

The Rio Summit

1. The Rio Summit – June 1999

The first Summit between the Heads of State and Government of Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union was held in the city of Rio de Janeiro on 28 and 29 June 1999.

The objective of the Summit was to foster **political, economic and cultural understanding** between the two regions in order to develop a strategic partnership, focusing on:

- strengthening representative and participatory democracy and individual freedom;
- the rule of law, good governance and pluralism;
- international peace and security;
- political stability and building confidence among nations.

Among the **decisions taken at the Summit**, the following are particularly noteworthy:

In the political field

- Reinforce institutional dialogue between the two regions;
- Preserve democracy and promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedom;
- Work together to address the threats to international peace and security.

In the economic field

- Strengthen the multilateral trade system, open regionalism and intensify economic relations between the two regions;
- Promote liberalisation of trade as a means of increasing prosperity and of combating the destabilising effects of volatile financial flows;
- Give special attention, support and incentives for productive investment to countries with smaller economies.

In the cultural, educational, scientific, technological social and human fields

- Promote the rehabilitation, preservation and knowledge of the two regions' enormous cultural heritage;
- Promote universal access to education;
- Promote and preserve cultural diversity.