SANTIAGO DECLARATION ON UNIVERSITY COOPERATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

AND

PROPOSALS TO THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT OF THE CELAC-EU SUMMIT
Introduction

The universities, study and research centers and academics of Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union countries, gathered in Santiago de Chile for the First Academic Summit LAC-UE, analyzed the state of university cooperation in the current context of profound changes in our society and the challenges it arises for our educational mission, the knowledge generation and the prospects of cooperation between higher education institutions and study and research centers of both regions, in the framework of the strategic partnership between Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union.

We thank the Organizing Committee of the Chilean universities, and especially the Central University of Chile, the Latin American Center for Relations with Europe (CELARE), the Institute of the Americas (IdA), France, the national authorities of Latin America and the European Union, the EU-LAC Foundation and the sponsors for supporting the organization of this First Academic Summit. In particular, we highlight the hospitality and organizational capacity of the Chilean national and private universities, thereby expressing their high commitment to this initiative.
Foundations and background

Higher education, science, technology, academic research and innovation should be a cornerstone of the strategic partnership of Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union, as it has been emphasized in various international, regional and bi-regional conferences on higher education that have been held in the last fifteen years.

This partnership is based on shared values such as the preservation of peace, freedom and democracy, human rights, the promotion of culture and the respect for the diversity of cultural expressions, the importance attached to education and the assessment of knowledge, considered as essential axes to enhance sustainable development, to bridge the social gap and to promote gender equality.

Committed to provide quality in the education of our youth and to the generation of knowledge that contributes to the development of our societies, we confirm that there is a wide range of topics of common interest to the higher education institutions and study and research centers in both regions, including in areas such as social inclusion, quality of education at all levels, accreditation and recognition of degrees and diplomas, professional ratings, development of basic and applied research, innovation, university-industry relations, among others.

The exchange of experiences, the partnership between regions for academic and research programs and the mobility of students and academics are essential tools to perform our mission, so the governments´ commitment to promoting these links at all levels is essential
especially in supporting programs like Erasmus for All, Horizon 2020, Education 2021, based on experience gathered in the framework science and technology programs, such as Erasmus, Erasmus Mundus, Alpha, and others.

The history of academic exchanges between our both regions and their importance has been recognized by the heads of state and government of the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean, in Rio de Janeiro in 1999, giving to the fields of higher education, science and technology, a priority that has been consistently confirmed in the following Summits, with major new decisions, such as the creation of the Euro-Latin American Knowledge Space and the Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation.

Consequently, the conference of ministers of higher education of the ALCUE countries, held in Paris in November 2000, considered "necessary to have a framework of action for the emergence of a common Euro-Latin American higher education space that aims to facilitating knowledge sharing, technology transfer and students, researchers and educational and administrative staff free movement".

The increasing proliferation of initiatives, thirteen years after the start of the process of institutionalized academic cooperation between Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union, illustrates the commitment and dynamism of the institutions, which create favorable conditions for a new impetus to this important process.

The participation of a significant number of institutions in the preparatory seminars of this First Academic Summit, held in the Institute of the Americas in Paris on June 7, and in the College of Engineers of Peru in Lima on
October 8 and 9, 2012, allowed a significant progress in the common reflection on the objectives and impacts of cooperation between higher education institutions of both regions.

All this has led higher education institutions, study and research centers, cooperation networks and academics to actively respond to the call made by CELARE, the Institute of the Americas and the International Organizing Committee composed by universities and centers of both regions, to be part of this First Academic Summit.
THEREFORE

We express the strong willingness of universities, cooperation networks and centers, and academics, gathered here, to enhance through convergence and coordination of their work, a "Euro-Latin American space for higher education, science, technology and innovation".

We embrace the different experiences of networks and associations of higher education institutions as well as the proposal of the "Act of Lima on Academic Cooperation EU-LAC", appointed on October 9, 2012, for the creation of a "Permanent EU-LAC Academic Forum" to ensure the continuity, the monitoring and the promotion of joint activities and, in particular, to contribute to the organization of the following Academic Summits, opened to all academic institutions of Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union that express interest and whose field of action is higher education, science, technology, research and innovation, maintaining close cooperation with the European Union - Latin America and the Caribbean Foundation (EU-LAC).

