

Bulletin150

on the integration of Latin America
and the Caribbean

May / 2010

Contents

Juan Francisco Rojas Penso, former Secretary General of ALADI died	(1)
Condolence note by the General Secretariat of ALADI	(1)
SELA now on Twitter	(2)
SELA participates in II FLACSO Congress	(2)
Permanent Secretary attends VI-EU-LAC Summit in Madrid	(2-3)
Presidential Summit of UNASUR	(3)
Forty-first anniversary of Andean integration	(3-4)
Andean Community-European Union Summit	(4-5)
EU-Central America negotiations come to an end	(5)
Caribbean and U.S. move forward on security cooperation	(5-6)
Caribbean Conference on Sustainable Tourism Development	(6-7)
Meeting on Facilitation of Customs Procedures by the ACS	(7)
Briefs	(7-8)
- Cross-border projects in the Andean Community	
- CARICOM provides more help for Haiti and Chile	
Calendar of meetings on integration	(8)

The "Latin American and Caribbean Integration Bulletin" is a publication of the Permanent Secretariat of SELA which was generated within the framework of the UNESCO-SELA Convention "Communications for the Integration of Latin America and the Caribbean" of the UNESCO International Programme for the Development of Communications (IPDC).

Legal deposit: pp 199703CS183
ISSN: 1317-1844

Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA)
Permanent Secretariat, Apartado Postal 17035,
Caracas 1010-A, Venezuela.
Visit SELA's Web site in Internet: www.sela.org.
Send your comments or suggestions to SELA to:
difusion@sela.org

Dr. Juan Francisco Rojas Penso, Venezuelan economist and former Secretary General of ALADI after occupying important diplomatic and professional positions in his country and the Andean Community, died from natural causes on 30 May. In recent years, he also served as an international consultant and speaker for several organizations in the region, including SELA.

The Permanent Secretary of SELA, Ambassador José Rivera Banuet, and staff of the regional organization deeply regret the demise of this prominent and outstanding promoter of integration and express to his family and friends their most heartfelt condolences. His death represents an irreparable loss for the integration of Latin America and the Caribbean. Peace to his soul. ♦

Montevideo, 30 May – The General Secretariat of the Latin American Integration Association (ALADI) has the sad duty to report the passing of former Secretary General of the Association, Ambassador Juan Francisco Rojas Penso, who devoted his professional life to dealing with foreign trade and integration issues and held important positions in his country, Venezuela, and international organizations in our region.

Ambassador Rojas had a long career in the General Secretariat of ALADI. He was Director of Trade Policy in the period 1989-1992 and then served as Deputy Secretary General until 1999, when he was elected Secretary General of the organization and reelected in 2002.

The region will always remember him for his valuable contributions and innovative initiatives in favour of the regional integration process and for his continued intellectual contribution, expressed in countless studies and proposals he offered in academic classrooms and the positions he held.

Therefore, the Secretary General pays him a fitting tribute as a Latin American citizen and defender of the integrationist ideals. ♦



**Juan Francisco
Rojas Penso,
former Secretary
General of ALADI,
died**

*Permanent Secretariat of
SELA*

**Condolence note
by the General
Secretariat of
ALADI**

*Taken from ALADI Web
site*



SELA now on Twitter

Caracas, 28 May 2010- The Permanent Secretariat of SELA is pleased to announce that it has opened a Twitter account to promote its information services in the areas of regional integration, international cooperation, social and economic development, poverty reduction, Information and Communication Technologies for development, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises and other issues of regional and global interest.

With this new interactive channel for communication and dissemination of information, the Permanent Secretariat is expanding its already extensive network of information services on the economic, social and political event in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Follow us on [@SELAINFORMA](https://twitter.com/SELAINFORMA) ♦

SELA participates in II FLACSO Congress

Permanent Secretariat of SELA

The Permanent Secretary of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), Ambassador José Rivera Banuet, participated in the Second Latin American and Caribbean Congress on Social Sciences, organized by the Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences (FLACSO) in Mexico City on 26, 27 and 28 May.

