

EU security cooperation with Latin America

A priority requiring consolidation

SUMMARY

Although security cooperation is not yet a well-consolidated priority for the EU in its relations with Latin America, it has acquired increasing importance with the explicit inclusion of citizen security as a new priority area in the 2015 EU-CELAC action plan.

The main current areas of EU security-related cooperation with the region are the fight against drugs; violence prevention; conflict resolution in Colombia, with an EU stake in its peace process; and the participation of some Latin American countries in EU crisis-management operations in the framework of the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy. This is achieved through trans-regional, regional, sub-regional and bilateral programmes and projects, as well as through the conclusion of framework agreements with certain Latin American countries.

The European Parliament is particularly involved in promoting security cooperation with the region, as evidenced by its support for a Euro-Latin American Charter for Peace and Security, in the framework of the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly, and the adoption of specific resolutions on the subject.



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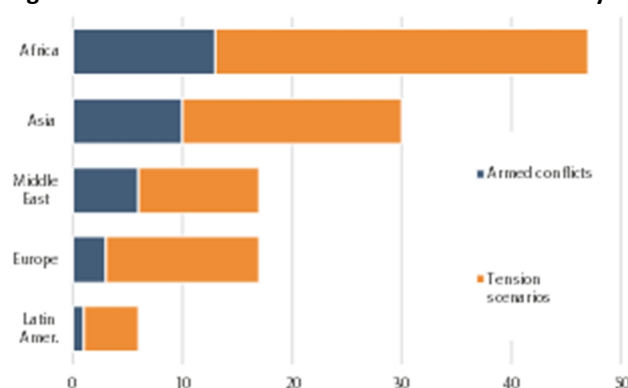
Glossary

AIRCOP:	Airport Communications Project
CELAC:	Community of Latin American and Caribbean Countries
COPOLAD:	Latin America Cooperation Programme on Drugs Policies with the EU
CORMS:	Cocaine Route monitoring and support
CRIMJUST project:	Strengthening criminal investigation and criminal justice cooperation along the cocaine route in Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa
FARC-EP:	Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. The main guerrilla group in the country with which a peace agreement has recently been reached.
GAFILAT-EU:	Support for initiatives against asset laundering in GAFILAT (Latin America Financial Action Group) member states.
IcSP:	Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace
LAC:	Latin America and the Caribbean (used to refer to the region as a whole)
PRELAC:	Prevention of the diversion of drugs precursors in the Latin American and Caribbean region
SEACOP:	Seaport Cooperation Project

A peaceful region with internal problems of violence

[Latin America](#) is currently one of the world's most peaceful regions, with only one (low-intensity) armed conflict in 2016 in Colombia, where a peace agreement has recently been reached and is being implemented with the main guerrilla group (FARC). This compares to three in Europe, six in the Middle East, 10 in Asia and 13 in Africa. Furthermore, Latin America has just five tension scenarios – all internal and none of them of high intensity – compared with 11 in the Middle-East, 14 in Europe, 20 in Asia and 34 in Africa. Yet again, according to the Institute for Economics and Peace's [Global Peace Index](#) 2017, South America has

Figure 1: Number of conflicts and tension scenarios by region



Data source: ECP Alerta 2017.

registered the strongest improvement among all regions in the world, overtaking Central America and the Caribbean as the world's fourth most peaceful region. Besides, [international terrorism](#) among Latin American countries is virtually non-existent and they have concluded or are signatories to agreements prohibiting [nuclear](#), [biological](#) and [chemical](#) weapons (NBC). Nevertheless, if we take into account the [homicide rate](#) in the region, [Latinobarómetro](#) ranks it as one of the most violent in the world, and also as having the world's five highest homicide rates. Unsurprisingly, crime and violence are currently the main concern of Latin American citizens, ahead of unemployment.

EU-Latin America security cooperation needs further consolidation

Already in the 1980s, [peace and security](#)¹ issues were accorded relevance in the [San José Dialogue](#) held by the European Community with the region in the context of the Central American peace processes and later in the EU dialogues with the [Rio Group](#), now integrated into the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States ([CELAC](#)).

However, a decade later, these issues did not seem to have consolidated as a priority in the inter-regional agenda with the establishment of the EU-LAC (later [EU-CELAC](#)) strategic bi-regional association, as both sides were showing more interest in their [closest neighbours](#). The **drug problem** was the only security-related key area to be included in the 2010-2012 [Madrid Action Plan](#), which EU-LAC presented at its 2010 summit in Madrid. At the [first EU-CELAC summit](#) held in Santiago de Chile in 2013, strengthening regional security cooperation structures and **fostering regional cooperation** in the fight against illicit drugs and related crimes – such as arms trafficking and money laundering – were included among the cooperation activities and initiatives in the 2013-2015 EU-CELAC Action Plan. Following the adoption of the EU [Citizen Security Strategy](#) for Central America and the Caribbean in 2014, the 2015 [EU-CELAC Action Plan](#) added **citizen security** as a new priority, including among its cooperation activities the task 'to strengthen the role of police and security forces' as 'relevant actors in the development and implementation of policies' in this area.