We consider as very important the integration in the Permanent Academic Forum of EU-LAC’s centers, units, networks or workgroup created in different institutions of both regions, as well as the promotion for the creation of cooperation references in the institutions of higher education that join the Forum.

We recognize and support the continued work of the International Organizing Committee of the Academic Summit, created in Paris during the First Preparatory Seminar, and the
coordination tasks undertaken jointly by the CELARE and the IdA, constituted as Executive Secretariat of the Permanent Academic Forum, standing with the task of developing proposals for the First Summit, an Action Plan to propose guide lines to the participating institutions, and preparing the implementation of the next edition of the Academic Summit along with institutions of higher education and centers of the country hosting the Second CELAC-EU Summit.

On this basis and background

WE PROPOSE TO THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT AND TO ALL INTEGRATING INSTITUTIONS, GATHERED FOR THE FIRST CELAC-EU SUMMIT:

1. TO DEVELOP THE EURO-LATIN AMERICAN SPACE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION, CREATING REGULATORY AND FINANCIAL CONDITIONS, among others, throughout:

   a) Opportunities of bi-regional funding for cooperation in higher education, science, technology and innovation, developing synergies and coordinated calls between programs and initiatives of several international institutions and national governments.

2. TO STRENGTHEN THE INTEGRATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEMS, throughout:

   a) The training, mobility and exchanges of students, educational and professional staff as well as educational, scientific and technological cooperation, in a long term perspective and reciprocity, in order to deepen cooperation to facilitate the Euro-Latin American exchanges in higher education,
research and innovation for an inclusive and sustainable development.

b) A system of accreditation in higher education common to all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union, with benchmarks and indicators of quality in research, training and internationalization, according to criteria of academic excellence, and collecting experiences of European, Latin American and Caribbean rating agencies.

c) The coordination of the recognition of studies and undergraduate and graduate diplomas systems in both regions.

d) A certification "LAC-EU Academic Common Space" to enhance Euro-American co-degrees, joint master degrees and doctorate, on the basis of excellence.

e) The creation of a bi-regional program dedicated to vocational training, and the promotion of the establishment of vocational and higher technical training centers, with comparable curricula, degrees, diplomas and qualifications.

f) The LAC-EU inter-university cooperation, valuing the experiences and results of programs with the characteristics of ALFA and ALBAN, reserving resources within the ERASMUS FOR ALL, HORIZON 2020 Program, and in national and regional programs and the integration schemes of the countries, with a view to strengthening the academic pillar of the strategic bi-regional partnership.

g) The student mobility in Latin America and the Caribbean, with the dual aim to completing the training of undergraduate and graduate students, as well as strengthening the Latin American and Caribbean identity. In
this sense, the European experience of the Erasmus program is a valuable precedent.

3. TO PROMOTE THE INTEGRATION OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH AND INNOVATION SYSTEMS, throughout:

a) Bi-regional transdisciplinary programs in research and innovation, considering the problems of social and sustainable development.

b) The coordination, within the framework of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), of policies in the fields of science, technology, innovation and scientific and technological research, as a support to the regional integration process.

c) National systems of research, science, technology and innovation of the highest rank, with adequate resources and mechanisms.

d) The participation of Latin American and Caribbean universities, study and research centers and academics, together with their counterparts from the European Union under the Framework Program for Research and Innovation Horizon 2020, and the Joint Initiative for Research and Innovation, focused on topics of common interest, such as environment and climate change, sustainable management of the biodiversity, food security, fighting inequality and poverty, global governance, justice and human rights, gender equality, supporting the creation of mechanisms of research and higher education on these topics.

4. TO ENHANCE COLLABORATION BETWEEN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND THEIR RELATIONS WITH THE SOCIETY AND THE INDUSTRY, throughout:
a) Bi-regional organizations for cooperation and partnerships, enabling joint efforts of governments, higher education institutions, social organizations and the business community to promote interdisciplinary meetings, consortia and networks to enhance the diffusion of successful programs.

b) Dialogue strengthening and interaction between academia and governments in order to create suitable conditions to improve public policies in the context of fair and sustainable development.

c) The link between universities and companies, at a local scale (region, city, territory) in both regions, to develop research, vocational training and technology transfer in order to enhance the productivity and competitiveness of micro, small and medium companies, with a view to creating quality jobs.

d) Collaborative initiatives for education, innovation and internationalization based on new information technologies and communication.

Santiago de Chile, January 23, 2013