The commercial dimension of Integration in Latin America and the Caribbean was the subject presented by the Permanent Secretary of SELA in the regional event, which took place in the academic headquarters of FLACSO, in Mexico City. The issues of integration in Latin America and the Caribbean, trade and economic integration policies were analyzed on the basis of successes, failures, constraints and pending agenda.

The Permanent Secretary of SELA said in his speech that "little attention has been given to the social dimension of integration, which in many cases shows a marked inefficiency of trade policy instruments, not only to confront the chronic problems of poverty and exclusion, but also the unwanted social impacts caused by integration processes".

The objective of this Congress was to promote a meeting to analyze the main issues being discussed in the social sciences worldwide and the various problems affecting the contemporary world, particularly the Latin American and Caribbean region.

FLACSO was created in 1957, and since then it has become an international organization with an autonomous academic character, with the objective of promoting teaching, research and technical cooperation in the area of social sciences in Latin America and the Caribbean. ♦

Permanent Secretary attends VI-EU-LAC Summit in Madrid

Permanent Secretariat of SELA

Ambassador José Rivera Banuet, Permanent Secretary of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic System (SELA), was invited by the President of Spain, José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero, and the President of the European Council, Herman Van Rompuy, to the VI Summit between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean (EU-LAC), held on 18 May in Madrid.

This bi-regional forum, held every two years, was attended by Heads of State and Government, Foreign Ministers and other high-level government representatives of 27 European nations and 33 Latin American and Caribbean countries.

The Madrid Summit provided a framework to discuss and reach many agreements on issues related to the support of both regions to the reconstruction efforts in Haiti, the requirements to redesign an international financial system reform, and innovation and technology as tools for sustainable development and social inclusion.

Among the relevant aspects of the EU-LAC Summit is the adoption of specific initiatives, such as the launch of the EUROLAC Foundation, designed as an instrument for promoting mutual understanding

between both regions and providing greater visibility to the mutual strategic partnership, to be incorporated into civil society. Another relevant issue discussed in Madrid was the process of negotiation to conclude a Partnership Agreement between the EU and Central America, multi-party agreements with Peru and Colombia, and the formal resumption of negotiations between Europe and MERCOSUR.

Within the context of relations between the EU and CARIFORUM countries, it was announced that the regional political dialogue which started on 23 March 2010, in Kingston, Jamaica, would be renewed and intensified, so as to make progress towards establishing a new EU-Caribbean joint strategy.

The meeting adopted an Action Plan, containing a set of concrete initiatives in the areas of energy, environment, education, research and innovation, and the fight against drugs with its corresponding financing instruments, which will be reviewed at the next summit to be held in Chile in 2012.

Since the 1990s, it has been possible to expand a series of networks of cooperation agreements among countries of both regions with the hope of turning them into partnership agreements with political, commercial and cooperation contents. In

1999 the conduction of biennial summits was formalized. The summits have been held in Rio de Janeiro, Madrid, Guadalajara, Vienna, Lima and this year, once again, in Madrid.

The Final Declaration of this important summit is available on SELA's Web page: www.sela.org. ♦

A Special Summit of UNASUR was held in Los Cardales, Province of Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 4 May.

On that occasion, presidents announced their decision to continue building a common space for political, economic, social, cultural and infrastructure integration in South America. They also decided to establish effective commitments for joint action to promote social and human development with equality and inclusion to eradicate poverty and overcome inequalities in this area in a context of unity, democracy, full respect for human rights and cooperation at the subregional and international levels.

They also recognized the dynamism of UNASUR and emphasized the need for consistency in the

process of institutional consolidation. They asked the Council of Foreign Ministers for recommendations on strengthening the institutional architecture of UNASUR, identifying ways to increase the effectiveness of the existing councils, promote the gradual convergence with subregional integration mechanisms and identify priority topics for South American integration. To achieve regional coordination, the establishment of new bodies of UNASUR would be necessary.

