

BRIDGING DIALOGUES FOR A UNIFIED TRILATERAL AGENDA: THE EU-CELAC SUMMIT AND THE SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS



by MARÍA FERNANDA ROBAYO and DIEGO AREA



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The report, “Bridging Horizons between the EU-CELAC Summit and the Summit of the Americas 2025,” emphasizes the urgent need to strengthen connections between Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), the United States (US), and Europe, and proposes a pathway to achieve this.

As a Member of Club de Madrid, dedicated to fostering a more integrated, equitable, and sustainable world, I am proud to present this report. The global challenges we face—from climate change and inequality to threats against democratic governance—require united, cooperative responses. Now, more than ever, collaboration among the European Union (EU), LAC, and the US is essential to uphold the shared values that form the foundation of our societies.

These regions share deep-rooted historical, cultural, and political bonds that underpin their commitment to democracy, the rule of law, and human rights. Yet, as we face unprecedented global challenges, the risk of overlooking these synergies grows. We must ensure that pressing concerns do not overshadow the essential work of building a united future.

In this spirit of unity, Spain plays a particularly important role as a bridge between the EU, LAC, and the US. With its strong historical, cultural, and political connections to both Europe and the Americas, Spain is uniquely positioned to lead initiatives that strengthen dialogue and collaboration between these regions. At a time when democracy faces challenges across the globe, Spain’s leadership in promoting common values, fostering regional integration, and addressing shared challenges is more critical than ever.

The alignment of priorities across these regions presents an opportunity to advance sustainable development, economic resilience, digital transformation, and democratic governance. By fostering trilateral cooperation, we can confront the complex issues of our time with collective strength, ensuring that the values we share guide efforts toward a more secure and prosperous future.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to the Club de Madrid Members and Advisors, the Adrienne Arsht Latin America Center and Europe Center of the Atlantic Council, the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union, and Cooperation, and all the experts who contributed to this report. Together, we are reinforcing the importance of dialogue, partnership, and multilateralism as we work toward a future that upholds the principles of democracy and cooperation that unite us.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Alvarado', with a long, sweeping underline that extends downwards and to the left.

Carlos Alvarado Quesada | Member of Club de Madrid
President of Costa Rica (2018–2022)

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The EU-CELAC Summit and the Summit of the Americas serve as essential platforms for fostering trilateral cooperation among the European Union (EU), Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), and the United States (US).

While challenges remain, such as differing regional priorities, these forums offer critical opportunities to align shared interests in democratic governance, sustainable development, economic resilience, global cooperation, and digital transition.

Deepened cooperation across these regions, building on shared values of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, can address global challenges through multilateral frameworks.

To further advance this goal, [Club de Madrid \(CdM\)](#) and the Atlantic Council's [Adrienne Arsht Latin America Center](#) and [Europe Center](#) launched the initiative "Bridging Horizons between the EU-CELAC Summit and the Summit of the Americas 2025," with a focus on aligning the agendas of these key Summits and fostering sustained cooperation. This initiative gains particular importance as the 2025 Summit of the Americas in the Dominican Republic coincides with the EU-CELAC Summit in Colombia.

Supported by Spain's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union, and Cooperation, the project addressed strategic needs to enhance international cooperation, streamline development efforts, and promote more efficient global governance. By coordinating the Summits' priorities, the initiative aimed to propose recommendations to optimize resources, avoid redundancy, and strengthen multilateralism, positioning the European Union and the Americas as leaders in global cooperation.

Spain's pivotal role as a European, transatlantic, and Ibero-American actor is crucial in fostering dialogue and finding common ground between these regions, reinforcing its strategic importance in trilateral cooperation.

By consulting a high-level, multi-stakeholder group of former heads of government and state, policymakers, business leaders, and civil society representatives, Club de Madrid and the Atlantic Council propose seven actionable recommendations for aligning the Summits' agendas.

The following seven recommendations are critical to ensuring these Summits drive effective collaboration:

RECOMMENDATIONS

1

ENHANCING CIVIL SOCIETY AND PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT THROUGH ALIGNMENT OF EXISTING MECHANISMS

- Coordinate the Summit of the Americas' Civil Society Forum and CEO Summit with the EU-CELAC Civil Society and Business Forums for more cohesive and inclusive engagement.
- Prioritize issues like supply chain integration, workforce development, and sustainable growth, particularly by enhancing European private sector involvement in energy transition initiatives.
- Maintain civil society involvement before, during, and after the Summits, ensuring accountability and sustained dialogue.

2

STRENGTHENING EU-LAC ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIPS THROUGH SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE, TRADE EXPANSION, AND JOINT FINANCING INITIATIVES

- Position LAC as a strategic partner for the EU, leveraging the potential of the possible ratification of the EU-Mercosur agreement to deepen trade and investment ties.
- Invest in clean energy transitions to help LAC diversify its economies, embrace sustainability, and create opportunities for innovation and job creation.
- Push for reforms in the international financial architecture to provide LAC with better access to resources and improved debt management.

3

ENHANCING DIGITAL AND GREEN TRANSITIONS BETWEEN THE EU AND LAC THROUGH SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP

- With Kaja Kallas nominated as the new EU High Representative, digital governance and e-governance cooperation with LAC must be prioritized. Kallas' focus on digital governance, inspired by Estonia's global leadership in the field, positions these topics as key areas for EU-LAC cooperation.
- Collaborate with Denmark's presidency of the Council of the EU in 2025 to enhance cooperation on environmental and sustainable development policies, addressing shared challenges.

4

ESTABLISHING A TRILATERAL PROGRAM FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION (STI) TO FOSTER COOPERATION BETWEEN LAC, THE US, AND THE EU

- Develop a trilateral program between LAC, the US, and the EU to address critical challenges like climate change and digital transformation, backed by robust education systems.
- Align with forums like Latin American and Caribbean Open Science Forum (CILAC) and seek backing from international organizations such as the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC), and the Latin American Development Bank (CAF) for broader support.
- Gain political endorsement at the upcoming Summits and create a working committee to develop an implementation plan by early 2025.

5

ENHANCING TRILATERAL COOPERATION FOR REGIONAL COMMITMENT AND INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

- Leverage the X Summit of the Americas to strengthen participation from regional governments and create an inclusive platform, counterbalancing other international partnerships lacking substantial outcomes.
- Strengthening democratic institutions, enhancing political transparency, and fostering citizen participation, particularly among youth and women are crucial. Additionally, urgent focus areas must include digital policy and governance, especially cybersecurity, to protect the digital infrastructure critical to economies and political systems across the regions.
- Prioritize trilateral cooperation to combat organized crime in regions like Central America and the Caribbean, with the Dominican Republic taking a leadership role as host of the Summit of the Americas 2025.

6

ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO INSTITUTIONALIZE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS AND THE EU-CELAC SUMMIT TO ENHANCE COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION

- Its main objective is to establish a structured platform for dialogue and cooperation among nations and key stakeholders (private sector, civil society, multilateral organizations).
- The task force will develop a concrete agenda of engagements leading up to both Summits.

