and North America Trilateral Forum, whose latest edition, titled "The Transatlantic Relationship and Summit Diplomacy," contributed to revitalising dialogue among the three regions on shared challenges in democratic governance, cooperation, and sustainable development. SEGIB's participation strengthens the link between the EU-LAC bi-regional agenda and the trilateral dimension, consolidating Madrid as a hub for interregional political dialogue.

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General Objective

The launch event of the Discussion Paper "Maximising Opportunities for Sustainable Investment and Fair Trade in the Strategic Partnership between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean" aims to bring together experts to discuss the economic and political significance of the EU-LAC strategic partnership for each region in the current global context. It also seeks to create a space for reflection on current trade agreements between the two regions, such as those negotiated with Mexico and Mercosur, and on the main instruments promoting investment, including the Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements (IPPA) included in all EU Economic Partnership Agreements with regional partners, as well as the Global Gateway Investment Agenda.

Furthermore, the event will provide a platform to present and discuss the main recommendations emerging from the EU–LAC–U.S. trilateral initiative, led by the Club of Madrid and the Atlantic Council.

Specific Objectives

- Streamline the economic and political importance of Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union in the current geopolitical context and.
- Jointly examine trends, challenges, and opportunities in bi-regional trade.
- Evaluate the development and institutional framework of investment in Latin America and the Caribbean, especially through existing mechanisms such as investment protection agreements and the Global Gateway Investment Agenda.
- Discuss additional proposals or recommendations resulting from analyses and reflections made during the thematic session, which may serve as references for the IV CELAC-EU Summit and for strengthening the bi-regional strategic partnership.

Programme
Monday, October 27, 2025
10:00-11:30h

P.° de Recoletos, 8, Salamanca, 28001
Madrid, Spain

9:30h – 10:00h	**Registration and Welcome Coffee**
10:00h – 10:15h	**Welcome Remarks** • **José Luis García Galán,** *Deputy Director General for Mercosur Countries and Ibero-American Multilateral Organisations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation of Spain* • **María Elena Agüero,** *Secretary-General, Club de Madrid* • **Alberto Brunori**, *Executive Director, EU-LAC Foundation*
10:15h - 10:45h	**Presentation of the Discussion Document** "Maximising Opportunities for Sustainable Investment and Fair Trade in the Strategic Partnership between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean" • **Lorena Ruano,** *Professor at the Universidad Complutense de Madrid* **Presentation of the recommendations from the report** "From Fragmentation to Cooperation: Democracy and Multilateralism at the 2025 EU–CELAC and Americas Summits" by Club de Madrid and the Atlantic Council" • **Danilo Türk,** *President of Club de Madrid, President of Slovenia (2007-2012)* **Commentators:** • **Michelle Bachelet,** *Vice-president of Club de Madrid, President of Chile (2006-2010, 2014-2018)* • **Kim Campbell,** *Member Club de Madrid, Prime Minister of Canada (1993)*

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10:45 – 11:25h	**Audience Discussion**
11:25h – 11:30h	**Closing remarks**

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