The 2016 [Global Strategy](#) for the EU's Foreign and Security Policy recognised that political dialogue and cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean on security issues can be developed further, and consequently stated the EU's intention to step up action concerning 'disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, and countering organised crime and terrorism'. Furthermore, it declared that the EU 'will also actively support the negotiation and implementation of peace agreements in the region', as has already been done in Colombia. All in all, in the framework of EU-CELAC, at least eight [threats of common interest](#) to both parties have been identified in different documents:

Figure 2 – Threats of common interest in the framework of EU-CELAC



The security-development nexus

Besides the continuing relevance of the fight against drugs and related crimes in the context of EU cooperation with Latin America and the Caribbean, and the fact that the EU and Latin America share similar security concerns, such as those related to non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and combating terrorism, of particular importance for the evolution of their security cooperation is the increasing importance attached by the EU to the security-development nexus. The latter establishes clear links between the two parameters and favours a more comprehensive approach to conflicts and crises. This [concept](#) is not new and has been included in the post-9/11 international development agenda. The EU has referred to it in many of its documents, such as the 2003 [European Security Strategy](#), the 2005 [European Consensus on Development](#), the 2009 [EU Report](#) on Policy Coherence for Development, the 2011 [Agenda for Change](#) and the 2016 [Implementation Plan](#) to the EU Global Strategy on Security and Defence. Moreover, this nexus has been established as one of the four priority areas in the first – continental – component of the EU's 2014-2020 Multiannual indicative [regional programme](#)

(MIRP) for Latin America, with an indicative allocation of €70 million. The general objective stated in the MIRP is 'to reinforce the capacity of states to effectively ensure security conditions conducive for inclusive development'. The specific objectives are to 1) 'support the capacity of states and communities to deliver effective and accountable security and justice services to their citizens'; 2) to 'develop integrated, balanced and human rights-based national drug policies'; and 3) to 'promote sound migration management'. The MIRP has three lines of action: a) 'support for regional reform efforts, mutual learning and regional benchmarking' in the fields of integrated justice and security-sector reform, b) drugs policies and c) migration and border management. There are also cross-cutting issues, such as human rights protection, in particular of vulnerable populations, and gender equality and elimination of gender-related violence.

The security chapter of the Latin America continental programme would complement the actions for institutional strengthening envisaged under the sub-regional programme for Central America, the European Development Fund's (EDF) regional programme for the Caribbean and the bilateral programmes. This chapter would also complement the operations financed by the European Investment Bank (EIB). The MIRP's second component, **sub-regional cooperation with Central America**, also includes **security and rule of law** as a focal sector, with an indicative allocation of €40 million. Its general objective is 'to contribute to the reduction of violent crime and impunity, whilst respecting human rights and promoting a culture of peace'. And it has as specific objectives 1) to 'reinforce the capacity of the region to decrease transnational crime', and 2) to 'improve capacities to deliver effective and accountable security and justice services to the population'. The main lines of action in this context are a) prevention, b) reinsertion and rehabilitation, and c) law enforcement. Actions are also foreseen to promote a culture of peace, paying attention 'to develop a culture supportive of the rule of law among citizens'.

Main areas of EU-Latin America and Caribbean security cooperation

Fight against drugs

The [fight against drugs](#) is one of the global issues on which the 2015 [EU-CELAC Summit](#) decided to step up cooperation, and the world's drug problem is one of the key areas of concern of the 2015 [EU-CELAC Action Plan](#), which set itself the specific objective to strengthen bi-regional dialogue and effectiveness of joint efforts to tackle the issue. This should be achieved by developing and strengthening the EU-CELAC [Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs](#) – the main institutionalised space for EU-CELAC cooperation on the subject – by intensifying cooperation in the framework of the United Nations, and through cooperation activities and initiatives. Among the expected results are strengthened bi-regional cooperation; coordination and information exchange on the subject; strengthened institutional capacity in reducing drugs demand and supply on one hand, and in dealing with the overall consequences of the world drug problem, on the other; the presentation of joint initiatives in the UN framework; and better implementation of commitments. From 1995 to 2012, the EU held a [High-Level Specialised Dialogue](#) on Drugs with the [Andean Community](#). The main cooperation programmes in this field are the Latin America Cooperation Programme on Drugs Policies with the EU (COPOLAD, at regional level) and the Cocaine Route Programme (trans-regional).

