

Portugal, International Summit UE-CELAC, what areas of cooperation should be reinforced between the European Union and South America?

The Portuguese Republic is a unitary semi-presidential representative democratic republic. The topics of this commission are the social, the economical, the political aspect as well as the environmental aspect. In this commission, will be discussed the areas of cooperation and the links that can be established between the European Union and South America and precisely the CELAC members.

The problems raised by this question are multiple and concern aspects that are very different but at the same time are linked. For instance, it deals with the educational side and how to improve it, as well as the infrastructures and development of the economy between the two organizations. It also tackles more controversial aspects such as the immigrant's debate, the women's rights debate and most importantly the environmental debate. The Portuguese Republic is aware that the issues present nowadays in south America can be dealt with if help is offered to the countries in need. This type of help can be provided by the European Union. This issues concern the Portuguese Republic, because they concern the world. It also concerns a former colony: Brazil, a Portuguese speaking country and the biggest in South America. These are issues that need to be fixed to improve the conditions for the population in South America and that Portuguese Republic has already overcome. The republic firmly believes in equality and that everyone should have access to these human rights.

The Portuguese Republic strongly agrees that the European Union should make investments in the Caribbean region, to help develop the economy of this region as well as create jobs to decrease the unemployment rate. But the investments don't need to be detrimental to the environment; they can be the implementation of wind turbines to generate clean energy and help them achieve the SDG's for 2030. It is in this case a mean to tackle at the same time the immigrants issue, they come to Europe seeking a better life, but if they are already provided a good life they won't feel the need to come to Europe thus decreasing drastically the number of illegal immigrants. To deal with the problem of education, that the Portuguese Republic had previously but has dealt with, it proposes the investment in the education of young children, the training of teachers and the fight against the dropping out of school. It developed a national plan for reading, giving the school the priority mission of learning Portuguese and mathematics. The Portuguese Republic agrees to say that the CELAC will be beneficial for the economy of the European Union, making it competitive in the international market. However the republic believes that the social aspect cannot be forgotten and needs to be discussed in a context where the debates about gender equality are decisive. For instance, the Republic is involved in the ODD5, whose fifth resolution is to improve the conditions of women. For the environmental aspect, Portugal is already a part of the CPLP, to develop a maritime strategy for the sustainable management of the oceans. On a more political note, it is known that South America has some non-democratic countries. Their values and principles are not the same as those supported and conveyed by the European Union. Some may argue that for this reason, further relations with South America are precarious and should not be carried on. The Portuguese Republic is a

firm believer that the true values of the European Union are the reason these relations should be improved, to help for the greater good.

To conclude, the Portuguese Republic, in this idea of international cooperation and help, is looking forward the improvement of the relations between EU and South America. Portugal despite it not being the most developed country still encourages other countries to follow its lead concerning the education and women's rights. The Portuguese Republic would like to see the European community taking drastic to benefit both continents.