The Caribbean in the EU-CELAC Strategic Relationship

Eric DUBESSET, Ph.D
eric.dubesset-pascual@u-bordeaux.fr

Professor at Law and Politics Science College
Director of the Scientific Programme  *Horizons Caribéens*
Director of the Master’s Degree Comparative Politics: Americas
Université de Bordeaux (France)

“The Caribbean in the EU - CELAC Strategic Relationship”, Paris, Palais du Luxembourg, June 1st, 2017
University of Bordeaux (France)
The Caribbean in the Bi-Regional Strategic Partnership (AEB)

➔ Background Information

➔ The Current Stakes

➔ The New Challenges
The rapprochement Between Latin America and the Caribbean

- ACS/AES (Association of Caribbean States, 1994)
- ALBA (Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of America)
- Petrocaribe

CELAC (Community of Latin American and Caribbean States)

- Creation (2011)

The Bi-Regional Strategic Partnership (AEB in spanish)

- Institutionalization of the cooperation during summits:
  - Rio (1999)
  - Madrid (2002)
  - Guadalajara (2004)
  - Viena (2006)
  - Lima (2008)
  - Madrid (2010)
  - Santiago (2013)
  - Brussels (2015)

- A new Bi-regional Framework
  - Forms of cooperation
  - Political dialogue
New Heavy Trends

› End of the Cotonou Agreements (2000) in 2020 for the States of the ACP group
› Brexit
› Weakening of the CELAC
  • Internal Difficulties
  • Brazilian Exit
› On the international level, rise of emerging stakeholders such as China, Russia or Japan
  • Reconfiguration of the international system
  • Shift of the global economic dynamism from the Atlantic area to the Asia-Pacific area
New Challenges:

- Strengthening the involvement of the Caribbean in the CELAC and the Bi-Regional Strategic Partnership
  - Redefine New Ways of Cooperating with Latin America based on many assets:
    - Diplomatic Significance of the CARICOM
    - Experience of Democracy
    - Human Capital
  - Redefine New Ways of Cooperating with the European Union
    - Experience in the environmental field and adaptation to climate change
    - Legitimacy concerning the development of small island states
Concluding remarks

➔ Two key points call us to encourage and to deepen the bi-regional partnership in order to jointly to face international turmoil:

› The EU remains important for Latin America and the Caribbean
  • Third Trade Partner
  • Biggest Investor
  • Great International Stakeholder and Standards Maker

› Latin America and the Caribbean remain important for the EU:
  • Economic Dynamism
  • Community of values