7

STRENGTHENING SPAIN'S STRATEGIC ROLE IN BRIDGING EU, US, AND LAC COOPERATION

- Spain should continue to use its transatlantic and Ibero-American ties to lead initiatives addressing global challenges, such as climate change, security, trade, and migration.
- Spain's leadership should emphasize inclusive dialogue on inequality, technology, and governance, while encouraging common agendas on sustainable development and digital transformation.
- Spain should deepen its economic and diplomatic outreach in LAC and the US, reinforcing its role as a key facilitator of transatlantic relations and in global debates on cybersecurity and energy transitions.

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QUOTES

FRANCISCO SAGASTI

MEMBER OF CLUB DE MADRID
PRESIDENT OF PERU (2020-2021)

“To tackle global challenges like climate change and digital transformation, we must foster stronger cooperation between Latin America, the US, and Europe in science, technology, and innovation. A trilateral program aligned with key forums like CILAC could drive impactful solutions for these regions.”

CARLOS ALVARADO

MEMBER OF CLUB DE MADRID
PRESIDENT OF COSTA RICA (2028-2022)

“Decarbonizing supply chains between the US, the EU, and the LAC region is crucial to advancing the global green transition. LAC can diversify its economies and position itself as a leader in the green economy if embracing renewable energy and sustainable practices. This collaboration will reduce emissions while unlocking innovation, job creation, and sustainable growth for both sides of the Atlantic.”

DANILO TÜRK

PRESIDENT OF CLUB DE MADRID AND PRESIDENT OF SLOVENIA (2007-2012)

“Reforming the international financial architecture is critical to unlocking the full potential of Latin America and the Caribbean. A fairer global financial system will not only bolster LAC’s long-term stability but also strengthen global economic resilience. This is a shared interest that the US and the EU must prioritize for more equitable partnerships.”

LAURA CHINCHILLA

MEMBER OF CLUB DE MADRID AND PRESIDENT OF COSTA RICA (2010-2014)

“Strengthening democracy requires us to tackle the corrosive influence of organized crime, particularly in Central America and the Caribbean. This transnational threat erodes institutions, fuels violence, and destabilizes communities.”

INTRODUCTION

In the current global context marked by complex geopolitical challenges, multilateralism is at once the most challenged in modern history and the most necessary. With issues such as climate change, digital transformation, energy security, and threats to democracy affecting countries worldwide, no country can effectively address these challenges in isolation. This is where reinvigorating existing platforms and creating new synergies between like-minded regions—namely the United States (US), Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), and the European Union (EU)—is most effective.

These three regions share common values, including a commitment to democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, as well as mutual interests in sustainable development and economic integration. By regularizing dialogue and fostering deeper policy alignment through multilateral platforms, they can leverage their collective influence, pool resources, and exchange expertise to tackle global problems more effectively, ensuring that their values and priorities are effectively represented on the world stage.

Collaboration between the US, LAC, and the EU represents not only a strategic alignment of interests but also a powerful force for upholding the international rules-based order and promoting global stability.

[Club de Madrid \(CdM\)](#), through its Members, democratically elected former heads of state and government, and the [Atlantic Council](#), with its dedication to Atlanticism, have taken significant steps toward strengthening these regional ties, united in their shared commitment to promoting democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. Building on the values of inclusive governance and multilateral engagement, both organizations are focused on fostering deeper collaboration through existing platforms.

Between June and October 2023, Club de Madrid and the [Atlantic Council](#) successfully implemented the project “[Spain: A Driver for Broadened Transatlantic Relations](#)” with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union, and Cooperation of Spain. The initiative aimed to strengthen the relations between the EU and LAC, within the framework of [Spain’s rotating presidency](#) of the Council of the European Union during 2023, while also integrating the US as a key geopolitical ally. The project emphasized the expansion of a Euro-American partnership capable of addressing shared global challenges.

Drawing on consultations with [Members](#) and [Advisors](#) of Club de Madrid, [Atlantic Council experts](#), and key stakeholders from governments, academia, civil society, and the private sector, the project identified successful cooperation practices across EU-LAC, LAC-US, and US-EU relations. These discussions culminated in a set of nine strategic recommendations, presented in the report “[Galvanizing Spain’s Presidency for the Next Chapter: Multilateralism, Green Transition, and Digital Transformation](#)”. The recommendations focused on three pillars: (i) defending democracy, human rights, the rule of law, and a rules-based international order; (ii) advancing the green energy transition; and (iii) fostering digital transformation.

A critical recommendation from the report was the proposal to establish a permanent dialogue framework between the EU-CELAC ([Community of Latin American and Caribbean States](#)) Summit and the Summit of the Americas to address the growing need for enhanced trilateral cooperation between Europe, LAC, and the United States after the 2023 edition of the project uncovered the unfulfilled potential of deeper collaboration among the regions.

As a result, Club de Madrid and the Atlantic Council launched the new initiative ‘Bridging Horizons between the EU-CELAC Summit and the Summit of the Americas 2025’. Looking ahead to 2025, this initiative gains even greater significance, as the [Summit of the Americas in the Dominican Republic](#) coincides with the [EU-CELAC Summit in Colombia](#). Supported once again by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union, and Cooperation of Spain, Club de Madrid and the Atlantic Council launched a new phase of the project to explore concrete mechanisms for aligning the agendas of these Summits, fostering synergies, and promoting sustained cooperation on a structural level.

This proposal responds to several fundamental strategic and practical needs to enhance international cooperation, rationalize development efforts, and promote more efficient global governance. As such, coordination between the Summits could translate into the optimization of resources and avoiding redundancies in agendas and efforts, both of which are vital in the face of transnational challenges that require significant international cooperation. Furthermore, aligning some of the priorities and strategies of these Summits would strengthen the multilateral system by coordinating joint proposals in other platforms, such as the UN General Assembly, to reach more effective global solutions.

This plan to increase the amount of dialogue and coordination would also expand the influence and impact of Summits’ resolutions at the international level, increasing the leverage of the EU and the Americas as examples of multilateral cooperation. Key takeaways from such partnerships could contribute directly to other areas of transregional collaboration such as climate policy, investment promotion, and cooperation in the broader fields of science, technology, and innovation (STI). By sharing best practices and leveraging local expertise through concerted political dialogue, the EU, United States, and LAC will contribute more effectively to address some of the most pressing global challenges, including the [twin transition](#), within and beyond this trilateral relationship.

To achieve this, Club de Madrid and the Atlantic Council in 2024 reconvened a high-level, multi-stakeholder group composed of former heads of state and government, policymakers, business leaders, and civil society representatives from Europe, the US, and LAC, who proposed actionable recommendations to address the three regions’ strategic challenges in order to find ways of potential alignment between the Summits’ agendas.

Spain’s central role as a European, transatlantic, and Ibero-American actor was crucial in fostering dialogue and identifying common ground between these regions, reinforcing the importance of presence of Spain in any debate that involves the inclusion of the EU, the US, and LAC.

