

Vicente Fox Quesada, *The Guadalajara Summit and the Consolidation of a Strategic Partnership between Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union*

This text underlines the objectives, results and import for Mexico of the Third Summit of Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union (LAC-EU), held in Guadalajara, Mexico, on May 28 and 29, 2004. The author emphasizes the importance of supporting and strengthening bi-regional cooperation among these nations, while pointing out the relevance of democracy in this process, which he considers essential in the search for greater levels of development. He goes on to highlight the integration and development process European nations have been implementing, and the ways in which sub-regional integration has been promoted on the American continent. Finally, he underscores the preponderant role Latin American and Caribbean nations, and the European Union are likely to play in the creation of a new international order, and how central multilateralism is to this process.

María de Lourdes Dieck Assad, *The Third Latin American and the Caribbean-European Union Summit: The Forging of a Strategic Bi-regional Partnership*

Here, the author analyzes the context, issues and results of the Third Latin American and the Caribbean-European Union (LAC-EU) Summit from the perspective of the strategic bi-regional partnership that is in the process of being consolidated between these nations. In the author's view, the Guadalajara Summit successfully managed to

focus the attention of both regions on what they are capable of achieving together in the fields of politics, economics and cooperation. The leading role of Mexico's diplomatic corps as interlocutor and negotiator in this process is also described, in addition to several innovations in the format of the LAC-EU Summits.

The main challenge facing this partnership is to implement and follow up on the commitments undertaken in the Declaration of Guadalajara. This document, which the author analyzes in depth, is an updated vignette of the dynamics, reciprocal priorities, scope and challenges of the bi-regional agenda. As regards the central issues of the Third Summit —multilateralism and social cohesion—, the author underlines the fundamental importance of political dialogue and reaching consensus at regional and global forums. In the sphere of economics, the ideal scenario would be for trade negotiations between the European Union and the different sub-regions of Latin America and the Caribbean to be successfully concluded. Furthermore, methods of cooperation between the two regions need to be strengthened, particularly in the areas of social cohesion, the sharing of scientific and technological know-how and education.

Martha Bárcena Coqui, *New Actors in the Forging of a Strategic Bi-regional LAC-EU Partnership: The Importance of Preparatory Meetings*

In this text, the author gives us a rundown of the increasing participation of non-State actors in the forging of a strategic bi-regional partnership, with particular emphasis being placed on their contribution to preparatory work for the Guadalajara Summit. These preparatory meetings were related to the issues of multilateralism and social cohesion, both of which were central concerns of the Third LAC-EU Summit. The author goes on to point out that the success of this bi-

regional relationship depends on political dialogue, economic partnerships and cooperation between the governments of these nations, in addition to the participation of non-State actors. As regards the latter, she mentions the Rio Summit as a precedent that establishes the importance of these preparatory meetings to bi-regional relations and how they have helped strengthen this relationship. A concise report of the reunions is provided, the purpose of which was to institutionalize preparatory meetings, promote dialogue among the different actors, encourage debate on priority issues, and improve mutual understanding and bi-regional dialogue. Their outcome, she says, was of vital importance to the negotiations that culminated in the Declaration of Guadalajara. The challenge, she concludes, is to find a mechanism that guarantees the recommendations and commitments undertaken will be followed up on.

Lorena Ruano, *The Enlargement of the European Union and the Challenges and Opportunities this presents for Mexico and Latin America*

The author explains how the enlargement of the European Union presents a series of challenges and opportunities for Mexico and Latin America in economic and political terms, and in the area of cooperation for development. Economically speaking, Mexico will have the advantage of access to the markets of the 10 new Member States, due to the free trade agreement it has entered into with the European Union. However, Ruano believes trade and investment will be redirected, and that this will make new Member States in Southern and Eastern Europe more attractive. As regards cooperation, enlargement will begin to take its toll on the European Union's budget after 2006, and, consequently, it is highly likely that we will see a reduction in the resources that are currently earmarked for develop-

ment. Finally, the author believes that the most transcendental effects will be in the political and diplomatic arenas; ties with a series of States will be strengthened, but Mexico and Latin America will undoubtedly find themselves facing a new European Union more prone to introspection, with greater geo-strategic and diplomatic weight, and a more decisive, but more difficult role to fulfill.

