



SECOND PREPARATORY SEMINAR OF THE THIRD LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN ACADEMIC SUMMIT

Stockholm, 6th and 7th October 2016

- STOCKHOLM RELEASE -

“Identifying specific targets for action”

Institutions of higher education and scholars from Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean, representatives of the European Union, the CELAC and international organizations, government authorities of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, representatives of public bodies and NGOs from both regions, gathered in the city of Stockholm, Sweden, on 6 and 7 October 2016 for the Second Preparatory Seminar of the III LAC-EU Academic Summit, which was organized by the European Institute of International Studies and was supported by the Stockholm University, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden, the pro-tempore of CELAC presidency, the embassies of Peru, the Dominican Republic, Paraguay, Chile and Mexico in Sweden, with the participation of two senior officials from the Swedish government at the opening session, Ms. Annika Söder, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden and at the closing session, Mr. Håkan Emsgård, Deputy Director General and Head of the Division for Policy Analysis and International Affairs of the Ministry of Education and Research of Sweden:

They reaffirmed their support for the decision taken by the Heads of State and Government of the CELAC-EU Summit in Brussels 2015, to incorporate Higher Education as one of the strategic axes of the Bi-Regional Association, as stated in Chapter 9 of the Action Plan;

They found that this priority expresses the political decision of our countries at the highest level, to advance the realization of the Euro-Latin American and Caribbean Area for Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, as one of the pillars of the CELAC-EU Strategic Partnership;

This priority corresponds fully with the proposals of our academic community presented to the Heads of State and Government at the I and II Bi-regional Academic Summits, held respectively in Santiago de Chile on 22nd and 23rd January 2013 and in Brussels 8th and 9th June 2015.

In this framework and WHEREAS:

1. The Declaration and proposals of the I and II LAC-EU Academic Summits submitted to the Heads of State and Government of the member countries were welcomed and recognized in the Official Declarations of the Summits of Santiago and Brussels;
2. The Official Declaration of the EU-CELAC Summit in Santiago de Chile in its Article 29 constituted the academic world as the seventh institutionalized forum in the EU-CELAC Strategic Partnership, and was a milestone in the construction of the Euro-Latin American and Caribbean Space for Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation in both regions;
3. At the II Academic Summit in Brussels, "Building the common space of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation for the Bi-regional Strategic Partnership", a series of proposals were agreed to be proposed to the Heads of State and Government and the Community authorities and the Ministers of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation in both regions were requested to open a permanent space for dialogue with the Permanent Academic Forum of the LAC-EU Academic Summits in order to advance in the implementation of these proposals;
4. The initiatives and proposals from the Academic Summits that were presented to the EU-CELAC Summit of Heads of State and Government in Brussels have decisively contributed to put on the agenda of the Strategic Partnership the theme of Higher Education and the approval of a new Line of Bi-regional Cooperation - Chapter 9 of the Brussels 2015 Action Plan - on Higher Education in order to promote the creation of regulatory and financial conditions for developing the Euro-Latin American and Caribbean Area for Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation.

THE STOCKHOLM SEMINARY, PREPARATORY FOR THE III LAC-EU ACADEMIC SUMMIT:

1. Has continued the work done in the First Preparatory Seminar, held in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, on 21st and 22nd June 2016, as part of the agenda of the Pro-Tempore Presidency of CELAC 2016 of the Dominican Republic (PPT-CELAC);
2. Has deepened the practical reflection aimed at generating concrete proposals on the topics of the Working Groups and Permanent Reflection: *integration of higher education systems; science, technology and innovation; relations of institutions of higher education with society, particularly with the productive sector; the academic community links with public policies;*

3. Has elaborated analysis and conclusions presented in detail in a report that will be distributed to all participants and to the community of the Permanent Academic Forum and public and private institutions in both regions.

THEREFORE: In the perspective of the III LAC-EU Academic Summit and the III CELAC-EU Summit of Heads of State and Government to be held in 2017, and in order to give concrete support to Chapter 9 on Higher Education of CELAC-EU Action Plan:

1. The FAP ALC-UE proposals emanating from the two Academic Summits held in Santiago de Chile (2013) and Brussels (2015) and other works produced within this process of articulation and integration of ideas and initiatives from both regions, are a documentary and content milestone included in more than 250 works on the reality, prospects and challenges for the creation of the Common Space, prepared by more than 2000 academics and university authorities from both regions, in specific meetings in Paris and Lima (2012); Bucharest and Guadalajara (2014); Alcala de Henares (2015); and Santo Domingo and Stockholm (2016);
2. This heritage represents a concrete contribution of the FAP ALC-UE to the officials and non-governmental areas of both regions, in order to have a broad-based and accurate bi-regional reality on Higher Education, Science, Technology, Research and Innovation progress in view of achieving the objectives of Chapter 9 on Higher Education included by the Heads of State and Government in the CELAC-EU 2015-2017 Action Plan.

Stockholm, 7th of October 2016

**BIREGIONAL ACADEMIC COUNCIL
ALC-UE PERMANENT ACADEMIC FORUM**