CONTEXT



As we approach the end of 2024, the global landscape is marked by heightened [geopolitical tensions](#), rapid [technological transformations](#), [environmental crises](#), and [shifting economic dynamics](#). These developments are shaping the international context, impacting global cooperation efforts, and driving policy agendas across countries and regions. In this context, trilateral dialogue among the EU, the US, and LAC is no longer a luxury; it is necessary if governments wish to effectively address these challenges which require multilateral solutions.



4.1.

GEOPOLITICAL TENSIONS AND POWER SHIFTS

The [geopolitical rivalry](#) between the US and China continues to have profound effects on trade, security, and technology. One of the most critical areas of competition is the [semiconductor industry](#). The US has imposed export controls to prevent China from accessing advanced chip technology, exemplified by restrictions on companies like NVIDIA and ASML. In response, China has accelerated its domestic semiconductor production, [investing billions](#) to reduce its dependence on foreign technology. This battle for supremacy in semiconductor manufacturing has far-reaching consequences for industries ranging from telecommunications to defense systems.

Artificial intelligence (AI) represents another domain where US-China rivalry is playing out. China has laid out an [ambitious plan](#) to become the world leader in AI by 2030, with investments in facial recognition technology and smart city infrastructure. The US, meanwhile, has sought to maintain its lead by forming partnerships between private companies and the government, exemplified by initiatives like the [National AI Research Institutes](#).

At the same time, [Russia's invasion of Ukraine](#) has reshaped Europe's energy landscape. The EU, heavily reliant on Russian gas, was forced to seek alternative energy sources. The war has also sparked a food crisis, with Russia's blockade of Ukrainian grain exports exacerbating global food insecurity, particularly in regions like Africa and the Middle East. In response, the [Black Sea Grain Initiative](#), brokered by the UN, sought to reopen vital trade routes.

In the Middle East, the ongoing [Israel-Hamas conflict](#) has deepened instability, with widespread humanitarian consequences in Gaza and Lebanon. This conflict also risks broader regional escalation, particularly given Iran's support for Hamas and Hezbollah. The resulting instability has strained diplomatic efforts, including the [Abraham Accords](#), while also affecting global energy markets as oil prices fluctuate in response to the potential threat to supply chains.

Amid these global challenges, LAC emerges as a strategic player in energy and food security. The region, rich in natural resources and agricultural potential, presents an opportunity for both the United States and Europe to diversify their supply chains and reduce dependency on regions in geopolitical turmoil.

The [US-EU Trade and Technology Council](#), launched in 2021, is an example of transatlantic efforts to collaborate on digital infrastructure and supply chain resilience. Incorporating LAC into these strategies could further bolster the region's integration into global supply chains, reducing dependency on politically volatile areas.

Finally, LAC's role in climate action is pivotal. Brazil's Amazon rainforest—often referred to as “[Earth's lungs](#)”—is critical to global efforts to reduce carbon emissions. Reforestation and sustainable management of this region are essential to meeting international climate goals. The US and EU have both recognized the importance of this cooperation, as demonstrated by their joint pledges to fund preservation initiatives at COP26.

With China's [deepening economic engagement](#) in LAC, particularly through infrastructure investments, the US and the EU have renewed their focus on [building stronger relationships](#) in the region. Trade between China and LAC surged from \$18 billion in 2002 to a staggering \$450 billion in 2022. Beijing's aggressive economic strategy, particularly in the electric vehicle sector, nearly doubled its export value to LAC between 2021 and 2023 alone. China's [Belt and Road Initiative](#)—the crown jewel of Xi Jinping's foreign policy—has already made its mark on the region, with [22 countries](#) signing onto the platform.

Washington and Brussels are closely monitoring these developments as LAC nations, eager to attract significant investments in transportation and green infrastructure, find themselves entangled in increasing competition for influence. However, instead of purely

beneficial outcomes, these partnerships have often led to “debt diplomacy” and environmental degradation from opaque extraction projects.

The United States and Europe therefore see an undeniable strategic objective in fostering trilateral cooperation with LAC, to [maintain a competitive foothold](#) in the region while offering LAC diversified options for development partnerships that benefit the people of the region, following good governance structures and transparent regulatory approaches which ensure environmental standards are upheld.

Europe has recognized this and recently stepped up its game. Through the [Global Gateway investment agenda](#), the EU has promised nearly [€50 billion](#) of investments in LAC from 2021 to 2027, supporting targeted, high-quality projects such as improving public transport systems in Costa Rica and Colombia; expanding telecommunications networks in Brazil and Jamaica; and upgrading electricity networks in Panama and Paraguay. These are key sectors which will tangibly benefit LAC societies and economies across the region. The EU should build on this positive momentum and work closer with parallel US efforts seeking to accomplish the same local-level and strategic goals.

4.2.

ECONOMIC TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

Geopolitical tensions continue to pose a considerable economic challenge, for [Europe](#) as well as the [broader financial stability around the world](#). With numerous major [elections](#) taking place in 2024, policy uncertainty remains elevated worldwide. In this context, the likelihood of unexpected [economic and financial shocks](#) is higher, leaving the financial stability of the Eurozone particularly vulnerable.

Persistent inflationary pressures, exacerbated by supply chain disruptions, energy crises, and labor shortages, are challenging the global economy. Central banks, particularly in the US and the EU, have worked to balance [interest rate hikes and cuts](#) with concerns over recession, which has a [direct impact](#) on emerging economies and global trade flows.

Countries and companies are increasingly focusing on “[de-risking](#)” their supply chains, particularly in sectors like technology, energy, and manufacturing. This trend involves reducing dependence on China and other single-source suppliers, benefiting regions like LAC as they become more integrated into global supply chains, especially in the energy and critical minerals sectors.

4.3.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE THREATS

2024 is witnessing record-breaking temperatures, extreme weather events, and worsening environmental degradation. The [COP29 climate summit](#) is likely to focus on reinforcing commitments made under the [Paris Agreement](#), as well as addressing the increasing urgency of climate mitigation, adaptation, and financing.

The global push towards renewable energy is accelerating, driven by the [European Green Deal](#), the [US’s Inflation Reduction Act \(IRA\)](#), and China’s dominance in clean technology manufacturing. However, there remain significant challenges in balancing energy security, particularly in Europe, which continues to rely on energy imports after the disruptions caused by the war in Ukraine.





4.4.

TECHNOLOGICAL TRANSFORMATION AND DIGITAL GOVERNANCE

The rapid development of AI technologies, especially generative AI, is reshaping industries and raising ethical concerns. Governments are grappling with regulatory frameworks regarding AI use, particularly in relation to privacy, surveillance, job displacement, and data sovereignty. The [EU's AI Act](#) and the [discussions on tech regulation in the US](#) are examples of ongoing efforts to address these challenges. In the context of AI regulation in LAC, several countries have taken steps to regulate AI to varying degrees, including [Brazil](#), [Colombia](#), [Chile](#), [Argentina](#), and [Mexico](#).