Citizen security

As mentioned before, this is a newly recognised priority of the 2015 EU-CELAC Action Plan and the main objective of a separate EU strategy for Central America, as this sub-region

is particularly affected by violence. In this area, the EU envisages a multi-sector and multi-dimensional approach and stresses the importance of social and inclusive public policies, including preventive measures, promoting a culture of peace and non-violence and respect of human rights.

Conflict resolution

The EU has been supporting peace in Colombia for over two decades. Its Humanitarian Office ([ECHO](#)) has provided over €200 million in assistance to victims of conflict since 1994. It furthermore contributed €150 million to peace-building through the Development Cooperation Instrument ([DCI](#)) between 2002 and 2013. The EU has also promoted '[peace laboratories](#)' – programmes supporting civil society in conflict regions – since 2002, and has supported efforts to implement the 2011 [Law](#) on [victims and land restitution](#). Currently, the EU supports projects related, among other things, to the situation of women in conflicts, the forced recruitment of children, and the threats and challenges faced by human-rights defenders. It is already implementing several [demining initiatives](#) in the country and will extend its [demining](#) support, together with international partners, through the [Global Demining Initiative](#) for Colombia.

On 1 October 2015, a [decision](#) was taken to appoint [Eamon Gilmore](#) – a former deputy prime minister and foreign minister of Ireland, who was directly involved in the Northern Ireland peace process – as [EU envoy](#) for the peace process in Colombia, so that the EU and Member States could give a coherent and coordinated response to the issue. And in 2016, EU High Representative, Federica Mogherini, announced the EU's commitment to provide a [€575 million package](#) for the implementation of the peace process. The package comprises cooperation funds provided by the [EU Trust Fund for Colombia](#), established in 2016, the [Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace, \(IcSP\)](#) (€18 million) in support of the Colombian Government's Rapid Response Plan ([PRR](#)), and loans offered by the [EIB](#), together with ongoing cooperation (€67 million for 2014-2017). It also includes short and medium-term measures in the form of technical assistance, grants and loans.

The [Colombia peace agreement](#) of 24 August 2016 reached by the Colombian Government and the FARC guerrilla provided for [EU participation](#) in the following areas:

- comprehensive rural reform (Agreement 1);
- reintegration to civil life (Agreement 3, 2nd point);
- Special Investigation Unit (Agreement 3, 4th point).

Participation in EU crisis management

Although insufficiently [explored](#) in the EU-CELAC bi-regional relationship, crisis management cooperation ([CMC](#)) has started to consolidate between the EU and individual Latin American countries at bilateral level. The EU has acquired increasing importance in the field of [peace and crisis management](#) operations since the development of its Common External and Security Policy in the 1990s, and later under its Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). Moreover, third countries have been participating in [EU peacekeeping](#) and CMC operations for more than a decade. In the case of Latin America and the Caribbean, four countries have participated in three different EU CSDP missions so far:

- Brazil in the [Artemis](#) (2003) mission, and later in the [EUSEC](#) (2005) mission, both deployed in the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- Argentina, Chile and the Dominican Republic in the [ALTHEA](#) (2004) mission, deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

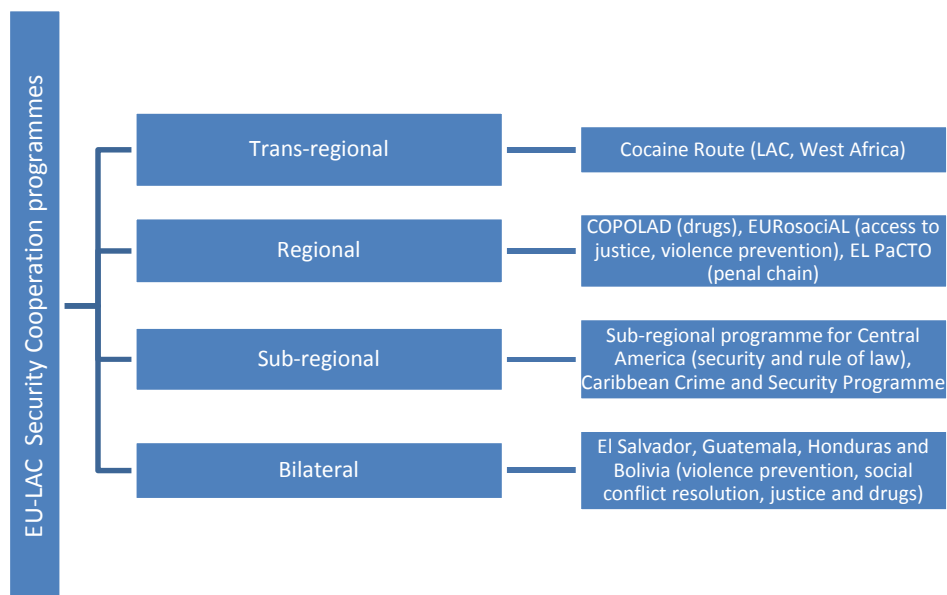
Until recently, this participation was regulated by [ad hoc agreements](#) signed with individual countries for [specific missions](#). However, in 2014, framework participation agreements ([FPAs](#)) were signed with [Chile](#) and [Colombia](#) – with a third one being negotiated with Brazil – thus introducing a new kind of instrument in the bi-regional relationship that formalises the security partnership. The objective of these FPAs is to regulate the participation of the Latin American party in EU military and/or civil crisis management missions. This participation is limited to contributing personnel and equipment, and must be evaluated and approved by the EU party. As the FPAs do not include specific financial or material commitments by the signatory states, they therefore have a predominantly political, or even symbolic character; that said, they serve to reinforce the credibility of these states as reliable EU partners. [Some authors](#) believe that this type of cooperation could be developed at bi-regional level with the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR), which has CMC among its objectives and has even developed an [institutionalised framework](#) through the South American Defence Council ([CDS](#)). Nevertheless, there is no equivalent of the EU's CSDP in the framework of CELAC.

