

# Opinions

As an advisory body to the EU institutions, one of the core functions of the EESC is to draw up opinions on a range of EU policies.

The EESC regularly issues opinions on Latin America, in which it attaches particular importance to building up civil society organisations and progressing towards a participatory democracy.

Recent EESC opinions on Latin America have addressed issues such as socio-economic aspects in EU-Latin America relations, social cohesion, the social economy and strengthening organised civil society, and have also covered relations with specific countries including Chile and Brazil.

Please click here for more information:  
[ue-alc@eesc.europa.eu](mailto:ue-alc@eesc.europa.eu)  
or consult the EESC website:  
[www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.latin-america](http://www.eesc.europa.eu/?i=portal.en.latin-america)



**European Economic and Social Committee**

Rue Belliard/Belliardstraat 99  
1040 Bruxelles/Brussel  
BELGIQUE/BELGIË

Published by: "Visits and Publications" Unit  
EESC-2015-16-EN

[www.eesc.europa.eu](http://www.eesc.europa.eu)

© European Union, 2015  
Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.



EN

Print  
QE-04-14-279-EN-C  
ISBN 978-92-830-2741-6  
doi:10.2864/681149

Online  
QE-04-14-279-EN-N  
ISBN 978-92-830-2738-6  
doi:10.2864/588280



# The EESC and Latin America

REX  
External Relations



European Economic and Social Committee

# The EESC and Latin America

The EESC's activities in Latin America takes place in the framework of European Union (EU) policy on the region and, more specifically, through the strategic partnership between the EU, Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), negotiations on association agreements with Central America, Mexico, Chile and Mercosur, the free trade agreement with Peru and Colombia and the EU-Brazil strategic partnership.

The EESC's contribution to these partnerships draws on its experience as a European consultative body providing assistance in capacity building and promoting participation in the decision-making process. Its objectives are thus:

- to contribute to regional integration and social cohesion in Latin America:
  - by promoting the social, employment and environmental components of the agreements between the EU and Latin America, and
  - by guaranteeing civil society involvement in existing and future agreements between the EU and Latin America.
- to act as a bridge between Latin American consultative organisations and bodies, on the one hand, and the Community institutions involved in EU policy with Latin America, on the other:
  - by strengthening participatory democracy and dialogue between civil society organisations in the EU and Latin America, and
  - by providing structural support for economic, social and civil society organisations in Latin America.

# EESC activities in Latin America

## At regional level

Since 1999 the EESC has held biennial meetings of civil society in the EU, Latin America and the Caribbean in conjunction with the biennial summits of EU-LAC heads of state and government. The final declarations of these meetings, endorsed by all participants, represent civil society's recommendations on the various issues addressed by the summits.

## At sub-regional level

The EESC seeks to ensure efficient monitoring and implementation of negotiations on the EU agreements with the Andean countries, Mercosur and Central America, in cooperation with institutions and organisations representing civil society in Andean and Latin American countries. Its aim is therefore to create joint civil society bodies under these agreements. Their counterparts in the monitoring process are:

- the Mercosur Economic and Social Consultative Forum (FCES);
- the Consultative Committee of the System of Central American Integration (CC-SICA);
- the Peruvian and Colombian Domestic Advisory Groups.

## At bilateral level

Brazil: the Brazilian Council for Economic and Social Development (CDES) has been the EESC's counterpart in the country since it was founded in 2003. The EU-Brazil Civil Society Round Table was set up in 2009, under the framework of the 2007 strategic partnership between the EU and Brazil, to contribute to the partnership. The conclusions of the Round Table are presented at EU-Brazil summits.

Mexico: the EESC is supporting the creation of a formal EU-Mexico civil society dialogue forum under the association agreement between the EU and Mexico. Through its relations with Mexican civil society, the EESC has also been promoting the establishment of an ESC in Mexico.

Chile: under the framework of the EU-Chile Association Agreement, and in the absence of a formal body representing organised civil society in Chile, the EESC is providing support for setting up a representative advisory body, covering the three sectors of employers, workers and various activities.