On the other hand, as states and non-state actors continue to exploit cyber vulnerabilities, cybersecurity has become one of the top global priorities. Increased [cyberattacks](#) on critical infrastructure, data breaches, and the growing importance of digital currencies are pushing governments to fortify their defenses and seek [innovation](#) and cooperation on international norms for digital governance.

4.5.

SHIFTING GLOBAL GOVERNANCE AND MULTILATERALISM

Many today argue that the multilateral world order is at a “dead end,” facing significant challenges. Diplomatic and geostrategic divides between powerful countries and blocs—most notably between the United States and China—have fractured long-established institutions for international policymaking, such as the United Nations (UN), the World Trade Organization (WTO), and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The rise of multipolar forums and blocs, like the G7 and BRICS, further reflects this global fragmentation.

This fragmentation is also evident in the increasing use of unilateral sanctions, trade wars, and regional disputes, which weaken traditional global governance mechanisms that rely on consensus, such as the UN General Assembly and even the UN Security Council.

As global governance faces strain, regional organizations like the [African Union](#) (AU), the [Association of Southeast Asian Nations](#) (ASEAN), and the CELAC are playing more prominent roles. Regional summits and partnerships are becoming more influential, as demonstrated by the inaugural [EU-Gulf Cooperation Council](#) summit in October 2024. When looking specifically at Latin America and the Caribbean, the EU-CELAC Summit and Summit of the Americas both engage more deeply in multilateral dialogue and cooperation across transatlantic regions in times when a true global cooperation is challenging as a result of deep rifts.

4.6.

POLITICAL TRANSITIONS AND ELECTORAL UNCERTAINTY

THE US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN NOVEMBER 2024

The outcome of the 2024 US presidential elections will undoubtedly impact the future trajectory of trilateral relations between the US, the EU, and LAC. A victory of Donald Trump could bring a return to more protectionist foreign policy approaches and potential withdrawal from multilateral engagements as witnessed during his [first Presidency](#), which could strain collaboration with LAC on issues like climate action and migration. Trump's emphasis on "[America First](#)" policies could reduce foreign aid and investment in the region, making LAC more reliant on partnerships with the EU and China.

Conversely, a victory of Kamala Harris, assuming she maintains the Biden administration's commitment to multilateralism, would likely result in continuation of the administration's policies of [re-engagement with LAC](#). Harris is poised to emphasize cooperation on climate change, migration reform, and economic development. Her administration could push for deeper collaboration on renewable energy projects, debt relief, and digital transformation, particularly in alignment with [EU strategies](#) in LAC.

THE CELAC PRESIDENCIES: HONDURAS IN 2024 AND COLOMBIA IN 2025

The rotating presidencies of the CELAC will play a significant role in shaping LAC's broader geopolitical strategy. With the 2024 presidency of Honduras, Central American priorities such as migration, economic stability, and climate resilience are brought to the forefront of discussions. Honduras' leadership emphasizes regional cooperation on addressing the root causes of migration, likely seeking trilateral engagement with the US and the EU on issues of humanitarian aid, governance, and sustainable development.

In 2025, Colombia will assume the CELAC presidency, likely continuing its role as a regional [leader](#) in sustainability and climate action. Given Colombia's commitment to peacebuilding and addressing the climate crisis, its leadership of the CELAC at the time of the 2025 EU-CELAC Summit and the Summit of the Americas will provide momentum for deepening ties on environmental and energy cooperation between the two Summits. Colombia's presidency will be crucial in defining CELAC's role in global climate discussions and fostering greater LAC engagement in renewable energy markets.

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION PRESIDENCIES: HUNGARY (JULY-DECEMBER 2024), POLAND (JANUARY-JUNE 2025), AND DENMARK (JULY-DECEMBER 2025)

As stated in the report “Galvanizing Spain’s Presidency for the Next Chapter: Multilateralism, Green Transition, and Digital Transformation”, the EU’s upcoming Council presidencies throughout 2025 will be responsible for maintaining the political momentum created by Spain in 2023 and will oversee the next EU-CELAC Summit taking place in Colombia. Incorporating a US perspective into this movement would be a major source of leverage for this momentum. The leadership of the EU during this period will significantly influence how transatlantic cooperation progresses not only with the EU and the US, but also with LAC.



HUNGARY (July-December 2024)

Hungary’s priorities focus on several key areas aimed at strengthening the EU’s economic competitiveness, defense industrial capabilities, and “demographic” approach to social and migration policy. In terms of concrete policies, the Hungarian government prioritizes adopting a new European Competitiveness Pact, enhancing Europe’s national defense industries—while curtailing EU-level security competences—and curbing illegal migration by increasing cooperation with third countries, such as Italy with Albania and the UK with Rwanda. Hungary also intends to leverage its long-standing focus on the Western Balkans to advance a “merit-based” enlargement policy, while raising questions about Ukraine’s prospects for EU membership. Additionally, Hungary aims to initiate strategic discussions on the future of EU cohesion policy and pursue a farmer-oriented agricultural policy to ensure food security and sovereignty.



POLAND (January-June 2025)

Poland’s presidency of the Council of the EU, following Hungary, will occur at a critical time of intense global focus on Europe’s external security and defense policy. As a direct neighbor of Ukraine and the country that has accepted more refugees fleeing Russia’s war of aggression than any other, Poland’s strong stance on Ukraine has significantly elevated Warsaw’s status in European and transatlantic policy circles. This is further reinforced by Poland’s involvement in the Weimar Triangle, one of Europe’s leading foreign policy platforms, especially amid the ongoing war in Ukraine. Having this in mind, Poland has already outlined four priorities for its 2025 Council presidency. These include deepening Euro-Atlantic cooperation, the accession of Ukraine and Moldova to the EU, the reconstruction of Ukraine, and a fair energy transformation, with a lens towards Russia’s energy exploitation. As the Polish leadership may emphasize strategic alliances and security partnerships, dialogue with LAC countries on global security and energy cooperation could naturally be elevated. Poland’s focus on energy security could align well with LAC’s renewable energy potential.



DENMARK (July-December 2025)

The Danish government is still in the process of outlining its EU priorities, but as a global leader in green energy and sustainability, its presidency offers a strong opportunity for advancing climate cooperation between the EU, LAC, and the US. Denmark is expected to prioritize environmental sustainability, which aligns with LAC’s push for renewable energy projects and environmental protections, setting a robust platform for trilateral cooperation. Furthermore, it is expected that the two 2025 Summits will be held during Denmark’s presidency, making it crucial for shaping the EU agenda towards LAC but also the US.

THE EU-CELAC SUMMIT AND SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS 2025: CHA- LLENGES AND OPPORTUNI- TIES

The most recent EU-CELAC Summit took place in 2023 after an [eight-year hiatus](#), pushed by Spain's foreign policy leverage holding the Council of the EU presidency. The summit marked a significant milestone in renewing and deepening the partnership between the EU and the CELAC, [focusing](#) on advancing cooperation in critical areas for both blocs such as climate change, the digital transformation, and sustainable development. Key outcomes included commitments to strengthen bi-regional ties through increased investment, support for democratic governance, and collaboration on global challenges like environmental sustainability and social inequality. Leaders also prioritized addressing shared concerns such as energy security and bridging the digital divide.