During the Summit, presidents elected Néstor Carlos Kirchner, former president of Argentina, as Secretary General of UNASUR, in accordance with the procedure set forth in Article 10 of the Constitutive Treaty of UNASUR.

The Final Declaration of this special summit is available on SELA's Web page: www.sela.org. ♦

Presidential Summit of UNASUR

Lima, 25 May 2010 – As part of a solemn session, the Andean Community celebrated the 41st anniversary of the signing of the Cartagena Agreement, which is the international treaty that launched the Andean integration process.

The ceremony took place at the headquarters of the Andean organization in Lima with the participation of Peru's Foreign Minister and Chairman of the Andean Council of Foreign Ministers, José Antonio García Belaunde, as well as ambassadors, government representatives and other high-level Andean academic and political personalities of Peru. Participants also included representatives of bodies and institutions of the Andean Integration System and the acting Secretary General of the Andean Community, Adalid Contreras, directors and staff of the General Secretariat of CAN.

Important progress has been made in the Andean integration process over these four decades. At the same time, major problems were encountered and surmounted, showing that CAN is a historical project that continues to advance above and beyond short-lived circumstances.

This 41st anniversary finds the Andean Community starting to develop a new Strategic Agenda that prioritizes issues such as environment, social development, citizen participation and economic complementarity, among others, and whose principal guidelines are to "preserve our accomplishments", and "respect the diversity of

approaches and visions that constitute the foundations for the Community's coexistence."

One of the accomplishments CAN seeks to preserve and consolidate is the Andean free-trade area, whose creation has contributed to the sustained and increasingly rapid growth of trade within the Community, particularly since its start-up. Intra-Andean trade rose from US\$ 75 million in 1970 to US\$ 5.774 billion in 2009, an almost 77-fold increase. As for the composition of transactions within the subregion, while 43% of goods traded consisted of manufactured products in 1970, 80% were manufactures in 2009, almost doubling their participation.

The Gross Domestic Product increased almost 27 times, climbing from US\$ 16.098 billion in 1970 to US\$ 431.375 billion in 2009. At the same time, the per capita GDP rose from 375 to 4,386 dollars, amounting to 12-fold growth.

As regards the legal and institutional heritage of CAN, which is one of the most advanced integration schemes, is expressed in regulatory bases, supranational decisions, its own dispute settlement system, a comprehensive system of bodies and institutions and a diversity of topics. The Andean Community has the power to adopt Community regulations that are legally binding on the Andean

Forty-first anniversary of Andean integration

Taken from CAN Web site

countries. Over its 41-year life, a total of 732 Decisions and 1,806 Resolutions have been adopted, of which 506 were approved by the former Board of the Cartagena Agreement and 1,300 by the Andean Community General Secretariat.

In addition to the rights they enjoy as nationals of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, the citizens of those countries have acquired new rights stemming from integration they may exercise within the enlarged territory of the Andean countries. Among the rights they have acquired are: the right to travel in the four Andean countries using only their national identification document, without any need for a passport or visa; the right to provide services in the territory of the other Andean countries under the same conditions as the citizens of those countries; the right to get access to national and Community legal bodies to defend their rights and interests; and the right to export goods of Andean origin to another CAN country without paying customs duties. These rights are protected by a strong dispute settlement system and an Andean Court of Justice with headquarters in Quito.

One of its major strengths and, at the same time, a source of opportunity for CAN is its concentration of a large portion of the planet's natural wealth and 20% of the world's biological diversity. Considering these facts, the Andean Community has made the environment a priority. In this context, it fostered the preparation of "21 Proposals for the Twenty-first Century" in order to face up to climate change; it launched the BioCAN project, which promotes the conservation of the ecosystems in the Andean countries' Andean-Amazon regions, and the

Adaptation to the Impact of Glacier Retreat project, which boosts actions to cope with the impact of climate change in the Andes and its basins, among other things.

As regards the financial institutions, the Andean Development Corporation (CAF) and the Latin American Reserve Fund (FLAR) are two institutions stemming from the Andean integration process that provide valuable support for macroeconomic stability and the Andean development financing.

