

**PARTICIPATION OF MÁRIO CAMPOLARGO TO
LATAM-EU SYMPOSIUM ON ICT REGULATION
BRUSSELS - MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2010**

SPEAKING POINTS

- Strengthening the relations with Latin America is one of the key priorities of the European Union, as demonstrated by the significant progress achieved during the EU Spanish Presidency in the first half of 2010.
- From an EU perspective, there are multiple reasons for expanding the cooperation horizons with Latin America: fast growing GDP (about 4.5% in 2010), large and fertile market for advanced products and services, resilience to the global economic crisis, high potential for EU investors, as well as our strong cultural and political links.

- The Declaration adopted by Heads of State at the EU-LAC Summit held last May in Madrid puts innovation and research, including on ICT, as key priorities in the action plan until 2012. Therefore, time is ripe now to further intensify EU-Latin America relations, leveraging on the pervasive power of ICT as an enabler of growth and innovation.
- International cooperation is also an important component of the Digital Agenda for Europe (DAE) because practically all its seven pillars and many of the key actions have an intrinsic international dimension. Some examples:
 - Pillar 2: Internationally recognised standards can help to promote interoperability of ICT solutions at a global level; we should intensify our collaborations on standards, in particular given our common interest in developing open solutions encompassing numerous technologies, protocols and interfaces.

- Cyber security threats can only be addressed in an international context; we have plans under Pillar 3 of the DAE that cater for international cooperation on this aspect.
- Many Latin American countries have ambitious plans for broadband development or are adopting strategies to boost broadband coverage and take-up. The plans foreseen in the DAE Pillar 4 on ultra fast internet access could be the ground for cooperation in terms of sharing best practices, benchmarking common solutions, etc.
- Cooperation on ICT R&D and innovation is also fundamental to fill in common scientific and technological gaps and to foster the deployment and take up of advanced ICT solutions (Pillar 5).
- Finally, societal challenges, such as mitigating the effects of climate change, can only be tackled at a global level (Pillar 7).

- International cooperation with Latin America is also crucial given the strategic importance of the Internet as a global infrastructure. The European Commission will continue to play a pivotal role, in line with the Tunis Agenda, in promoting a governance of the Internet as open and inclusive as possible. The position of many Latin American countries is very similar to ours. It would thus be useful to explore further possibilities for collaboration on the governance of the Internet in the future.
- From a regulatory perspective, European solutions are traditionally based on equity of opportunity, transparent government and governance and markets that are open to competition. Sharing experiences with Latin American countries on the application of these principles would be of a primary interest to the EU. This is also motivated by the common cultural roots existing between the two regions.

- New opportunities for collaboration between EU and Latin America should build on and expand on the main achievements of our partnership over the past few years. Such achievements include:
 - Establishment of a regular dialogue between EU and Latin American telecom regulatory authorities (BEREC and REGULATEL), supported since 2002 by the @LIS and @LIS2 Programmes;
 - Exchange experience and best practices derived from the eEurope and i2010 strategies for the development of the Information Society. This has contributed to the work done in Latin America to launch the eLAC 2007 Regional Action Plan, implemented also with the @LIS support, and the subsequent launch of eLAC2010 Action Plan at the Regional Ministerial Conference on the Information Society of El Salvador held on February 2008.
 - Promotion of EU-Latin America ICT R&D Cooperation within the framework of international cooperation projects.

- In this context, it is worth mentioning the recent launch of a coordinated call with Brazil in the ICT field, which is a concrete example of reinforcement of our cooperation in this field.
- Promote Interconnection of the European high-speed GEANT network with the Latin American research and education networks (RedCLARA), equally supported under @LIS.
- Finally, looking at a future cooperation perspective, the European Union is planning to launch a new instrument of cooperation (ICI PLUS), currently in preparation. In particular, the European Commission has proposed in the Multi-Annual Cooperation Programme 2010-2013 under this Instrument to devote € 32 million for the "Promotion of Economic Partnership and Business cooperation in Latin America" (amongst other things). These € 32 million should:
 - . a) Finance the creation of an EU-Latin America Knowledge and Innovation Centre;

- b) Facilitate business support services for European companies;
- c) Support for the implementation of Digital Video Broadcasting Standards;
- d) Support Regulatory cooperation in the field of Electronic Communications.
- The third Ministerial Conference on the Information Society in Latin America and the Caribbean: building inclusive and innovative digital societies, will take place in Lima from 21 to 23 November 2010. We expect that this event (where the EU Ambassador in Lima will participate as a speaker in representation of Commissioner Kroes) will provide positive messages on the specific principles and points for collaboration between EU and Latin American countries.
- I look forward to an interesting and constructive discussion today.