However, the Summit also highlighted some **divisions** within LAC, particularly regarding the global geopolitical landscape. Some Latin American regimes with close ties to Russia sought to **temper** a strong bi-regional condemnation of Russia's aggression against Ukraine. For example, during the Summit, Cuba and Venezuela advocated for moderating the language in **the final declaration**, resulting in a statement that "express[es] deep concern on the ongoing war against Ukraine," without directly mentioning Russia. This reflects the complexities in aligning regional perspectives on global crises.

Looking ahead to the 2025 EU-CELAC Summit, there is optimism about building on the progress of 2023. With the **commitment** to hold the Summits every two years, expectations are high for further advancing discussions on key issues, with a focus on achieving tangible outcomes, now that the baseline format for dialogue has been re-established. The 2025 Summit presents an important opportunity to enhance cooperation on pressing challenges such as the energy transition, promoting inclusive economic growth, and fostering digital innovation. It also offers a platform for reaffirming shared support for democracy and multilateralism, particularly in an increasingly polarized global environment, although this goal is further complicated by the domestic political landscape in some constituent countries like **Venezuela**.

One critical area of focus during the 2025 EU-CELAC Summit is expected to be **financing for development**, strongly emphasized during the recent Summit of the Future and its **outcome document**, which remains a priority for both regions as they work toward achieving the UN's **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. Establishing a more structured dialogue around this issue could help drive greater alignment between EU-CELAC collaboration and broader global efforts, further institutionalizing the two regions' partnership and ensuring that it remains a cornerstone of transatlantic relations.

Moreover, as the EU's international development policy of the **Global Gateway** complements Europe's broader geopolitical aim of creating a more interconnected world, with sustainable practices and shared values guiding development initiatives, this massive EU investment agenda can boost LAC's unfulfilled potential in global value chains, ultimately making the region more attractive for EU and US businesses seeking sustainable investment opportunities.

Across the Atlantic, the 2025 Summit of the Americas will be a pivotal event for fostering **deeper cooperation** among states in the Western Hemisphere. Building on

the foundations of previous gatherings and a stronger **institutional history** than the EU-CELAC process, the Summit of the Americas provides a crucial platform for leaders from North, Central, and South America, as well as the Caribbean, to address shared challenges such as democratic governance, sustainable development, and economic integration. **Recent Summits** have also focused on key issues like environmental sustainability, migration, and the digital transformation, emphasizing the need to strengthen regional institutions and cooperation to tackle transborder problems.

The 2025 Summit of the Americas will carry a particular significance as it is a timely opportunity to align its agenda with the EU-CELAC Summit in 2025, creating synergies that can drive greater collaboration within the Americas and with the US and the EU. This alignment would offer a unique opportunity to coordinate efforts on urgent issues like social inequality, the energy transition, and the defense of democracy, which are increasingly relevant despite global attention often fixating on hotspot conflicts and polarized politics.

As the EU-CELAC Summit and the Summit of the Americas in 2025 approach, aligning their agendas presents both challenges and opportunities. A key challenge lies in the **lack of institutionalization** within the CELAC, as it lacks a permanent Secretariat and operates largely as a political forum dependent on the rotating presidency. Strengthening CELAC's institutional framework could enhance continuity and coherence in long-term collaboration with the EU and other regions.

Identifying thematic areas of consensus is essential for agenda alignment. **Security**, a shared priority for both Summits, offers a natural starting point for joint discussions. This is particularly relevant since one of the most significant threats currently facing institutions in the LAC region is transnational organized crime, particularly in the realm of **cybersecurity** and **cross-border criminal networks**. International cooperation on these issues is critical, and addressing the growing risks posed by organized crime must be a priority. The Dominican Republic, as the host country of the upcoming Summit of the Americas, is advocating for this topic to be central to the Summit's discussions. The Caribbean region, in particular, is experiencing some of the most **severe impacts**, where the increasing influence of organized criminal activities is undermining the freedom and security of its citizens. Strengthening cybersecurity and promoting coordinated international efforts are essential to counter these threats.

However, identifying other thematic areas to seek consensus is essential for agenda alignment if the three regions are to make the most of this opportunity with each Summit taking place in 2025. Additionally, both Summits can emphasize shared democratic values, reinforcing their commitment to multilateralism, the rule of law, and human rights in an increasingly polarized global context which increasingly strays from these fundamental values in international relations.

One of the most impactful and inclusive ways to do this is to incorporate the private sector and civil society into the Summit's agenda-setting processes, which could take advantage of the existing mechanisms in both Summits to enable this (e.g., [The Civil Society Forum and the CEO Summit](#) within the Summit of the Americas and the EU-CELAC [Civil Society Forum](#), as well as the EU-CELAC [Business Summit](#)). However, both Summits must address the charge that civil society engagement can be fragmented and therefore less impactful due to a lack of institutional organization. On the other hand, aligning the Business Summit of the EU-CELAC with the CEO Summit of the Summit of the Americas, could help bridge this gap, fostering stronger public-private partnerships and thus international economic collaboration.

Simultaneously, there is a growing interest in expanding the Summit of the Americas process to include European companies and civil society organizations in the Civil Society and CEO Summits, which would foster deeper transatlantic cooperation. While political sensitivities remain regarding the participation of leaders of the EU institutions and heads of state and government of the EU member states in the Leaders' Summit, establishing formal collaboration with the European Commission could provide a strategic pathway for high-level European representation in the Summit of the Americas. This could be achieved through the inclusion of the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy as an observer, ensuring constructive engagement while respecting the political dynamics of the Americas.

It is clear, then, that the occurrence of both Summits in 2025 provide a unique opportunity to leverage these existing synergies, building a robust framework that addresses regional and global challenges such as security, democratic governance, and sustainable development, while enhancing trilateral cooperation, positioning the US, the EU and LAC as leaders in multilateral cooperation.



SUMMIT FEATURE	SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS	EU-CELAC SUMMIT
Established	1994 (Miami)	1999 (as EU-LAC; formalized as EU-CELAC in 2013)
Participants	Western Hemisphere states (North, Central, and South America, and the Caribbean)	EU and CELAC member countries (LAC and the EU)
Main Objective	Foster cooperation on democracy, security, trade, and development	Strengthen bi-regional strategic partnerships on trade, environment, and shared values
Frequency	Every 3 years	Every 2 years according to the last Declaration (2023)
Key themes	Democracy, security, trade, migration, climate change	Trade, technology, climate change, social cohesion
Outcomes	Political declarations, action plans	Bi-regional cooperation action plans, declarations
Institutional framework	Institutionalized with the Organization of American States (OAS) and dedicated secretariats in national governments, like the US Department of State	Bilateral outreach between the EU, through the EEAS and European Commission's relevant Directorates-General, with the CELAC host country
Key guiding documents and initiatives	Inter-American Democratic Charter, FTAA (proposed)	EU-CELAC Action Plan, EU Global Gateway programs, European Green Deal, EU-LAC Digital Alliance
Civil society mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil Society Forum • Consultative Mechanism coordinated by the OAS • Dialogue with Governments through reports and initiatives agenda 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU-CELAC Civil Society Forum • Structured Dialogue Mechanism between CSOs and EU-CELAC officials • LAC-EU Civil Society Mechanism between NGOs, labor unions, and other social actors from both regions
Private sector mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEO Summit of the Americas • Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU-CELAC Business Summit • Bilateral Trade and Investment Agreements

Figure 1. Explanatory table of the Summit of the Americas and the EU-CELAC Summit

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TRILATERAL COOPERATION

The EU-CELAC Summit and the Summit of the Americas are vital platforms for fostering dialogue and advancing multilateralism between the US, the EU, and LAC. These spaces offer invaluable opportunities for countries to share concerns, align priorities, and address issues of mutual interest. While some actors may view these forums as dominated by the interests of specific countries, and while the three regions are not always aligned, they remain essential venues for generating collective action and finding common ground among the regions that can be considered natural partners in a range of issues faced within and beyond the regions.