Moreover, a long negotiation process to put a satellite into orbit has come to an end. It will give the subregion a greater commercial satellite capacity and make it possible, as of 2012, to allocate part of that capacity – equivalent to 40 television channels, 1,000 Vsat antennas or 500 radio broadcasting stations – free of cost to social projects agreed upon by the governments.

On its 41st anniversary, the Andean Community faces the challenge of managing the different views among its Member Countries and strengthening its approach to the citizens by taking concrete actions that make sense for them. It also has the challenge of successfully developing the Strategic Agenda and boosting its twelve elements: Participation of Andean citizens in the integration process, common foreign policy, trade integration and economic complementarity, promotion of production, trade and sustainable consumption, physical integration and border development, social development, environment, tourism, safety, culture, cooperation, energy integration and natural resources, and institutional development of the Andean Community. ♦

Andean Community-European Union Summit

Taken from CAN Web site

On the occasion of the Sixth Summit between Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union in Madrid, the Heads of State of the Member Countries of the Andean Community – Bolivian Evo Morales, Colombian Alvaro Uribe, Ecuadorian Rafael Correa and Peruvian Alan García – accompanied by the acting Secretary General of the Andean Community, Adalid Contreras, held a working session with the European Union, represented by Herman Van Rompuy, President of the European Council; and José Manuel Durão Barroso, President of the European Commission; in the presence of the President of the Spanish Government and current President of the Council of the European Union, José Luis Rodríguez Zapatero.

The Heads of State analyzed the situation of the relations between the European Union and the Andean Community, which they think have made a significant progress. They particularly welcomed the recent conduction of a meeting of the CAN-EU Joint Commission.

Then they held a dialogue on the results of the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen and the future of negotiations on this subject. In this

connection, they stressed the need to conduct them in accordance with the procedures established by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol. They agreed on the need to take decisions that lead to a comprehensive, ambitious and legally effective result at combating climate change through a transparent and inclusive negotiation process and in the framework of mutual trust.

Regardless of their autonomous national policies on oil and climate change, they expressed their support for the Yasuni ITT Initiative presented by Ecuador, since it represents an effective voluntary measure to deal with the issue of climate change and ensure the preservation of one of the most biodiverse places in the world.

The President of Bolivia presented the results of the World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth, held in Cochabamba from 20 to 22 April 2010, and invited the rest of the Heads of State to consider the recommendations arising from this event and monitor them.

Furthermore, they took note of the Dialogue for Progressive Action, held in Cartagena from 24 to 26 March 2010, and the LAC-EU Dialogue, held in Lima from 26 to 27 April 2010.

To conclude this topic, the Andean Community presented a balance of the region's achievements in the implementation of the Andean Environmental Agenda, and the European Union indicated that climate change will be one of the priority areas of its future cooperation with the Andean Community.

They also ratified their commitment to give more political impetus to the bi-regional dialogue in order to face the world drug problem, according to the principle of common and shared responsibility, by strengthening the High Level Specialized Dialogue on Drugs between the Andean Community and the European Union, which is a dialogue and cooperation mechanism between the two blocks in this area.

They undertook to hold the XI Meeting of such mechanism in the second half of 2010. In this connection, they stressed the importance of dealing with the world drug problem in a coordinated manner through a comprehensive and balanced approach to achieve greater efficiency.

They underscored the regional projects approved with funding from the European Union, which will contribute to the further implementation of the Andean Plan for the Fight against Illicit Drugs and Related Crimes and the implementation of the Integral and Sustainable Alternative Development Andean Strategy according to national policies.

Finally, they stressed the strong historical, cultural and social ties among the countries of the Andean Community and the EU, welcomed the launch and progress of the Structured and Comprehensive Dialogue between LAC and the EU as regards migration, stressed the need to strengthen this space for dialogue from the perspective of political commitment and expressed support for the achievement of their objectives.

