

EU-LAC Dialogue on Just Transition and Trade

8 November 2025 – 4 to 6 pm COT

Hotel Mercure Santa Marta Emile, Santa Marta, Colombia

Public event and networking reception

BACKGROUND

Despite the EU's growing emphasis on sustainability, its trade and investment policies remain largely **disconnected from social and climate objectives**. In its relations with Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC), extractivist models continue to dominate, positioning the region as a supplier of raw materials while most value creation happens elsewhere. This dynamic tends to perpetuate dependency and undermine local development, and it often leads to environmental degradation, social inequality, and violations of labour and human rights.

At the same time, EU-LAC relations are entering a new phase. Against the backdrop of multidimensional crises and the urgency of the green and digital transitions, LAC has become a **strategic partner for Europe** in renewable energy and critical raw materials. Initiatives, such as the Global Gateway and Clean Trade and Investment Partnerships (CTIPs), are strengthening bi-regional ties, but their focus on corporate gains and weak civil society participation risks reproducing the very extractivist patterns that they should be overcoming.

The **upcoming EU–CELAC Summit 2025 in Colombia** represents a **key political moment to reshape this relationship**. Taking place just months before COP30 in Brazil, it offers an opportunity to demand trade policies that support the just transition: decarbonisation without extractivism, fair distribution of benefits, protection of ecosystems, and respect for workers, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities.

In this context, FEPS, FES Just Climate and SOLIDAR are organising an **EU-LAC Dialogue on Just Transition and Trade** to bring together civil society organisations, trade unions, Indigenous and feminist groups, and policymakers from both regions. The event is organised in collaboration with a diverse group of LAC CSOs. It will serve as a platform to present and discuss our joint declaration for a Just Transition bi-regional partnership, outlining concrete demands for EU–LAC trade relations that prioritise human rights, labour standards, and environmental justice. The event will combine expert analysis of EU–LAC trade dynamics, testimonies from affected communities, and political dialogue with policymakers. The event will conclude with a reception to foster networking among participants.

Useful reference:

Mazzei, L. (2025). "[Leveraging EU trade for a just transition: Rethinking EU-LAC relations](#)". Policy Brief, SOLIDAR.

PROVISIONAL AGENDA

- 16:00 **Welcoming remarks**
*By **Chloe Deffet**, Climate Policy Analyst, FEPS*
- 16:05 **Keynote Speech “A just transition for all”**
*By **Elena Crasta**, Senior Advisor on Trade, ETUC*
- 16:10 **Scene-setting “Just transition in EU-LAC trade relations: past and present”**
*With **Laura Restrepo Alameda**, Advocacy Officer at CAN Latin America and **Magdalena Bordagorry**, Policy and Network Coordinator at EU-LAT Network*
- 16:30 **Testimonies from the ground**
*With **Juliana Millán Guzman**, Political Director at ATI, and **Moisés Barón**, representative from USO*
- 16:50 **Presentation of the joint declaration**
*By **Lavinia Mazzei**, International Cooperation Policy Officer, SOLIDAR*
- 17:05 **EU-LAC panel discussion with policymakers and civil society**
*With **Gloria García-Parra**, Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean (Oxfam), **Jorge Coronado**, Member of the Board of Directors, Latin American and Caribbean Network for Economic, Social and Climate Justice (LATINDADD), **María José Romero**, Policy and Advocacy Manager (EURODAD), and **Alexandre Mateus**, Head of the Economic and Trade Section of the Delegation of the European Union in Colombia*
- 17:40 **Q&A**
- 17:55 **Closing remarks**
*By **Barbara Caracciolo**, International Cooperation & Sustainable Development Coordinator, SOLIDAR*
- 18:00 **Photo opportunity and networking reception**