The further deepening of cooperation between Europe, the US, and LAC rests on a foundation of shared values and interests that transcend regional and state politics. Democracy, human rights, and the rule of law are not just ideals that bind the US, the EU, and LAC together; they are essential building blocks for the future of enhanced trilateral cooperation. As these regions face complex global challenges, their commitment to these values will enable them to work more effectively together, both bilaterally and within broader multilateral frameworks.

The fields highlighted in the report [“Galvanizing Spain’s Presidency for the Next Chapter,”](#) notably cooperation on the energy transition, trade and investment, and digital transformation, are still priorities for the three regions and can be taken as a roadmap for how to create a lasting and substantial trilateral agenda. Following consultations with a wide range of stakeholders—including former presidents, prime ministers, government officials, multilateral organizations, civil society representatives, and policy experts, as well as representatives from the countries organizing the upcoming Summit of the Americas and the EU-CELAC Summit—the Atlantic Council and Club de Madrid have identified key priority issues for both Summits’ agenda alignment. Afterwards and based on these discussions, the following recommendations were issued to establish a formal dialogue mechanism between the two Summits, which continues to acknowledge Spain’s central and foundational role as a bridge between Europe, the transatlantic community, and Ibero-America.

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ENHANCING CIVIL SOCIETY AND PRIVATE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT THROUGH ALIGNMENT OF EXISTING MECHANISMS

To maximize the impact of multilateral cooperation, it is essential to align existing formal and informal mechanisms that facilitate the participation of civil society and the private sector in both the Summit of the Americas and the EU-CELAC Summit. Specifically, efforts should be made to bring closer the Civil Society Forum and the CEO Summit within the Summit of the Americas with the EU-CELAC Civil Society Forum and the EU-CELAC Business Summit. This alignment would create a more coordinated and inclusive framework, allowing civil society organizations and private entities from all regions to contribute meaningfully to policy formulation.

By streamlining consultations and enhancing the exchange of best practices across these platforms, the expertise and perspectives of both civil society and the private sector can be leveraged more effectively, resulting in more cohesive policy outcomes. In this manner, continuity of their inclusion and debates in between the Summits would also ensure that these actors play a sustained role in shaping policies, leading to more inclusive outcomes.

More specifically, multilateral initiatives should focus on addressing LAC regional challenges, such as integration into global [supply chains](#), rather than on external geopolitical concerns. This aligns with the growing receptiveness of LAC businesses and governments to proposals centered on capacity-building, technical exchanges, and workforce development—areas ripe for trilateral cooperation with the EU and the US.

Engagement from the private sector, especially European companies, should be enhanced at the Summit of the Americas, particularly in the context of the Dominican Republic’s enthusiasm for private sector participation. This creates an opportunity to invite key European companies relevant to LAC’s energy transition and sustainable development. Businesses across the US,

the EU, and LAC increasingly prioritize sustainability, making this alignment crucial for addressing global challenges together.

Given the [demand](#) for enhanced technical capabilities in LAC, there is significant potential for partnerships in training local workforces. Cooperation between governments and the private sector on resource allocation to support such initiatives would strengthen local economies and drive sustainable development.

Taking all of this into account, civil society organizations (CSO) must remain actively involved throughout the entire process—before, during, and after the Summits—to monitor government commitments and ensure accountability. The Dominican Republic, as the host of the X Summit of the Americas in 2025, has already initiated pre-Summit [talks](#) with CSOs to capture valuable insights and ensure diverse perspectives are represented.

There should also be structured exchanges between the EU-CELAC and Summit of the Americas preparatory processes, allowing participants to share lessons learned and identify areas of common interest. This will ensure that civil society and private sector actors are better integrated and can influence the Summits’ outcomes more effectively.

Although the Summit of the Americas is seen by the US as a forum focused on the Americas, there is room to formalize the role of European observers in the process. Including European stakeholders from the civil society and the private sector is likely to receive stronger support than empowering European government stakeholders.

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STRENGTHENING US- EU-LAC ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIPS THROUGH SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE, TRADE EXPANSION, AND JOINT FINANCING INITIATIVES

As stated before, the evolving geopolitical landscape presents both challenges and opportunities for strengthening EU-LAC relations. LAC should be positioned as a key partner in the EU's [efforts](#) to rewire its supply chains and mitigate global risks as LAC is a stable and reliable partner eager for deeper cooperation, and vice versa.

By highlighting LAC's potential in contributing to the EU's economic resilience, both regions can foster deeper engagement, particularly in enhancing trade and investment. As the EU sharpens its focus on economic competitiveness, this momentum can be leveraged to attract EU companies eager to expand their presence in the Americas. Here, promoting the ratification of the [EU-Mercosur agreement](#) is essential to advance a more ambitious project that will serve the strategic and economic interests of the EU and Latin America.

Decarbonizing supply chains between the US, the EU, and LAC is also a critical step in advancing the global green transition. With many LAC countries serving as significant exporters of fossil fuels, the shift to clean energy is not only an environmental imperative but also an economic opportunity for the region. If they do not transition to renewable energy and sustainable practices, they risk economic instability as global demand for fossil fuels declines. By investing in decarbonized supply chains and fostering collaboration with the US and the EU, LAC countries can diversify their economies, embrace clean energy, and position themselves as leaders in the green economy. This collaborative effort will reduce emissions and open new opportunities for innovation, job creation, and sustainable growth across the entire transatlantic region.

Building trust and strengthening transatlantic relations remain essential. In this sense, it is crucial to bring the challenges of LAC to the attention of the US and the EU, including the urgent need for reforming international financial architecture. Many LAC countries face structural economic vulnerabilities, high debt levels, and limited access to affordable financing, which hampers their ability to invest in sustainable development and social protection. Having said that, reforming the global financial system to ensure fairer representation and access to resources, better debt management, and support for green investments is crucial for LAC's long-term stability and growth. This will not only benefit the region but also strengthen global economic resilience and foster more equitable development partnerships, constituting a clear reason why the US and the EU should support a fairer treatment of LAC in economic matters.

