

PRESS RELEASE

III LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN - EUROPEAN UNION ACADEMIC SUMMIT

With the participation of 1192 members of the academic community of both regions, on April 12th and 13th 2018, in Córdoba, Argentina, took place the III Academic Summit of Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union, organized by the National University of Córdoba and the Permanent Academic Forum of Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union.

The III Academic Summit was held by special invitation of the National University of Córdoba, within the framework of the celebrations of the one hundred years of the *Manifesto of Cordoba*, an inspiring source to undertake changes of importance in the development of both regions.

The meeting aimed to give continuity to the work that has been done since 2012, through the first two Academic Summits held in Santiago (2013) and Brussels (2015) and the nine events held in Paris, Lima, Bucharest, Guadalajara, Santo Domingo, Stockholm, Lisbon, Salamanca and Alcalá de Henares.

Discussion in panels, workshops and plenaries included the main topics that constitute central elements for establishing the *Bases of the Common Space*, such as Systems of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, of both regions, the links of academia with society and public policies, gender equity and integration of women in the academic environment, technical-professional training, normative and financial elements for the construction of the Common Space, face-to-face and virtual mobility with innovative accreditation systems, quality assurance and certification, among others.

Progress was made in consolidating the process, by adopting a commitment from the academic community of the two regions, to launch the bi-regional academic integration, aimed at creating the Euro-Latin American and Caribbean Common Academic Space for Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, as the Academic Pillar of the CELAC-EU Strategic Association.

The renewal of FAP ALC-UE Authorities was carried out, as they will lead the international organization for four (4) (renewable) years, being composed as follows:

President

- Remus Pricopie, Rector of the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (Romania)

Vice-presidents

- Héctor Casanueva, Director of the Chilean Council of Prospective and Strategy (Chile)
- Carlos Quenan, Vice President of the Institute of the Americas (France)

Executive Secretary

- Jordan Barbulescu, Dean of the Department of International Relations and European Integration and Director of the Institute of Latin American Studies (Romania)
- Juan Marcelo Conrero, Head of the Institutional Management Area of the National University of Córdoba (UNC) and Dean of the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences of the UNC (Argentina)
- Jocelyne Gacel-Ávila, Coordinator of the Observatory on the Internationalization and Networks of Tertiary Education in Latin America and the Caribbean (OBIRET) of UNESCO-IESALC (Mexico)
- Patricio Leiva, Director of the Latin American Institute of International Relations, Miguel de Cervantes University (Chile)

President of Honor

- Fernando Galván, Rector of the University of Alcalá de Henares (Spain).

Besides, on this occasion, the *Standing Committee of the Forum of Ministers of Education and Higher Education ALC-UE* was set up, in the presence of the Minister of Education of France, Mr. Jean Michel Blanquer, to whom we delivered the *“Cordoba Commitment” Declaration*.

The academic community from both regions deeply thanks the National University of Córdoba, in particular Mr. Rector Hugo Juri and his team of collaborators, for the efficient organization of this event, and the hospitality provided to all national and international participants.

Córdoba, 13th of April 2018.

Attached: “CÓRDOBA COMMITMENT”

THIRD ACADEMIC SUMMIT LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

COMMITMENT OF CÓRDOBA

Declaration of the academic community of Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union for the construction of the Common Space for Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation

The rectors, deans, directors, professors, researchers and students belonging to the academic community of Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union, invited by the Permanent Academic Forum (FAP ALC-UE) and the National University of Córdoba, meeting in the Third Academic Summit Latin America and the Caribbean – European Union on April 12 and 13, 2018,

CONSIDERING:

1. The need to launch the construction of the Common Space of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, in order to allow the academic integration of the corresponding national systems, strengthening their development, cooperation and common projects.
2. The richness which represents, for the societies of Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union, having a shared perspective of the academic world in the production of knowledge and the training of the new generations, in accordance with the realities and challenges posed by the digital environment, the scientific and technological advances, the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the social, economic and environmental sustainability of development, particularly the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 2030) agreed upon by the International Community.
3. The substantial process of analysis and reflection on the contribution of the biregional academic community to the Strategic Association of Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union, which we have carried out since 2012 with more than 2,500 participants, through meetings, seminars, conferences, workshops, and the proposals of the Academic Summits of Santiago de Chile in 2013 and of Brussels in 2015, presented to the Heads of State and Government of both regions, as well as the contributions and specific proposals made by the participants during this Third ALC-UE Academic Summit.

All this constitutes a documentary collection accumulated during this process, which serves as a basis especially for the objectives indicated in Chapters 1 and 9 of the CELAC-EU 2015 Action Plan.

4. The convergence of visions of the authorities of the academic world, the ministers of education and authorities of the public sector and international and regional organizations present in this Third Academic Summit, in terms of jointly opening a new phase starting from this meeting, for the process of elaboration of the academic and regulatory bases of a concrete proposal for the construction of the Common Academic Space, taking into consideration and deepening the initiatives and pilot experiences whose implementation and generalization we have discussed during this event.

And feeling deeply influenced by the spirit and the meaning with which the 1918 University Reform of Córdoba impregnated the academic world of Latin America and Europe a hundred years ago, whose foundations are still valid, and which now allow us, in 2018, to project from this city and this University the common future over inclusive foundations, freedom of thought and integration of our societies:

WE DECLARE:

Our firm commitment to work for the construction of the Common Area of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation of Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union.

WE APPEAL:

To the entire university and scientific community, to the Ministries of Education, of Science and Technology, of Foreign Affairs, and to the integration organizations of both regions, to join this common project and to advance as soon as possible in structuring a common process that leads to the creation of the Common Space of Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation.

WE PRESENT:

This Declaration to the Group promoting the Forum of Ministers of Education and Higher Education of the LAC- UE regions.

AND WE PROPOSE:

To the Heads of State and Government of the Community of Latin-American and Caribbean States and the European Union to take a decision at their next Summit in order to prepare an **AGREEMENT OF ACADEMIC INTEGRATION OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, AND THE EUROPEAN UNION, FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMMON SPACE OF HIGHER EDUCATION, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION**, as the official regulatory framework for this initiative.

Consequently, the academic community of both regions reaffirms its commitment to put in all its efforts and to contribute the common experiences obtained from the cooperation programmes, the academic, scientific and technological networks and existing projects.

Córdoba, Argentina, 13th of April 2018.

Signed: