

EU-LAC Foundation

During their VI EU-Latin America and the Caribbean Summit, that will take place in Madrid on 18 May¹, Heads of State and Government will announce the creation of the European Union-Latin America and Caribbean (EU-LAC) Foundation. The EU-LAC Foundation will contribute to the strengthening of the EU-LAC bi-regional partnership process involving participation and inputs of civil society and other social actors to encourage further mutual knowledge, understanding and visibility between both regions. Launching activities and fostering new networking opportunities among civil society actors will be the basis of the Foundation's tasks. This new institution will be financially supported by EU-LAC countries and the European Commission.

President Barroso said: *“The Foundation will be central to the development of the relations between the EU and Latin America. It will bring together our ideas and initiatives, involving all stakeholders, including civil society. The Foundation will give our Partnership the visibility it deserves.”*

During the V EU-LAC Summit in Lima, it was decided “to consider the creation of an EU-LAC Foundation conceived as a trigger for debate on common strategies and actions aimed at strengthening our bi-regional partnership as well as enhancing its visibility”. With this view, leaders set up an Open Bi-Regional Working Group to discuss and agree on a proposal for the Foundation. Their proposal will be discussed by the leaders in Madrid.

VI EU-Latin America and the Caribbean Summit web site

http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/lac/index_en.htm

¹ See IP/10/XXX. Latin America and the EU towards a new stage in their Strategic Partnership – VI EU-LAC Summit. (¿qué documento es este, Concha? Gracias)