



*The Coral Gables Declaration*  
*April 6, 2002*

-Euro – Inter-American Forum



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## **The European Union at the University of Miami**

European Union studies were initiated at the University of Miami's Graduate School of International Studies as a scholarly response to the end of the Cold War in the late 1980s, and since then have developed into a strong discipline supported by the professors and students who dedicate much time and effort to develop research topics, publish articles and books, and participate in European Union related activities both at home and abroad. As a result of these efforts, external actors have also contributed to the growth and development of European Union studies at the University of Miami. First, in the Spring of 2001, the European Commission awarded Professor Joaquín Roy a Jean Monnet Chair, one of the first four granted to professors in the United States. The award was given for his efforts in developing courses on the European Union and his scholarly publications in the field. Second, the European Commission awarded a European Union Center (one of the 15 in the United States) to a consortium formed by the University of Miami and Florida International University. The Center's mission is to teach, research, and sponsor activities to promote awareness of the European Union.

The Jean Monnet Chair also founded (thanks to private donations, a subsidy from the Government of Spain, and the endorsement of the Salvador de Madariaga Foundation) the "Salvador de Madariaga" Iberian Studies Institute (as an expansion of the former Iberian Studies Institute) for the study of Spain in the European Union and its relations with Latin America, as well as the "Robert Schuman" European Union Research Institute (thanks to the endorsement of the Jean Monnet Foundation and the Robert Schuman Foundation, in Paris) for the study of European Union institutions and policies, and the role of France in the European Union.

This working paper series is one of many endeavors undertaken to enhance European Union studies at the University of Miami – others include seminars, hosting EU officials, reports and monitors, courses on the European Union, and cultural events. For additional information on European Union studies at the University of Miami, the Jean Monnet Chair, the "Salvador de Madariaga" Iberian Studies Institute, the "Robert Schuman" European Union Research Institute and the Miami European Union Center, their activities and publications, please contact Joaquín Roy at the Miami European Union Center:

Miami European Union Center  
University of Miami  
1531 Brescia Avenue  
Coral Gables, FL 33146-3010  
Phone: 305-284-3266  
Fax: 305-284-4875  
E-Mail: [jroy@miami.edu](mailto:jroy@miami.edu)  
Webs: [www.miami.edu/international-studies/euc](http://www.miami.edu/international-studies/euc)  
[www.euroy.org](http://www.euroy.org); [www.miamieuc.org](http://www.miamieuc.org)

### **Jean Monnet Chair Staff:**

Joaquín Roy (Director)  
Aimee Kanner (Editor)  
Roberto Domínguez (Research Assistant)  
Nouray Ibryamova (Research Assistant)  
Julia Lemus (Administrative Coordinator)

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Euro – Inter-American Forum<sup>\*</sup>

Miami European Union Center  
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<sup>\*</sup> The members of the Euro – Inter-American Forum (an organization of academics from several universities in Europe, the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean) and diverse assistants and participants in the Conference on “the Relations between the European Union and the Americas,” which took place at the University of Miami on April 4-6, 2002, approved this Declaration for presentation at the European Union-Latin America-Caribbean Summit in Madrid on May 17-18, 2002.

# THE CORAL GABLES DECLARATION

## APRIL 6, 2002

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### **Toward a Common Space**

European, Latin American, and Caribbean countries constitute a fraternal community with a common history, in that all share the same civilization and culture, which permits the development of a European-Latin American-Caribbean Space, an extension of the existing “Iberoamerican Space,” constituted by the Summits of Spain, Portugal, and the Latin American countries.

The European Union member states, after centuries of confrontations, have been able to renounce violence, through dialogue, communicative action, negotiations, and collaboration on the development of a common environment of liberty, security, justice, and prosperity. The most important lesson of this process is that sharing the same civilization and culture facilitates communication and united action.

At the same time, it is necessary to recognize that all action requires will and capability. The common will is configured by sharing the same principles, values, and objectives. The capability of action is constituted by having the power, and being aware of it, to develop political, economic, and cultural relations.

This capability is the result of achieving common objectives through concrete cooperative plans. Among these objectives, shared security is a prerequisite and, in addition to economic and social development and environmental protection, there must be an emphasis on fighting corruption, ignorance, poverty, violence, and the illegal trafficking of persons, organs, guns, and narcotics.