They recalled the positive contribution of migrants to the economic and socio-cultural development of societies of destination and origin of migration. The Heads of State reaffirmed the importance of further work in areas of common interest and benefit in terms of migration, particularly the areas agreed in the dialogue for joint management of issues related to migration within the framework of full respect for human rights of migrants. ♦

On 18 May, within the framework of the VI EU-LAC Summit, the negotiators of the Association Agreement between the European Union and Central America in Madrid concluded the remaining work in the political, cooperation and trade areas that are part of that negotiation, having made substantial progress and achieved positive end results.

In a special event on 19 May, the Central American Presidents or their representatives, together with the European Union President, the President of the Council of the European Union and the President of the European Commission, signed the draft Agreement and adopted a joint statement that reflects the spirit of those agreements.

The Secretary General of the Central American Integration System (SICA), Juan Daniel Alemán Gudián, said upon completion of negotiations that the General Secretariat welcomed the conclusion of this strategic agreement, which will contribute to further strengthening the close ties of friendship and cooperation between both integration schemes and, in particular, the regional integration process being consolidated in Central America.

This event is a landmark in world history, since it represents the first region-to-region agreement signed by the European Union and other region of the world, which demonstrates the maturity and intensity of the integration process within the framework of SICA. This reality deepens every day, continuously meeting its objectives and strengthening its future. ♦

EU-Central America negotiations come to an end

Taken from SICA Web site

Georgetown, 31 May 2010 – A Declaration of Principles signed by the Heads of Delegation at the High Level Dialogue on Caribbean regional security cooperation on 27 May 2010 in Washington DC, US, was one of several documents adopted at the forum to guide activities under the Caribbean-United States Security Cooperation Initiative. Both sides agreed that the one-day High-Level Dialogue was an important step forward in their partnership and that it would be critical to see tangible results from their deliberations, activities and the implementation of recommendations.

The United States Congress has set aside US\$ 37 million for the financial year 2010 to support the Caribbean Regional Security Cooperation Initiative while the administration has requested US\$ 79 million for the financial year 2011. A Joint Caribbean-United States Framework for Security Cooperation Engagement and a Caribbean-United States Plan of Action on Security Cooperation were also adopted following joint working group sessions of the Dialogue.

Caribbean and U.S. move forward on security cooperation

Taken from CARICOM Web site

The documents provide the principles, the framework and the key objectives which will guide the activities carried out under the Initiative. In addition, the Caribbean has developed a Needs Assessment Matrix which will be regularly updated and which will be of assistance to the Technical Working Groups when they commence their work, and make recommendations in the activity areas identified.

The Caribbean-US discussion on Caribbean regional security cooperation, which includes CARICOM and the Dominican Republic, began a year ago in Paramaribo, Suriname, and culminated with the High-Level Dialogue after four meetings of the Joint Working Group to jointly define and develop the goals and scope of the partnership.

The process was initiated after United States President Barack Obama indicated at the Fifth Summit of the Americas in Trinidad and Tobago in April 2009, his intention to pursue a security partnership with the Caribbean. It was also a response to the concerns expressed for some time by the Caribbean Community in its meetings with the United States over the negative spillover effect of regional initiatives such as the Merida Initiative and the Central American Regional Security Initiative which had led to an increase in illegal drug trafficking in the Caribbean. The Caribbean-US Security Cooperation Initiative goes beyond security and law enforcement and embraces strengthening and reform of the institutions of the judiciary, prosecution and prisons as well as addressing the social roots of crime.

At the dialogue, the U.S. inter-agency delegation was headed by the Assistant Secretary of State for Western Hemisphere Affairs, Arturo Valenzuela. The Caribbean delegations included the Deputy Prime Minister of Barbados and Ministers of National Security of Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas, Guyana and Jamaica. The Regional Security System was represented by its Director, and the CARICOM Secretariat and the Implementation Agency on Crime and Security (IMPACS) by senior officials.

