

EU-CELAC Summit

Brussels, 17-18 July 2023

The third EU-CELAC Summit will take place in Brussels from **17 to 18 July** under the theme: **“Renewing the bi-regional partnership to strengthen peace and sustainable development.”**

The meeting will bring together leaders of **60 countries** from the EU and the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC). The summit will be co-chaired by the **President of the European Council**, Charles Michel, and the **Prime Minister of St. Vincent and the Grenadines**, Ralph Gonsalves, in his current role as CELAC pro tempore president. Along with President Michel, the European Union will be represented by the President of the European Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy.

Eight years after the last meeting, this summit will be the opportunity to **re-invigorate bi-regional relations** and reiterate the commitments of both parties to **strengthen the dialogue and cooperation** between them to jointly tackle the main global challenges: climate change, green and digital transition, global peace and prosperity, trade and investments, and multilateralism.

Throughout the summit, leaders will also hold bilateral meetings.

[EU-CELAC summit, 17-18 July 2023](#)

Indicative agenda (local time)

Monday, 17 July 2023

- 12.00** Arrivals and doorstep
- 12.00 – 15.15** Bilateral meetings
- 13.30** EU-Caribbean leaders’ meeting
- 15.20** Official welcome of the CELAC delegations
- 16.00** Opening session
- 17.30** Family photo
- 17.40 – 19.00** Bilateral meetings
- 19.00** Gala dinner

Press conferences and public events by live streaming on Council live: <http://video.consilium.europa.eu> and recorded on Europe by satellite: <https://audiovisual.ec.europa.eu/en/aboutebs>

Videos and photos are available to download from the Council newsroom: <https://newsroom.consilium.europa.eu/>

Tuesday, 18 July 2023

8.30 Arrivals

9.30 Plenary session

13.00 Working lunch

15.15 Press conference

Political Cooperation

The EU-CELAC Summit will gather the leaders of 60 countries to establish a renewed political partnership between the two regions. They will create a **more structured political cooperation framework** at bi-regional level, with more **regular summits** and a bi-regional EU-CELAC Roadmap 2023-2025 to guide their work.

[A New Agenda for Relations between the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean](#) (factsheet – EEAS)

Multilateralism

The EU and CELAC leaders will reiterate their **commitment to upholding the rules-based international order**. The EU and CELAC countries have a long-standing partnership which rests on shared values centred on democracy, respect for human rights and rule of law.

Representing one third of the UN members and over 1 billion people, the leaders will make the case for a **strong and rules-based multilateral system** based on the principles enshrined in the UN Charter.

Global peace and security

A **solid EU-CELAC partnership** and cooperation will play a key role as a positive joint force to **advance stability and peace worldwide** and to positively address fundamental global challenges, including in the realm of regional and international security. Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine will also feature in the discussions.

Trade and Investment

The EU and CELAC leaders will discuss **bolstering economic relations**, in particular through cooperation on trade and investment. The EU-LAC relations involve one of the world's densest trade networks, with a **total bilateral trade in goods and service of €369 billion in 2022** (+39% since 2013). The leaders will build on these solid foundations to discuss how to further strengthen the economic and trade ties between the two regions and to enhance cooperation in multilateral fora such as the WTO.

As the leading investor in the LAC region, the EU's offer and political commitment for investments in the region will be further showcased by the **Global Investment Agenda** for Latin America and the Caribbean to accelerate a fair green and digital transition and tackle social inequalities. The EU contribution will **support innovative and sustainable projects in key sectors** such as energy, transport, infrastructures, digital, health, education and research.

[EU-LAC Partnership](#) (infographic – EEAS)

[Global Gateway: Latin America and the Caribbean](#) (background information – European Commission)

[EU-Latin America and Caribbean: Trade in Number](#) (factsheet – European Commission)

Green and digital transitions

The leaders will build on their shared vision for protecting our planet and discuss how to harness the enormous potential of the twin **green and digital transitions** to increase the prosperity of citizens of both regions.

Hosting over 50% of the planet's biodiversity and the largest share of renewables in the world, the LAC region represents a **renewable energy powerhouse** and offers unique opportunities in terms of biodiversity, natural resources, and strategic critical raw materials. The leaders will hold discussions on how to **increase dialogue and cooperation** to build climate neutral, clean and nature-positive economies.

As the digital transformation impacts all areas of our lives and economies, leaders will discuss how to make it fair and inclusive.

Justice and security for citizens

EU and CELAC leaders will also focus their discussions on possible ways to **consolidate and strengthen their partnership on justice and security** to address common challenges posed by transnational organised crime, including the drugs trade and human trafficking.

Background

With over 1 billion people, CELAC and the EU together represent **14% of the world's population** and **21% of global GDP**. EU-LAC relations as a strategic partnership date back to 1999, when the first bi-regional EU-LAC summit was held in Rio de Janeiro. Since the creation of CELAC in 2010, two EU-CELAC summits were held, in 2013 and 2015. The summit brings together European, Latin American and Caribbean leaders to strengthen relations between both regions. It constitutes the main forum for dialogue and cooperation between EU and LAC states. Eight years after the last meeting, the 2023 Summit aims at **re-vitalising, strengthening, and modernising the relations** between the two regions, in the context of heightened geopolitical uncertainty.

[EU-CELAC relations: facts and figures](#) (infographic)