On the cultural level, communication should be strengthened in the common space and community formed by the European, Latin American, and Caribbean countries, promoting the exchange of students, professionals, and officials. Likewise, literacy and labor training should be promoted for all citizens in this community, together with good work ethics and good administration in both public and private practices.

On the economic level, after the failure of the centralized economies, the unquestionable superiority of the free market in the production and distribution of goods and services over other well-known economic systems has become clearer. Liberalism and free trade areas optimize minimum achievements, obtaining superior results by means of economic cooperation and the development of joint programs. However, free trade does not resolve the problems of those that do not have anything to take to the market. Consequently, this community has to complement free trade models with models of assistance and programs of social justice for the least developed members. In this sense, it is important to harmonize closer economic, cultural, and political collaboration among its members. Coordination facilitates specialization which results in increased productivity. Therefore, joint research, development, and innovation

programs should be created in the technological field as well as in the social services such as health, public administration, and education.

Politically, experience has demonstrated the superiority of democracy and communicative action over other well-known political systems. The community should assume the firm position of defending the democratic system, protecting its members so these principles can be maintained for all. Communicative action is most effective when a dialogue is established in an environment of freedom, equality, solidarity, and trust. The relations among the members should not be subject to any type of coercion or predominance, including military, political, and economic, by any particular member. The needs of the members should become common needs, and common resources should be used to reach solutions suitable to all.

Achieving a common will and maintaining a permanent dialogue will be more effective if the dialogue and will become institutionalized. Since the space formed by the European, Latin American, and Caribbean countries is not homogenous, institutionalization should take place on two levels: through a) the creation and progressive deepening of regional unions institutionalized according to their own characteristics and b) the creation of community organizations managed through interregional coordination. The European Union should be faithful to its own legacy of supranationality and common institutions and policies. Jean Monnet's dream supports such institutionalization: "institutions govern the relationships between peoples and they are the true pillars of civilization." The EU should generously share this inheritance with the countries and regions of Latin America and the Caribbean.

### **Facing the Second European –Latin American and Caribbean Summit**

Within the context of the Summit to be held in Madrid on May 17-18, 2002, representatives of these countries ought to deepen and strengthen the processes and structures of cooperation, democracy and economic development with the aim of stimulating and renewing the strategic association between the two regions. This objective should be crystallized in specific initiatives, which would institutionalize the processes and facilitate the solution of problems of management and cooperation.

The progress and deepening of these relations requires the recognition that a dialogue is being developed among equals, based on the same civilization and culture, as well as shared objectives. Europe needs to reject a horizontal and homogeneous vision of Latin America and the Caribbean, and respond specifically to the distinct needs and objectives of the countries and economic blocs of the region. It is important to underscore, at a time when the countries of the European Union are negotiating enlargement to Eastern Europe and accommodating for the specific and individual needs of each one of the candidate countries, that there are clear elements of convergence based on cultural, historical and economic similarities, as well as on the objectives and priorities that characterize a transoceanic project.

The model based purely on free trade does not respond to the needs generated by economic openness and integration. As a result, Europe has to present itself as a model of unity and action from dialogue, and as a reference for the Latin American and Caribbean countries. Faced with a converging vision of the world as a dominant

unipolar model, Europe should emphasize the differences and benefits of the European integration model with its multipolar dialogue system, and highlight the need to deepen democracy and preserve peace (with the inclusion of democracy clauses and the denunciation of violence in all cooperation agreements); to strengthen cooperation institutions; and to promote the establishment of cohesion funds which facilitate the integration processes. This does not mean, however, that the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean should replicate exactly the EU model. The experiences (and deficiencies) of the European integration process ought to serve as lessons for these countries who should find their own integration and cooperation formula.

At the same time, and in the context of the introduction of the euro, Europe should stress that its common currency could have an important impact on the exchange regimes of the Latin American countries, and should be used as a reference for the need to coordinate economic policies. It is also useful to recall that the euro is simply another economic measure on the road to complete political integration.