The upcoming [Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development](#) (FfD4) in Spain in 2025 presents a timely opportunity to explore joint financing initiatives that can support sustainable development and further solidify the US, the EU and LAC partnership.

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ENHANCING DIGITAL AND GREEN TRANSITIONS BETWEEN THE EU AND LAC THROUGH SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP

The commitment to hold the EU-CELAC Summits every two years is an indication of the importance the LAC region holds for Europe and also indicates ambition. The [nomination](#) of Kaja Kallas as High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy opens new pathways for advancing the EU's political agenda with LAC. Building on the work of her predecessor, Josep Borrell, Kallas brings a unique focus on digital governance, an area where [Estonia](#) has demonstrated global leadership. This presents a valuable opportunity for deepening EU-LAC cooperation in the [digital transformation](#) and e-governance, showing that despite Borrell's departure and the end of the Spanish EU presidency, there is room to cultivate and approach LAC on many issues.

Europe and the United States can leverage existing commitments to further accelerate the digital and green transitions in LAC. Building on the EU-US Trade and Technology Council (TTC) framework, which emphasizes sustainable and inclusive growth through tech and green investments, the EU and US can co-sponsor initiatives in LAC that promote digital innovation and environmentally sustainable infrastructure. Moreover, the EU's Global Gateway program and the [US Build Back Better World initiative](#) have created mechanisms to fund green infrastructure in LAC.

By coordinating investments around these themes, the three regions can create an ecosystem of high-quality infrastructure that prioritizes both economic growth and environmental sustainability. Joint digital governance initiatives would further drive innovation and connectivity, expand access to digital services and foster e-governance systems, crucial components for enhancing transparency and efficiency.

Additionally, Denmark's upcoming presidency of the Council of the EU in the second half of 2025 offers another strategic moment, particularly with its strong commitment to environmental and sustainability policies. These priorities resonate deeply with LAC's own challenges and goals, paving the way for closer collaboration on climate action and sustainable development.

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ESTABLISHING A TRILATERAL PROGRAM FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION (STI) TO FOSTER COOPERATION BETWEEN LAC, THE US, AND THE EU

Building on the success of the [Punta del Este Summit \(1967\)](#) and past efforts in fostering regional collaboration in science and technology, there is a clear opportunity to create a trilateral program that brings together LAC, the US, and the EU. This initiative should focus on strengthening domestic capabilities in STI, supported by robust higher education systems, which are critical for addressing key challenges such as climate change, digital transformation, sustainable development, and energy transition.

The program should align with existing forums like the [Latin American and Caribbean Open Science Forum \(CILAC\)](#) and gain the endorsement of other regional and international bodies such as the [Inter-American Development Bank \(IADB\)](#), the [UN Economic Commission for Latin America \(ECLAC\)](#), and the [Latin American Development Bank \(CAF\)](#).

Also, securing financial and technical support from international organizations and governments is crucial to enhancing [STI capabilities](#) across the region and closing gaps that have hindered innovation and development compared to other global regions, especially Asia.

Building coalitions among willing countries to push forward consensus on program principles and practical concepts that will guide the development of this initiative will ensure that all stakeholders, from governments to scientific institutions and the private sector, have a role in its success.

To solidify support for this trilateral STI cooperation, aiming for political endorsement from the upcoming EU-CELAC Summit and the Summit of the Americas is important. This should include forming a working committee and an implementation plan by early 2025.

This allows the implementation of a 'soft' approach, instead of a 'hard' one, focusing on issues that are pertinent, such as STI, but less contentious and easier to find agreement on. These types of 'softer' commitments could be easier to negotiate and implement, serving as entry points for collaboration. By emphasizing these, reaching consensus can be swifter, laying the groundwork for tackling harder, more challenging issues down the line.

ENHANCING TRILATERAL COOPERATION FOR REGIONAL COMMITMENT AND INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING

A comprehensive approach to trilateral cooperation between LAC, the US, and the EU should focus on concrete and targeted objectives that resonate with the region's needs. While bringing external actors into the dialogue strengthens continuity in regional commitments, it is crucial to acknowledge that many sub-regional initiatives, such as the [Pacific Alliance](#), have been weakened by divergent political ideologies and lack of cohesion.

To overcome these challenges, the X Summit of the Americas presents a pivotal opportunity to leverage the intentions of the Dominican Republic, aiming for greater participation from regional governments and creating an inclusive platform. Strengthening transatlantic ties with the EU and the US, as well as [Canada](#), can serve as a counterbalance to other international partnerships, such as CELAC-China dialogues, which have been politically sustained but [lack substantial institutional results](#).

Key areas of cooperation should include strengthening democratic institutions, enhancing political transparency, and fostering citizen participation, particularly focusing on youth and women leadership. These structural issues, shared by the US, the EU, and LAC, should be integrated into the Summits' agenda rather than sidestepped due to their controversial nature.

Furthermore, to address immediate regional concerns, the Summits must prioritize digital policy, resilience, and governance. The US, LAC, and the EU have a unique opportunity to collaborate on cybersecurity, a critical area for protecting the digital infrastructure that underpins our economies and political systems. Strengthening cybersecurity through shared intelligence, joint capacity-building, and harmonized regulatory standards can mitigate risks posed by cyber threats. This collaboration can also extend to other areas of the digital transition, such as regulating AI and enhancing digital skills across populations. An example which LAC could follow with EU support includes the recent EU cybersecurity initiatives in the [Western Balkans](#), where successive cyberattacks on national governments were addressed by EU-led programs to enhance digital resilience of public systems.

Also, addressing organized crime, which is especially detrimental to the Caribbean and Central America, is critical to protecting democracy, public health, and national security. Organized crime undermines democratic institutions by fostering corruption, eroding public trust, and fueling violence that destabilizes communities. It also poses serious public health risks through its involvement in drug trafficking and other illicit activities. Trilateral cooperation between LAC, the US, and the EU and is essential to combat this transborder threat effectively.

These pressing issues demand robust international cooperation, and the Dominican Republic's commitment to elevating these topics can set the stage for meaningful progress in the Summit of the Americas. This strategic shift towards institutional and security-related cooperation will help address regional vulnerabilities while enhancing the political and social fabric necessary for long-term sustainable development.



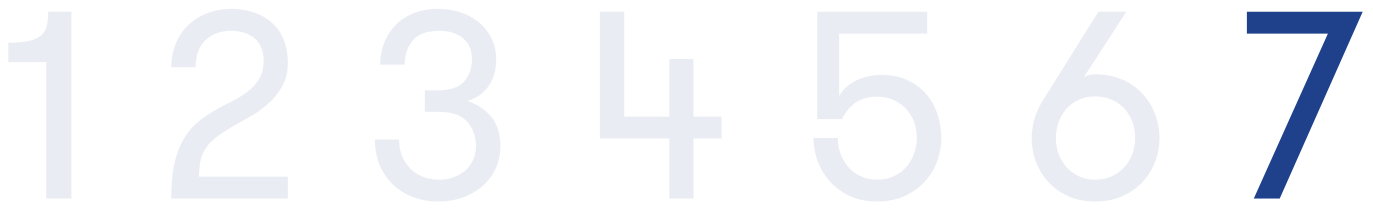
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ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO INSTITUTIONALIZE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS AND THE EU-CELAC SUMMIT TO ENHANCE COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION

Establishing a dedicated task force is essential for fostering institutional collaboration between the Summit of the Americas and the EU-CELAC Summit. The primary objective of this task force will be to create a structured platform for dialogue and cooperation among the participating nations, including stakeholders from the private sector, civil society, and multilateral organizations, focusing on key priorities that resonate across the U.S., EU, and LAC regions. This task force will be responsible for developing a concrete agenda of engagements leading up to the two Summits.

