

Culture in EU-LAC relations Contribution to the EU-CELAC Summit Conclusions

Position Statement

28 June 2017

In June 2015, experts in the field of the arts, cultural policy and urban planning from Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean called on the EU and CELAC countries to consider the role of culture for economic and social changes in cities in the outcome of the 2nd EU-CELAC Summit.

We, the undersigned, firmly believe that culture plays an active role in building constructive relations between Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and also in fostering human development. This statement supports the principles and objectives of the 2005 UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the diversity of cultural expressions, the 2006 Ibero-American Cultural Charter, and the 2017 Council of the EU Conclusions on an EU Strategy for International Cultural Relations. It also draws upon the positive results obtained in recent cultural exchange projects between the EU and CELAC countries.¹

Concretely, we draw the attention of the forthcoming EU-CELAC Summit in El Salvador (October 2017) to endorse the role of culture, as follows:

- The cultural and creative sectors should be taken into account in future EU-CELAC relations;
- Equitable cultural exchanges and cooperation between the two regions are essential to enhance mobility, artistic and technical exchange, mutual learning and understanding;
- Partnerships, networks, co-productions and projects involving culture in urban and rural contexts between the two regions should be supported;
- A structured and inclusive urban planning and the exchange of cultural and societal values can have significant impact on social cohesion, as well as on the development of local economies and societies in both regions;
- A long-term strategy for cultural cooperation between EU and CELAC countries should be designed and established through a participative, collaborative and inclusive approach, taking into account collective and specific memories, identities and cultures, as well as the shared-values and singularities of the different stakeholders.

We therefore call on decision makers of the EU and LAC regions to uphold the role of culture in the relations between the two regions in the Conclusions of the EU-CELAC Summit in October 2017.

¹ E.g. EU project 'LAIC – Culture and Arts Supporting Social Cohesion in Latin American Cities', developed by Interarts and BOZAR and funded by DG DEVCO of the European Commission.

Co-signed by:

