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## ABSTRACTS

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Judith Arrieta Munguía, *The Political Dialogue between Latin America and the Caribbean, and the European Union*

The article examines the political dialogue between the European Union (EU) and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). It is divided into four sections. In the first, the author analyzes the weight the EU gives to political dialogue in its foreign affairs. In the second, she examines the evolution of European-Latin American dialogue since the beginning of European Economic Community-LAC relations, and the EU-Rio Group institutional dialogue, up to the new dialogues that have developed among the EU and the Southern Cone Common Market, the Caribbean, Chile and Mexico. In the third section, she analyzes the main European speakers in the biregional political dialogue, particularly of the countries that have shown special interest in the American subcontinent like Germany, Spain, France and Great Britain. She also studies the role of other bodies that make their voices heard, such as the non-governmental organizations and transnational companies. In the fourth section, Arrieta reflects on the need to deepen biregional relations and urge them forward. In this respect, she insists that following the European-Latin American Summit, Latin America has to take advantage of the institutionalization of political dialogue at the highest level in order for Europe to continue contributing to the reactivation of the Latin American economy. In relation to Mexico, the author underlines its growing role in the strengthening of biregional relations.

Manuel Armendáriz Etchegaray, *Economic and Trade Relations between Latin America and the Caribbean, and the European Union*

The purpose of this article is to analyze the economic and trade relations between Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and the

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European Union (EU). It is divided into four sections. In the first, the author examines the post-war evolution of the biregional relationship. In the second, he analyzes how different world events such as the end of the Cold War or the dissipation of the import substitution system in Latin America, contributed to economic liberalization and the growth of political interdependence, factors that influenced a rapprochement between LAC and the EU and facilitated the institutionalization of biregional dialogue in the nineties. The challenges imposed by the globalized and regionalized world on the LAC-EU relationship are also examined. In the third section, Armendáriz analyzes the economic, financial and trade trends that, in each of the regions, make it possible to deepen interregional, economic cooperation relations. Lastly, in the fourth section, the author reflects on some factors that significantly affect the economic connection between the two regions, such as the position of the United States and of the EU with respect to LAC, as well as the importance of LAC and the EU fortifying their monetary and financial dialogue.

Jesús Velázquez Castillo, *The European Union and Latin America from the Vantage Point of International Cooperation*

The purpose of this article is to analyze some of the main lines profiled in the European Union's (EU) cooperation toward Latin America after the Cold War. It is divided into two sections. In the first, Jesús Velázquez compares the international cooperation that occurred in the context of the Cold War with the current situation. According to the author, during the nineties when there is a marked tendency to integrate regional blocs, Europe has increased its aid to the former socialist countries, to the detriment of the African, Latin American and Asian nations. The areas of cooperation have also changed according to the new topics of the international agenda such as drug trafficking and sustainable development, among others. In the second part, the author examines some important points of the interregional experience, and highlights the new formulae that will provide EU-Latin America cooperation with content and a plan. Velázquez says that, in recent years, the EU has joined the trend followed by most of the industrialized countries, of

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conditioning aid to compliance with political and economic behavior principles such as democratization and market liberalization in the receiving countries. He also underlines the fact that, in the future, European cooperation toward Latin America will depend on investment possibilities and market potential, among other economic interests. In the conclusions, the author reflects on the importance, the possibilities and the challenges of Mexico's cooperation with Europe and its impact on the rest of Latin America.

Carlos A. de Icaza, *Main Results of the Latin America and Caribbean-European Union Summit; Mexico's Approach*

This article is divided into four parts. In the first, the author highlights the importance of the European-Latin American Summit held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on June 28 and 29 during which the new political context of relations between the European Union (EU) and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) was established, and the fact that some challenges to be overcome in the two regions' complementing each other economically were identified. The second part refers to the Rio de Janeiro Summit as an opportunity to take advantage of the cultural similarities between the LAC and Europe for the purpose of transforming the two regions into real partners in development. In the third part, Icaza analyzes the reasons that have brought the EU and LAC closer together: common, convergent interests like the need to diversify connections with the exterior, reestablish balances and diminish the American influence on Latin America, among other things. The fourth part underlines the importance of the Summit for Mexico, as well as Mexico's outstanding participation in developing the Summit as *pro tempore* Secretary of the Rio Group. Lastly, the author analyzes some of the commitments adopted in the European-Latin American Summit, such as to press toward free trade, establish better plans for cooperation in different settings, and actively encourage an economic situation in each of the two regions that complements the other.

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Ana Teresa Gutiérrez del Cid, *Toward a New International Security System? The challenges of Russian Military Reform*

The new international system, despite the end of the Cold War, is not conflict-free; in fact, according to the author, there is a possibility that the foundation of global equilibrium in the first quarter of the 21st century will be laid on the construction of new military powers. In this article, Gutiérrez del Cid tackles the specific case of Russia and the restatement of its military view. Currently, she says, there are two trends in Russia in relation to the nuclear weapons policy to be followed: the minimalist and the maximalist. The minimalist think that nuclear weapons are a highly valuable instrument of foreign policy and favor the development of nuclear capacity only if the United States opts to build the National Missile Defense System; the maximalist, for their part, strive for nuclear weapons to have a wide range of use, a large stockpiled arsenal, and for nuclear capacity to develop independently from America's strategic plans. According to the author, the fear of a western attack against Russian territory and sovereignty has encouraged closer relations between the two groups in favor of the maximalists: Yeltsin's reformist government, that began with a plan of civil instead of military industrial reconversion, has changed its development strategy for one that again establishes reconstruction of the industrial military complex as a priority. On the other hand, Russian rearmament seems to have awakened the concern of the former soviet republics, which are also preparing themselves militarily in response. If the strategic interests of China, Japan and the United States are added to the above, the author concludes, the world may find itself on the threshold of a new armaments race to the detriment of international security.

Bruno Figueroa Fischer, *Mexico's Image in the French Press, 1994-1998*

This essay quantitatively and qualitatively analyzes the information published about Mexico in the French press between 1994 and 1998. It is divided into six sections. In the first, the author analyzes the importance of the mass media in a society's perception

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of a foreign culture, as well as on the preservation of certain stereotypes. In the second, he examines the French picture of Mexico in the postwar era. In the third, he studies the Mexican presence in French newspapers between 1994 and 1998, and in the fourth, analyzes this presence thematically: coverage of the conflict in Chiapas, the political and economic situation, culture and tourism. The fifth section glances at Mexico's presence on French television. In the sixth and last section, Bruno Figueroa reflects on the difficulty encountered by the media in avoiding stereotypes.

Walter Astié-Burgos, *Formation of the Mexican Diplomat*

In the context of the XXV anniversary of the Matías Romero Institute, the author examines past efforts by Mexican diplomacy to institutionalize and make the foreign service professional. The article consists of five parts. In the first, Astié-Burgos refers to the international isolation of New Spain. In the second, to the big problems faced during the first years of independence, by Mexican diplomats, particularly because of the difficult conditions reigning in the country. The third part analyzes the first attempts to make the diplomatic corps a professional body, and the fourth addresses the institutionalization of the Foreign Office, particularly during this century, when the institutional nature of the Mexican foreign service was reaffirmed. In the fifth and last part, the author describes the changes in the Matías Romero Institute that took place in 1998, and with which it became the agency of the Foreign Office that coordinates preservation and dissemination of the historical diplomatic legacy, the formation and upgrading of personnel highly specialized in international matters, as well as research and prospects in terms of international topics that are of importance for Mexico's foreign policy.

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