

“The European Union,  
Fifty Years after the Treaty of Rome (March 25, 1957):  
The EU Model in the Americas, Asia and Africa”

**Purpose and description:**

On May 9, 1950, the European Union was conceived as envisioned by Jean Monnet and announced by France's Minister of Foreign Affairs Robert Schuman in what some like to call the “Declaration of Inter-Dependence”. Afterwards, what was limited European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) took another bold step towards “a closer union” by the simultaneous foundation on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 1957, of the European Economic Community (EEC) and the European Community of Atomic Energy (EURATOM). The Common Market was the new goal. Three decades later, the Single European Act provided the necessary legal force to fully implement the project. The Maastricht Treaty of 1992 transformed the whole structure into the European Union.

The historical record shows that, comparatively, the European Union is the most ambitious, original, innovative, and successful attempt and experiment in the history of interstate relations. No other experience ever recorded (with the exception of forced and imposed integration by war or imperialism) has become a stronger and more identifiable point of reference for other regions of the world in their search for cooperation. Some of its institutions (the Commission, the Parliament, and the Court) are unique in terms of their supranational nature and influence, and are taken as an unavoidable reference, if not a direct model.

In turn, no other region of the world is as close, in terms of history and common cultural and political legacy, to Europe than the Western Hemisphere. This applies to North America and the rest of the continent. In consequence, no other world region has a better potential for the EU model of integration to be adopted, adapted, or at least taken seriously into account. In fact, some of the current experiments (NAFTA, MERCOSUR, FTAA) in regional economic cooperation and integration owe their foundation and development to the perceived success of the EU. Indeed, some observers may argue that it is possible that the EU model may only succeed in the Americas.

However, the frequent mentions in the inter-American media and political declarations of concepts and EU experiences such as “common market”, common currency, and the mild adaptation of parts of the institutional framework of the EU deserve close attention and rigorous observation regarding the feasibility of practical adoption. Scholars and regional integration leaders and practitioners are periodically encouraged by cyclic trends that call, for instance, for the deepening of the processes of CARICOM and MERCOSUR, the demands for an initial institutionalization of NAFTA leading to the formation of a North American Community, and the use of concepts very close to the EU when announcing ambitious, but vaguely defined enterprises such as the South American Union.

Nonetheless, the record of comprehension of the European Union in the Americas still shows a mixed balance and still leaves much room for improvement. Moreover, the apparent slowing down of the continental integration process in the Americas (especially the FTAA, well behind schedule), combined with the perceived uncertainties regarding

the future of the European Union, has reinforced this sluggish trend. The difficulties encountered by the comprehensive free trade agreements (a modality confused with a utopian full integration) between the EU and the sub-regional blocks have contributed to an increase in skeptical attitudes towards the EU. In sum, the expectations for the EU model in the Americas seem to be in a period of uncertainty and misunderstanding.

This three-part workshop will offer fresh approaches to the topic of the adoption or adaptation of the EU model in the Americas, Africa and Asia. Papers and discussions will focus on the recent developments of the regional integration schemes in the Western Hemisphere, will consider the role of the EU in strengthening democracy, development in the Mediterranean region, and will analysis from comparative angle the experiments of integration and cooperation in Asia and Africa.

### **Framework:**

Workshop I is dedicated to historical and theoretical aspects regarding the evolution of the European Union and the factors contributing to effective regional integration in general and in Europe in particular.

Workshop II deals with practical and innovative examples of regional integration in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

Workshop III will analyze and evaluate the current state of Latin American and Caribbean integration, in a transition process considering the specificity of the restructuring of MERCOSUR and the nascent South American Union.

## **Program**

Monday, March 26, 2007

9:15am:

Welcome: **Fred Frohock** (University of Miami)

Introductory remarks:

**Philippe Vinogradoff**, Consul General of France  
**Santiago Cabanas**, Consul General of Spain.

9:30-10:30am:

### **Workshop I: Regional Integration and the EU**

Chair: **Elizabeth Prugl** (Florida International University)

**Joaquín Roy** (University of Miami), “Reflections on the Treaty of Rome”

**Gaspare M. Genna** (University of Texas at El Paso), “Power preponderance,  
institutional homogeneity, and the likelihood of Regional Integration.”

**Markus Thiel** (Florida International University), “Cultural identity and regional  
integration”

Comments: **Roger Kanet** (University of Miami)

10:30: Coffee Break

11:00am-12:30pm

### **Workshop II: Asia-Africa-Middle East**

Chair: **Nicol Rae** (Florida Internacional University)

**Olufemi Babarinde** (Thunderbird, The Garvin School of International Management,  
Glendale, Arizona), “The African Union: finally in the path of the EU?”

**Astrid Boening** (University of Miami) “The Euro-Med partnership and regional  
integration”

**Katja Weber** (Georgia Institute of Technology), “European security integration: lessons  
for East Asia?”

Comments: **Riccardo Casale** (European Commission, European Commission Fellow at  
the University of Miami)

12:30-2:00pm: **Lunch**

**Eva-Alexandra Gräfin Kendeffy**, Consul General of Germany, “Aims and challenges of the German Presidency of the EU”

Presentation: **Ambler H. Moss** (University of Miami)

2:00-4:00

### **Workshop III: Western Hemisphere**

Chair: **Jeffrey Drope** (University of Miami)

**Laura Gómez-Mera** (University of Miami), “Obstacles to regional integration in Latin America and the Caribbean”.

**Roberto Domínguez** (Suffolk University, Boston), “NAFTA: will it ever have an EU profile?”

**Wendy Grenade** (University of West Indies, Barbados), “CARICOM: coming of age?”

**Aimee Kanner** (Florida Atlantic University), "Prospects for new governance in South America: insights from Europe"

**Marcos Aurelio Guedes de Oliveira** (Federal University of Pernambuco, Brazil), “The origin and evolution of the South American Community of Nations”

Comments: **Bruce Bagley** (University of Miami)

4:00-5:00pm

Roundtable discussion and conclusions.

Closing words: **João Almino**, Consul General of Brazil.