

DECLARATION OF GUADALAJARA OF THE UNIVERSITIES OF EUROPE, LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The Universities of Europe, Latin America and The Caribbean, grouped together in the framework of the Iberoamerican University Council and the European University Association, express their satisfaction for the holding of the forthcoming III EU-LAC Summit Heads of State and Government in Guadalajara, Jalisco, on 28 May 2004, which reflects the evident determination to make progress in the consolidation of a strong relationship between the member countries.

The Universities of Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean are aware of the potential they all have for working together and they express their conviction that it is possible to create an integrated area, which may encourage the compatibility and comparability of the higher education systems and thereby achieve greater mobility of students, teachers and administrators that will generate a broader common culture and stronger ties between the new generations.

The Universities are proud of the fact that EU-LAC Summits have always paid great attention to the subject of the University. The Declaration of the I Summit of 29 June 1999 laid down the commitment to establish strong co-operation in the educational field and to promote interregional exchanges of agents. The II Summit of 17 May 2002 recommended the development, approval and promotion of the plan of action to construct a common European Union-Latin America and the Caribbean higher education area.

The Universities consider that the programmes that have been implemented so far by the EU Commission in the university area – Alpha and Alban - make a sound contribution to inter-university co-operation. Their very limited funding, however, means that both only have a token rather than a truly effective value in the integration of the university world of Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Universities make an appeal to the Heads of State and Government to examine the possibility of implementing a new action with funds commensurate with the magnitude of the existing challenge which should act by providing effective cover for the linking of the Universities in this whole area and the mobility of students, teachers and administrators. In the face of the challenge of globality, it is the wish of the universities of Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean to make in-depth progress in their interrelationship to provide the new generations with a compatible education. Hence, in this Declaration the universities wish to state their absolute commitment to participating to their utmost in the programme that the

European Commission might design in this respect. They trust that at the Guadalajara Summit the Heads of State and Government may implement the relevant measures so that the European Commission may present a new large-scale programme at the IV Summit, to be held in Austria in 2006, which will meet the great challenge of university integration facing the EU-ALC area.

Biblioteca Iberoamericana "Octavio Paz", Guadalajara, Jalisco, México, on 27 May 2004.

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