



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

*Brussels, 9.1.2020
C(2019) 8081 final*

Dear President,

The European Commission would like to thank the Camera Deputaților for its Opinion on the Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council — The European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean: joining forces for a common future {JOIN(2019) 6 final}.

The European Commission is pleased that the Camera Deputaților supports the vision of the bilateral relationship as expressed in the Joint Communication.

The Joint Communication, endorsed by Council Conclusions adopted on 13 May 2019, sets out a framework to modernise the partnership between the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean in light of the important changes that have taken place in recent years. The EU proposes to build a stronger and more strategic association with the region, by strengthening the partnering efforts on some of the most important and shared challenges, notably those relating to equalities and social justice, sustainable development, climate change and multilateralism.

In this context, and as the Opinion of the Camera Deputaților rightly indicates, the EU needs a comprehensive strategy to transform this vision into reality. The EU therefore proposes to focus its external action with Latin America and the Caribbean around four partnerships, namely 1) prosperity 2) democracy 3) resilience and 4) effective global governance. Achieving such goals will require close coordination with EU Member States to pool strengths and resources. It will also require full and coherent use of the different policy areas and instruments that make up the EU's external action with the region.

The European Commission is pleased to inform you that the different areas for action raised in your Opinion constitute important elements of this overall strategy. As part of the partnership for prosperity, joint action to develop human capital, research and innovation and support to start-ups and small and medium sized enterprises will be key.

*Mr Ion-Marcel CIOLACU
President of the Camera Deputaților
Palace of the Parliament
Str. Izvor nr. 2-4, sector 5
RO – 050563 BUCHAREST*

Likewise, under the partnership for resilience against climate change, the EU is ready to step up cooperation on issues like water resource management, sustainable urban development, protection of bio-diversity and cultural cooperation. As you point out in the Opinion, united and purposeful action on the further multilateral agenda will be critical to advance the partnership for effective global governance, notably the implementation the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, and strengthening the World Trade Organization and the multilateral trading system. Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls must be at the forefront of the EU's engagement with Latin America and the Caribbean, including through its mainstreaming in all cooperation activities.

With regard to your Opinion's recommendation to conduct regular consultations with citizens and the business sector, the European Commission is committed to continue with this already established practice in the EU's relations with the Latin America and the Caribbean. The Joint Communication reflects the ambition to ensure that societies continue to be in the driving seat of bi-regional relations. Therefore, the EU will continue to work closely with civil society organisations, business community, and parliaments in this direction.

The European Commission appreciates the ongoing support of the Camera Deputaţilor for a coordinated and strategic European engagement with Latin America and the Caribbean and looks forward to continuing the political dialogue in the future.

Yours faithfully,

*Maroš Šefčovič
Vice-President*

*Josep Borrell Fontelles
High Representative/Vice-President*