Finally, at a time of great uncertainties and hemispheric and global tensions, the European Union should also present itself as a model of stability, and should emphasize, based on its own European experience, the need to change the paradigm from a reality based on historical conflicts to one of cooperation and integration founded on the process of institutionalization. Cooperation and integration ought to be presented as instruments for avoiding and solving conflicts, and that serve as a guarantee of democratic processes and political, cultural, economic, and social development.

Consequently, the Summit should have the following concrete short term priorities to be supported with reasonably attainable programs:

- The protection of human rights within the context of consolidated democracies. Among the mechanisms that the EU should support to reach this goal is the Defender of the People (ombudsman), an independent actor close to the society.
- In the indispensable field of education, the EU should pay special attention to the development of the Information Society, one of the ways through which not only Latin American and Caribbean societies could compete in the globalized world, but also as a means of promoting social and economic ascendancy of the least developed countries. Among the programs that the EU should prioritize stands out @LIS. In order to encourage Latin American students to specialize, the program ALBAN (dedicated to scholarships for studying in European universities) ought to receive particular attention, without neglecting the urgent needs in the field of basic education.
- In the concrete field of sub-regional integration, the EU should conclude satisfactorily the negotiations with Chile and Mercosur, and at the same time accelerate the political dialogue and economic assistance to the Central American integration effort and the Andean Community, in the context of free trade agreements oriented towards the signing of Association Agreements. Europe's attention to the Caribbean should fall within the spirit of the very integration of the region, with a renewed commitment in terms of post-Lome

programming and support for regional organizations and mechanisms such as CARICOM and CARIFORUM.

- The debt problem is not being solved by debt forgiveness. The generalized practice of not paying debt will result in undermining the creditworthiness of the area. The solution should come from the search for alternative financing that facilitates the meeting of payments and the financing of development.
- Emigration should result from planning and agreement, ensuring the dignity and job security of the emigrants and facilitating their social integration, as well as the possibility of voluntary return as more qualified human capital that may contribute to the development of their countries of origin.
- Priority should be given to the development of transportation, water management, integrated development of rural zones, the strengthening and effectiveness of institutions and the development of technological parks.
- Finally, the results of the Summit should not be reduced to assistance from the EU, but should also require responsibility on the part of the Latin American and Caribbean countries for the drastic reduction of social inequality (one of the most pronounced on the planet). Fiscal measures and the increase in state resources for the social services, in addition to more effective administration, constitutes the most urgent pending issue. The remedy cannot come solely from Europe. The solution is exclusively incumbent upon the Latin American and Caribbean countries. This will require the existence of a modern, strong, and responsible state, capable of developing an efficient public service. The European Union can help them reach this goal they commonly desire.

The organization of the conference where the Declaration was approved was entrusted to the Miami European Union Center (a consortium formed by Florida International University and the University of Miami), with the collaboration of the North-South Center, the Jean Monnet Chair and the Institute of Iberian Studies “Salvador de Madariaga” of the University of Miami, and with the patronage of the European Commission and the General Consulates of Spain and France in Miami. The opinions expressed in this document are the exclusive individual and collective responsibility of the participating academics and do not compromise or reflect the attitudes of the government entities. For additional information, please contact the Miami European Union Center.

## Signatories

Caroline Bradley, University of Miami  
Emanuel Paparella, Florida Atlantic University  
Alejandro Chanona-Burguete, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México  
Pedro Gomis-Porqueras, University of Miami  
Sebastián Royo, Suffolk University/Harvard University  
Joaquín Roy, University of Miami  
Carlos Del Ama, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid  
Libia M. González, University of Puerto Rico  
Albert Galinsoga, Universitat de Lleida  
Luis Ferrao, University of Puerto Rico  
Rafael Velázquez, Universidad de Quintana Roo, México  
Jerry Haar, University of Miami  
Roberto Domínguez, University of Miami  
Gaspere Genna, Claremont Graduate University  
Carlos Quenan, University of Paris  
Anthony T. Bryan, University of Miami  
Anthony P. Gonzáles, University of the West Indies  
Aimee Kanner, University of Miami.  
Jean-Michel Blanquer, University of Paris  
Félix Peña, Universidad de Tres de Febrero, Buenos Aires  
Carlos Malamud, Instituto Ortega y Gasset  
Eusebio Mujal-León, Georgetown University  
Manuel Alcántara, University of Salamanca