A number of the region's external partners with interests in the region were present as observers. They included France, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Spain, the European Union and Colombia. The Dialogue was co-chaired by Assistant Secretary of State Valenzuela and National Security Minister Senator Dr the Honourable Errol Cort, of Antigua and Barbuda, who is the current Chair of the CARICOM Council for National Security and Law Enforcement (CONSLE). Several Caribbean Ministers of National Security as well as the Honourable Eric Holder, U.S. Attorney General and Head of the Department of Justice addressed the dialogue.

Mr. Holder spoke on the theme of "How Effective Judicial Systems Contribute to Citizen Safety". The Honourable Clement Rohee, Minister of Home Affairs of Guyana responded on behalf of the Caribbean. Presentations by both sides followed by an exchange of views took place on the themes of Maritime and Airspace Security Cooperation; Improved Law Enforcement and Capacity Development; and Preventing Crime by Focusing on Youth and Other Vulnerable Populations. ♦

Caribbean Conference on Sustainable Tourism Development

Taken from ACS Web site

The 11th annual Caribbean Conference on Sustainable Tourism Development (STC-11) was held from 9 to 12 May 2010 in Bridgetown, Barbados, and was organized in collaboration with the Barbados Ministry of Tourism.

This annual Conference is part of the information dissemination and regional awareness component of the Caribbean Tourism Organization's (CTO) Strategy for Sustainable Tourism. It looks at how member states can design and implement sustainable tourism policies and programmes, offering a regional forum for information exchange on the successes and pitfalls of national, regional and international initiatives.

The Conference brings together regional and international tourism specialists, Ministers of Government, Directors of Tourism, as well as developmental experts from the cultural, environmental and academic spheres and the local communities to share their experiences and offer solutions to the problems in the development of sustainable tourism. It is anticipated that this

conference will draw in excess of 250 local, regional and international delegates. "We are delighted that we are able to once again bring together a wide range of experts and stakeholders to discuss the region's sustainability," said Hugh Riley, Secretary General of the CTO. "We thank the government of Barbados for hosting this very important conference in this difficult global economic climate."

This year's conference examined critical issues relating to sustainability and explored creative solutions to many of the challenges facing CTO Member Countries, including the effects of climate change.

"STC will continue with the focus on how Member States can design and incorporate sustainable tourism policies and practices into their regional and international initiatives," said Gail Henry, the CTO's Sustainable Tourism Product Specialist. "We recognize that the development of the tourism sector in the Caribbean has to continue on a sustainable path. The Caribbean has an opportunity

to lead advancements in this area while also creating valuable employment opportunities.”

A comprehensive and dynamic programme is being planned to include the customary study tours – a key feature of this conference. ♦

Trade Facilitation represents a paradigm shift away from the sole emphasis on the revenue collection role of customs. The concept came to the forefront in 1996 during the WTO Singapore Ministerial meeting as the international business community expressed concern for greater transparency, efficiency and procedural uniformity for the cross-border transportation of goods. Since that time, the topic has emerged as a major trade-policy issue in the WTO's Doha Work Programme as a result of the 31st Package agreed to in 2004.

Trade liberalization with its implied tariffs reduction globally has brought to the fore the need to shift the paradigm to one of trade facilitation.

The role of customs and similar regulatory government bodies is at the centre of this process. Trade facilitation is a complex area, encompassing government regulations and controls, business efficiency, transportation, information and communication technology and the financial services.

Through the critical interplay of administrative demands and procedures, the process of trade in goods and services can either be accelerated or constrained. The Association of Caribbean States, through the Trade and External Economic Relations Directorate, recognizes this fact, and acknowledges that our nations have many procedures and systems which have not kept pace with technology, modes of production, and distribution, and therefore need to upgrade to meet the demands of the new international Trade environment.

Customs is a mandatory element in the movement of goods across borders. Effective and efficient clearance of goods enhances industrial processes. When an industry functions efficiently, it impacts positively on the participation of the national economy at the global level and contributes significantly to the economic competitiveness of nations.

The ACS Trade Directorate has identified the necessity for Customs Authorities of the Greater Caribbean States to get together to share their achievements, discuss issues and gain knowledge on this matter. After hosting in March 2005 the first Customs Facilitation Meeting at the headquarters of the ACS in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, it became part of the Trade Directorate work programme that was approved by the ACS Member States and Associate Members.

