

49 ALIDE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

49th REGULAR MEETING OF THE ALIDE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Madrid, Spain, May 20 to 22, 2019

AGENDA

KEY TOPIC: European-Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) Experiences and Financial Cooperation

ALIDE 49 aims to examine the different scenarios for LAC's relations with the various regions in a context marked by trade tensions, new integration movements, the accommodation of national economies to financial standardization, migratory pressures, and technological disruption, etc., --all trends that are altering the international economy and its impact on LAC global linkages in general and its relations with the European Union in particular,-- from the outlook of trade, investment, the transfer of technology and financial and technical cooperation for sustainable development, and the role of the development banking system in this context.

The key topic will be addressed in 3 dimensions in order to consider economic integration, cooperation in the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals, and opportunities for the investment and channeling of resources for development purposes.

I. Europe and Latin America, opportunities for closer economic and financial integration

While the two regions have enjoyed extremely dynamic relations, issues of current importance like Brexit, the emphasis on new members of the European Union and on targets within the Community and the resulting downplaying of international cooperation, the problem of the migratory crisis and the questioning of European integration have undoubtedly had an impact on those relations. Latin America and the Caribbean, as one of the most stable and promising developing regions, offers an opportunity for Europe to deepen its economic and financial integration. In 2017, the European Union was responsible for the largest amount of foreign direct investment in Latin America, with a stock of investments in the region totaling US\$642,300 million. The value of mergers and acquisitions by Latin American companies in Europe, for their part, was in the neighborhood of US\$49,000 million between 2010 and 2015. There is a two-way relationship that needs studying and reinforcement in order to bring into play a greater commercial flow of investments and transfer of technology and know-how in the framework of the integration of the two regions and to find an answer to how development finance institutions can contribute to that objective.

II. Financing for sustainable development --environmental, social and economic-- and digital transformation

The Agenda for 2030 with its Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and the Paris Climate Agreement have set the course for our countries' efforts to contribute to a sustainable world and put a brake on dangerous climate change. These agendas are illustrative of the consensus and concern that exist for achieving harmonious and inclusive development that will make it possible to move ahead toward climate neutrality without leaving anyone behind. Under this approach, goals are put forward in regard to the eradication of poverty; attainment of food security and promotion of sustainable agriculture; women's empowerment by creating opportunities for ventures; and the implementation of urgent measures to fight climate change and its effects, among others. How can states and the development banking system tackle that sustainability? How can Europe and Latin America cooperate in reaching that goal? Is the financing being appropriately funneled into sustainable development and the fight against climate change? What challenges and opportunities are arising for development banks and how can alliances, public-private collaboration and interregional cooperation be fostered in order to reach the SDGs and advance the Paris Agreement? Should the development banking system take the forefront in financing those goals?

At the same time, digitalization is already playing a role in the development of economic ecosystems and companies and will do so even more forcefully in the immediate future. What is the current status of the digital transformation process? What role should banks play in the promotion and development of this digitalization process? In what way can development banks stay a step ahead of the changes that are taking place?

III. International financial cooperation: Opportunities for investment and development business

National development banks are key players in leveraging national and international resources in order to channel them into public and private investments in priority projects connected with the fight against climate change, development of sustainable infrastructure, energy, SMEs, innovation and technological development, agriculture, sustainable tourism, and socially mandated low-cost housing, among others. These institutions hold portfolios of financing projects and programs for which supplementary resources are needed and which constitute opportunities for investment and sustainable business ventures for companies and international financing sources. The purpose of this session is, on the one hand, to present the opportunities for investment existing in national development bank portfolios and, on the other, to reveal the financing lines and programs of multilateral and bilateral international finance institutions seeking to channel their funds into sustainable development.

28/12/2018