This task force should include:

- The Dominican Republic, as the host of the 2025 Summit of the Americas.
- Honduras, which holds the 2024 Pro Tempore Presidency of CELAC.
- Colombia, which will assume the Pro 2025 Tempore Presidency of CELAC and host the 2025 EU-CELAC Summit.
- The Presidencies of the Council of the EU, represented by Poland (January-June 2025) and Denmark (July-December 2025).
- Representatives of the Government of Spain, leveraging its unique position as a key European, transatlantic, and Ibero-American actor.
- Representatives from the US government.
- Club de Madrid Members and Advisors from the regions.
- Representatives from the US-LAC Foundation.
- Representatives from the Summit of the Americas Secretariat.
- Representatives from the private sector.
- Experts from the Atlantic Council.



STRENGTHENING SPAIN'S STRATEGIC ROLE IN BRIDGING EU, US, AND LAC COOPERATION

As a simultaneously European, transatlantic and Ibero-American actor, Spain should continue to strengthen its engagement within key multilateral platforms that link the EU, US, and LAC. Spain can play a unique role in facilitating dialogue on common global challenges such as climate change, security, trade, and migration. Spain's historical, cultural, and political ties with both Europe and the Americas position it to lead initiatives aimed at promoting regional integration and cooperation.

Spain's leadership in fostering dialogue between the EU, US, and LAC should focus on inclusivity and addressing shared challenges such as inequality, technological advancement, and democratic governance. Spain can encourage common agendas, especially around sustainable development and digital transformation, to ensure that transatlantic relations reflect the interests of all parties involved.

Spain's deep-rooted ties with Latin America should be leveraged to strengthen trilateral cooperation. Spain can act as a bridge in areas where there are geopolitical differences, promoting the importance of multilateral diplomacy and facilitating dialogue on issues like trade policy, social development, and human rights.

As a key member of the EU, Spain should continue advocating for strategic partnerships between the EU and LAC, particularly within the context of economic growth, climate resilience, and sustainable development goals. Spain's diplomatic networks can serve to align European and Latin American priorities, fostering mutual understanding and collaboration.

Spain's ability to engage with both the US and LAC, alongside its leadership role in the EU, enables it to mediate policy convergence on major global issues such as cybersecurity, digital governance, and energy transitions. Spain can act as a platform for dialogue that harmonizes policies and strengthens transatlantic cooperation on regulatory standards and economic integration.

Spain should expand its economic and diplomatic outreach within LAC and the US, reinforcing its role as a key facilitator of transatlantic relations. By focusing on trade agreements, investment opportunities, technical cooperation and education programs, Spain can strengthen its influence and ensure that its role in global debates is sustained.

CONCLUSIONS

CONCLUSIONS

The alignment of priorities between the EU-CELAC Summit and the Summit of the Americas 2025 presents a strategic opportunity to strengthen trilateral cooperation between the EU, the US, and LAC. Bridging dialogue between these two key forums is essential for advancing common objectives in democratic governance, sustainable development, economic resilience, global cooperation, and digital transition, while addressing the distinct challenges facing each region. The Summits can leverage shared values and forge stronger multilateral partnerships that promote greater global stability and progress, if both coordinate efforts.

As these regions face increasingly complex global issues—ranging from climate change to the digital transformation and organized crime—a long-term vision for trilateral cooperation is vital. This cooperation must be built on mutual respect, shared responsibility, and a recognition that sustainable solutions require inclusive dialogue and concerted action. The role of key actors like Spain, which bridges Europe and the Americas, will be central to fostering this collaborative spirit and ensuring that transatlantic relations remain dynamic and forward-looking.

Looking ahead, the creation of a strategic task force and the development of a working plan by early 2025 are critical next steps. This initiative will not only align agendas for both Summits but also ensure that civil society, the private sector, and regional governments are fully engaged in the process. Moreover, the emphasis on a “soft” approach—focusing on less contentious issues like science, technology, and innovation (STI)—will pave the way for addressing more complex global challenges in the future.

Ultimately, the long-term vision for trilateral cooperation involves creating resilient partnerships that can adapt to changing global dynamics, while reinforcing the values of democracy, human rights, and the rule of law. By building these bridges now, the EU, US, and LAC can lay the groundwork for lasting cooperation that promotes sustainable development, enhances regional stability, and strengthens their collective position as key players in shaping the future of global governance.



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ABOUT THE AUTHORS

MARÍA FERNANDA ROBAYO is a Program Officer at Club de Madrid, where she leads key initiatives within the Shared Societies program, focusing on advancing democracy, digital inclusion, and sustainable development. She manages efforts to support the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) while overseeing the organization's digitalization portfolio. Her work includes addressing the impact of digital transformation on democracy and the multilateral system. She is dedicated to crafting and executing projects aimed at dissecting the complexities of democracy and global governance, striving to unearth both challenges and opportunities within these realms.

DIEGO AREA is the deputy director for strategic development at the Adrienne Arsht Latin America Center. He has more than twelve years of experience influencing policymaking and developing public-private partnerships to achieve a positive impact in society. At the Atlantic Council, Area spearheads strategies to promote constructive US engagement with Latin America and the Caribbean.

ABOUT CLUB DE MADRID

CLUB DE MADRID is the world's largest forum of democratic former presidents and prime ministers, who use their individual and collective leadership, as well as their global reach, to strengthen inclusive democratic practice and improve the well-being of people around the world. The strengthening and promotion of a more robust multilateral system that provides global solutions to common challenges through inclusive cooperation that leaves no one behind have also been one of the essential strategic pillars of the organization.

ABOUT THE ATLANTIC COUNCIL

THE ATLANTIC COUNCIL'S nonpartisan [Adrienne Arsht Latin America Center](#) (AALAC) broadens understanding of regional transformations while demonstrating why Latin America and the Caribbean matter for the world. The Center focuses on pressing political, economic, and social issues that will define the region's trajectory, proposing constructive, results-oriented solutions to inform public sector, business, and multilateral action based on a shared vision for a more prosperous, inclusive, and sustainable future.

The Atlantic Council's [Europe Center](#) conducts research and uses real-time commentary and analysis to guide the actions and strategy of key transatlantic decisionmakers on the issues that will shape the future of the transatlantic relationship and convenes US and European leaders through public events and workshops to promote dialogue and to bolster the transatlantic partnership.



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