

# EU-LAC PARTNERSHIP ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RISK MANAGEMENT

May 2024  
Issue 4

## FLASH ! Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signature

The EU-LAC Memorandum of Understanding on Disaster Preparedness and Disaster Risk Management has been signed in Barbados on 15 May 2024 during a ceremony co-hosted by the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and the EU, represented by the Commissioner for Crisis Management, Mr. Janez Lenarčič.

The MoU brings together the European Union and the LAC region through the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), the Coordination Centre for the Prevention of Disasters in Central America and Dominican Republic (CEPREDENAC) and the General Secretariat of the Andean Community (SGCAN), as well the Republic of Chile, the Republic of Cuba, the United Mexican States, with the presence of UNDRR and the CELAC presidency as witnesses of honour. MERCOSUR Vice-ministers of Foreign Affairs of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay will sign by the end of the May, after final internal approval by MERCOSUR foreseen by the 27 May 2024.

The Signature of the MoU was combined with a first High-Level Ministerial Dialogue on the perspectives and objectives of the strategic alliance to be established between the two regions and was centered around three main topics including Early Warning Systems, Climate Change and Resilient Infrastructure.

Additionally, a technical workshop among the MoU actors was held in the margins of the high-level events. The workshop provided an opportunity to discuss priorities and look for lines of cooperation within and among sub-regions, the broader LAC region and between the EU and LAC region. The report of the workshop is under preparation and will be circulated shortly.

## Upcoming Events

The Group of Experts on Forest Fires in Latin America and the Caribbean (GEFF LAC) will meet in Peru from 21 to 24 May. The GEFF aims to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and best practices on forest fire management. Together with the harmonised information provided by the Global Wildfire Information System (GWIS), it promotes strategic actions to minimise the impact of wildfires and improve fire policies at national and regional levels and promotes the collaboration between the European Union (EU) and Latin American and Caribbean countries to improve national capacities to prevent forest fires from a regional perspective, through EU best practices such as, the European Forest Fire Information System (EFFIS) and the European Group on Forest Fires (EGFF). This is a concrete example of cooperation under area 2 and 3 of the MoU (Promotion



RELACIONES EXTERIORES

of actions to strengthen the prevention and promotion of the exchange of knowledge, experiences, and good practices in the area of comprehensive disaster risk management).

The 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Small Island Developing States will take place from 27 to 30 May in Antigua and Barbuda. It will be a milestone in our joint effort to reaching the SDGs and an opportunity to ensure a strong path to sustainable development in the next 10 years.

## EU announces Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Preparedness allocations for 2024

EU is allocating €130 million in humanitarian aid for Latin America and the Caribbean in 2024.

The largest allocation of the EU's humanitarian aid to Latin America and the Caribbean corresponds to the **Venezuela crisis**, with nearly 50 million euros. Most of the funding will support interventions tackling the consequences of the protracted humanitarian crisis in the country and its regional impacts, while **5 million euros will be dedicated to disaster preparedness**.

In **Colombia**, as people continue to suffer the impact of armed conflicts, 11 million euros are allocated for humanitarian aid. In addition, **5 million euros earmarked for disaster preparedness**.

For the rest of **South America**, funding amounts to 21 million euros. This includes 13 million euros to respond to the main humanitarian needs, notably forced displacement that continues to be a major issue across the subregion, as well as 2 million euros for the response to the Ecuador internal crisis. The remaining **8 million euros will go to disaster preparedness**.

In **Central America**, 17 million euro will support the response to the main humanitarian crises, mainly resulting from chronic violence and the record numbers of displaced people on the move. An **additional 1 million euros are earmarked for disaster preparedness**.

As already announced in [March](#), 20 million euros in humanitarian aid were released for **Haiti**, For the rest of the **Caribbean**, over one million euros will go to humanitarian aid, in particular in response to the migration flows stemming mostly from Venezuela, Cuba and Haiti, and **another 1 million to disaster preparedness**.

Finally, an amount of **€1.5 million** has been allocated to respond to the **dengue outbreak in Central and South America** and **€1,2 million** to respond to the **devastating floods in Brazil**, which in past weeks have affected 90% of the territory of Rio Grande do Sul.