

Commission: Sommet UE/CELAC

Subject: Pour une redynamisation des relations entre l'UE et l'Amérique Latine.

Author: Denmark

Due to the close proximity of Greenland, an autonomous territory within the Kingdom of Denmark, to the American Continent and therefore the Latin American countries, The Kingdom of Denmark strongly supports the united, generalised effort to ameliorate collaboration between the European Union and the community of Latin American and Caribbean states. Denmark is ruled by the Social Democratic Party under Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, which provides values that coincide strongly with those of the European Union.

Denmark has been present in, and collaborated with Latin America for decades, in relation to foreign policy, development, commerce and culture. For instance, in April 2017, Denmark entered into a strategic partnership with Mexico. Within the framework of the partnership, government cooperation is carried out in the areas of health, energy and climate, as well as agriculture and food. Strengthened economic development and democratic consolidation provide new opportunities for Denmark. The strategic goals for strengthened action in Latin America are to promote democracy, human rights and international rule of law. Many Latin American countries have experienced historically high economic growth, which has led to around 80 million people in the last ten years being lifted out of poverty and into the middle class. As a result of this development, Denmark's focus is shifting from being aid-oriented to a broad-spectrum approach based on economic diplomacy with a focus on job creation and sustainable production as well as greener energy solutions. Economic growth in Latin America gives a new interest to the Nordic social model and to government cooperation, including for Danish solutions in infrastructure, health and design.

Denmark is interested in cooperating with other countries, especially with regard to research into biofuels and other renewable sources of energy. In Latin America, there is a growing willingness to promote sustainable development. This provides Denmark export opportunities within the sectors of green technology and environmental management to Latin America. In connection with the 2009 UN Climate summit hosted by Denmark, extensive marketing of Danish key competencies within the area of environment and energy will be carried out abroad in Latin America, among other places. Denmark will try to ensure that future climate agreements do not hinder economic growth in developing countries, but support the development and transfer of technology and emissions trading. Denmark has signed the "Clean Development Mechanism" agreement with 5 countries in the region: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico and Nicaragua.

The overall goal of Danish development aid is to fight poverty and strengthen democracy and stability in the region. Equality, human rights, environment, HIV/AIDS and good governance are all areas that are included in the development work. Increased regional cooperation is essential to achieving this, which is why Denmark also continues to support the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) and in July 2015 was admitted as an observer in the free trade-oriented Pacific Alliance. Through its long-standing aid work in Latin America, Denmark has helped to promote positive development for the poorest in the region as well as helped to strengthen rights in a broad sense for underprivileged groups, including indigenous peoples. However, in line with the region's economic development, development cooperation in Latin America is now being phased out, where commercial relations are now increasingly at the centre.

Latin America encompasses a number of emerging countries with a growing middle class, rising purchasing power and openness to new trading and investment partners. Many Latin American countries have been given increased weight in the global scene, and there is a desire by many countries in the region for strengthened political cooperation with European countries, including Denmark. Danish businesses have shown great interest in the Latin American markets. Closer political dialogue is an important element in efforts to secure Denmark's increased market share. It requires Danish presence to support the Danish companies in operating in Latin American countries, this presence can also help to promote Latin American investments in Denmark. Furthermore, Investment in Latin America is increasing. The EU is the most important source of this. Therefore protection of and conditions for investment are very important elements in future EU agreements with Latin American countries.

There is generally great potential for partnerships and alliance building with Latin American countries in a number of areas. This is due to, among other things, the shared history of Latin America and Europe, which has contributed to an extensive community of values and provides a good basis for cooperation, both politically, commercially and culturally. Latin America's democratization and economic reforms have brought the region closer to Denmark and the EU. It opens opportunities for close cooperation based on the fundamental value community on respect for democracy and human rights, as well as in areas that are of particular importance to Denmark, for example, green growth and sustainable development.