



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE BIREGIONAL ACADEMIC COUNCIL OF THE PERMANENT ACADEMIC FORUM LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN - EUROPEAN UNION**

The extraordinary meeting of the Biregional Academic Council (CAB) of the Permanent Academic Forum Latin America and the Caribbean - European Union (FAP ALC-UE) took place on the 7<sup>th</sup> of July 2020, using online instruments in the current context of the Covid pandemic.

The meeting aimed to give continuity to the work that has been done since 2012, through the three Academic Summits held in Santiago (2013), Brussels (2015) and Cordoba (2018), besides the preparatory events held in Paris, Lima, Bucharest, Guadalajara, Santo Domingo, Stockholm, Lisbon, Salamanca, Alcalá de Henares and Rome.

Thus, a review of past activities that took place since the last CAB meeting organised by the National University of Political Studies and Public Administration of Romania also comprised the First Preparatory Seminar of the Fourth ALC-UE Academic Summit organised by FAP ALC-UE and the University of Tor Vergata in Rome in October 2019 and the publication of the Volume of the Third ALC-UE Academic Summit, edited by the University of Cordoba, the co-organisers of the correspondent Summit. Also, there were exchanges regarding the online events in which members of the FAP ALC-UE participated, for example *Derecho y Postpandemia: el Futuro en el Nuevo Orden Mundial*, hosted by the University of Pedro de Valdivia.



Because of the global context, the Second Preparatory Seminar of the Fourth Academic Summit ALC-UE scheduled to be organised in June 2020 in Loja, Ecuador by the FAP ALC-UE and the Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja (UTPL) could not be held, but is planned now to take place digitally in the following period.

During the CAB meeting, progress was made in the debates related to the academic integration, in the view of 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.

A significant component of this process is the Biregional Academic Integration Agreement, based on developing the 6 areas of interest for the two regions: Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, Links between Universities and the Productive Sector, Links between Universities and Public Policies, Professional Training and Gender and Women's participation in Universities. The Executive Secretariat presented the state of the art of this project and will deliver a first draft for the next meeting of the CAB of FAP ALC-UE.

Other important elements of these discussions were academic mobility, the ways in which academic integration is affected and finding common grounds for facing in a collaborative manner the challenges that the Covid pandemic raised for individuals, health systems, economies or educational practices, especially in the context of rising populisms, social inequalities and international uncertainty.

Therefore, a series of virtual events will be organised of FAP ALC-UE in this sense, starting with the one on the 16<sup>th</sup> of July, focused on the *Integration and Academic Cooperation European Union-Latin America and the Caribbean: Post-Pandemic Challenges*, to which all those interested in the relations between the two regions are invited.

FAP ALC-UE Executive Secretariat

07.07.2020