This second Meeting on Facilitation of Customs Procedures will be held in Panama City, Panama, with the logistic support of the National Customs Authority and the Panama Canal Authority. Through this Meeting, the ACS Trade Directorate will gather all the Customs Authorities of the Region to work on different strategies to improve the customs procedures and reap the benefits of increased efficiency through optimal trade procedures. Finally, the ACS Trade Directorate expects that the outcome of this meeting will help to facilitate trade and ensure synergies across our economies. ♦

Meeting on Facilitation of Customs Procedures by the ACS

Taken from ACS Web site

Briefs

Cross-border projects in the Andean Community

Lima, 14 May – The Andean Community is implementing, with the support of the European Union, four projects aimed at improving environmental quality and health of inhabitants of border areas and three projects in indigenous communities aimed at promoting rural development and nutrition, and education. The seven projects, plus the design of a regional cohesion strategy, are developed under the Support for the Economic and Social Cohesion of the Andean Community (CESCAN) cooperation project between CAN and the EU, with an investment of more than nine million dollars.

The CESCAN was presented on 13 May in Lima, at a ceremony attended by the acting Secretary

General of the Andean Community, Adalid Contreras; the Representative of the European Union Delegation in Peru, Victor Velarde; and the Representative of the Peruvian Ministry of Women and Social Development, Andrés Escudero.

The Secretary General of CAN said that the cohesion project is very important for CAN, because it offers the member countries the opportunity to work together in creating policies and a regional strategy for economic and social cohesion, with the support of a group of experts meeting in the so-called "Andean Centre of Excellence for Economic and Social Cohesion" (CAECES). He explained that the project will lead to interventions in border areas and in rural and urban areas for the benefit of lower-income populations through cross-border and transnational projects. Mr. Victor Velarde said that

cohesion is a priority in the CAN-EU relationship and will be the focus of discussion at the next EU-LAC Summit to be held in Madrid. He emphasized that the objective is to prevent and eradicate poverty

at a church service in memory of the victims of the disasters, was presented on 19 May to representatives of the governments of Haiti and Chile at the headquarters of the Organization of American States (OAS), in Washington, United States.

The CESCAN, launched in April 2009, has already made progress in the implementation of cross-border projects – Integrated Solid Waste Management Ipiales-Tulcán (Colombia-Ecuador) and Binational Health Network Zumba-San Ignacio (Peru-Ecuador) – and projects for territorial rural development and nutrition improvement in indigenous communities. ♦

In handing over the funds, Permanent Representative of St. Kitts and Nevis to the OAS, Ambassador Izben Williams said that it was symbolic of the “solidarity” of the hemisphere towards both countries in their recovery efforts. He described the memorial service as “a remarkable occasion”, which demonstrated the “oneness and commitment” of the hemisphere towards the earthquake-torn countries. The Permanent Representative of Haiti to the OAS, Ambassador Duly Brutus, and the Permanent Representative of Chile to the OAS received the contributions on behalf of their governments and expressed appreciation to the CARICOM Caucus of Ambassadors for the much needed assistance. ♦

CARICOM provides more help for Haiti and Chile
 Georgetown, 20 May The Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Caucus of Ambassadors in Washington, USA, extended a hand of support to the survivors of the earthquakes which occurred on 12 January and 27 February in Haiti and Chile, respectively. A financial contribution, from donations

Calendar of meetings On integration

<p>June</p>	<p>Montevideo, Uruguay (2 and 3) Forum: “Exchange of experiences and best practices in public-private partnerships for internationalization of MSMEs” SELA-IBERPME</p> <p>Mexico City (7) Meeting of the Advisory Technical Committee for Establishing the Simplified Regional Mechanism for Natural Disaster Risk Reduction and Management SELA/SEGIB/AECID/Government of Mexico</p>	<p>Havana, Cuba (23 and 24) III Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Cuba and CARICOM</p>
-------------	---	---