*Jordi Bacaria Colom, A European Perception of the Third Latin American and the Caribbean-European Union Summit: Spain's Perspective*

This article reflects on the Third LAC-EU Summit in the context of the change of government in Spain, in April, 2004. The author discusses the radical turnaround in Spain's foreign policy toward Europe, the Mediterranean and Latin America. He then proceeds to review the First LAC-EU Summit, which took place in Rio de Janeiro, and the progress that has been made in the forging of a strategic bi-regional partnership, in addition to the European Parliament's participation in the political debate. He also refers to Mexico's economic relations with the European Union, and the latter's relations with Latin America. The participation of the United States is discussed in the same context, as is the importance of Central American countries and the Andean Community. According to the author, Latin America has been given pride of place in Spain's foreign policy since the late eighties and the relationship between the new Spanish government and the Franco-German nucleus, added to the country's reclaimed role as an actor in the European construction process, could lead us to believe that this Third Summit heralds a new phase in the European Union's relations with Latin America and the Caribbean.

Carlos Ballesteros, *Latin America and Europe, Modernity and Integration*

This essay focuses on an understanding of integration processes as different facets of modernity, and suggests measures that could be taken to build a solid partnership between Latin America and Europe. The author stresses the importance this regional dimension has taken on in recent years, to the extent that it has redefined the disciplinary field of international relations. It is in this context that he analyzes the current situation of Europe and Latin America, from the weight of each bloc's individual problems to points of common interest in the international arena. Among other aspects, there are three basic areas that need to be focused on in order to take relations between the two regions to the next step: the strengthening of multilateralism; the structuring of policies that favor social cohesion; and the promotion of regional and sub-regional integration in Latin America. The author concludes by underlining the fact that political will is essential to cooperation between Latin America and Europe in every sphere.

Gerardo Lozano Arredondo and Jesús Velázquez Castillo, *Cooperation between Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union. The Rocky Road toward a Strategic Bi-regional Partnership*

Within the framework of the Third LAC-EU Summit, the authors analyze bi-regional relations between these two blocs, particularly as regards the issue of cooperation. The article begins with an overview of the main instruments and mechanisms that comprise the judicial and operative structure of cooperation between the two regions, and the most outstanding contributions of the Guadalajara Summit in

this regard. This is followed by a review of issues relating to bi-regional cooperation, and the content and application of horizontal cooperation programs implemented by the European Commission. According to the authors, among the challenges facing bi-regional cooperation are: the drawing up of a single, long-term strategy and the design of projects that actively involve the two regions, all on a par with the effective application of the principle of bi-regionalism. Finally, they stress the advisability of creating a regional mechanism for dialogue that: guides both regions down the path to a functional strategic partnership; keeps the European Union permanently interested in Latin America, and raises Latin America to the top of the European Union's list of interests and priorities.

Gloria Moreno, *The New Europe and its Policy of Cooperating in the Development of Latin America and the Caribbean*

This article analyzes the objectives of the New Europe in the sphere of economic cooperation and efforts to promote the development of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). The leading role of this economic bloc in terms of international solidarity is undeniable, reason why the author emphasizes the importance of the European Council in the search for better cooperation as regards the contribution of Member States, and in ensuring Europe plays a more efficient role in Latin America. As concerns the debate on cooperation for development, she mentions a recent community strategy that ties economic cooperation in with foreign trade. In the author's view, the inclusion of international trade treaties in the EU agenda could have positive implications for our region, due to the importance of trade to economic growth, provided greater support is given to Latin American countries seeking to establish themselves in the world economy. Latin American countries, she says, should be aware of recent EU

economic and social cohesion policies. Meanwhile, the European Union, on assuming the challenge of its ambitious enlargement project, requires the economic convergence of recently incorporated Member States, but cannot allow this to affect its economic competitiveness on the international arena. Learning more about these community policies could be of great use to Latin American nations in their battle against poverty and marginalization.

Sergio Aguirre Zamora, *The Increased Powers of the European Parliament in the Nineties*

This article explains how the powers of the European Parliament were extended in the period between the coming into effect of the Treaty on European Union (TEU, 1993) and the beginning of negotiations on the Treaty of Amsterdam (TA, 1996). The term “powers” is understood here to mean the participation of the European Parliament in the selection process for the President of the European Commission, a power that was first exercised in 1994 to approve the candidature of Jacques Santer, and the legislative power of the European Parliament, which is counterbalanced by a co-decision procedure. The latter grants the European Parliament veto power over the Council of Ministers (the representative body of the Member States and the main decision-making body). Both these powers were established in the Treaty on European Union and were amended in the Treaty of Amsterdam, with a view to strengthening the role of the Parliament in the taking of community decisions. The article explains how the European Parliament exercised these new powers, marking out the path for the subsequent modifications that were ratified with the signing of the Treaty of Amsterdam in 1997.