First high-level seminar on CSDP

From 28 November to 2 December 2016, a first [high-level seminar](#) on CSDP was held in Madrid, with the participation of the EU, 11 Latin American countries and the UNASUR.

EU-LAC security cooperation programmes

Figure 3 – EU-Latin America security cooperation programmes (by geographical coverage)



Trans-regional programmes

Cocaine Route programme

Launched in 2009, the [Cocaine Route Programme \(CRP\)](#) has been a strategic response to the threat of drug trafficking and organised crime along the Cocaine Route (from its source in Latin American countries to its market in Europe, via Central America, the Caribbean and Africa). It works in over 40 countries covering Europe, Latin America, the Caribbean and West Africa, through a series of complementing and interconnected projects aimed at supporting these countries' capacity in combating drug production, intercepting its flow, fighting money laundering and sharing information. It is financed by the IcSP, with an EU budget of over €50 million since 2009. Latin America is engaged in seven of the Cocaine Route programme's nine projects:

1) **Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP)**: launched in 2010, it is aimed at strengthening drug detection, interdiction and investigative capacities at selected international airports in West Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean by sharing operational information and establishing and training inter-service Joint Airport Interdiction Task Forces (JAITFs). The JAITFs – of which eight are currently established in the CELAC region – are connected to international law enforcement databases and communication networks to encourage real-time transmission of information aimed at intercepting illicit shipments. The project also seeks to promote intelligence and information-sharing between services at national and international level, as well as to promote an intelligence-led approach to countering drug trafficking. It is implemented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime ([UNODC](#)) in partnership with the World Customs Organization ([WCU](#)) and [Interpol](#). CELAC countries currently included in the project are Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Jamaica, Panama and Peru, and Bolivia is expected to be included in the IV phase. As of [March 2017](#), 2 426 participants had been trained, 15 joint operations carried out and 412 agents hired. Some 2 897 kg of cocaine, 1 156 kg of cannabis and 326 kg of heroin had been seized in 788 operations.

2) The **Seaport Cooperation Project (SEACOP)** seeks to build capacities and strengthen cooperation against maritime illicit trafficking and associated criminal networks in countries on the cocaine route. It aims to reinforce capacities in seaports by supporting the setup of Joint Maritime Control Units (JMCUs) in selected countries in West Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean. Activities also include the establishment of specialist Maritime Intelligence Units (MIUs) in seaports and sensitive coastal areas, and support for greater international cooperation and information exchange. SEACOP started in 2010, and its [current \(IV\) phase](#) will end in December 2018. In January 2017, seven CELAC priority countries – Brazil, Colombia, Argentina, the Dominican Republic, Guyana, Jamaica and Panama were added to the 11 eastern Caribbean countries previously included. As of March 2017, [752 persons](#) had been trained in 54 courses.

3) **Cocaine Route Monitoring and Support (CORMS)**: this project was established in order to increase the synergies between all the components of the Cocaine Route Programme and improve coordination with other initiatives in the fight against organised crime and drug trafficking. Its second phase concluded in 2016, and the current third phase will end in May 2020. [Nine steering committees](#) were established (March 2017) and 20 missions, five workshops and two conferences were carried out.

4) **Strengthening criminal investigation and criminal justice cooperation along the Cocaine Route (CRIMJUST)**: this four-year [project](#) (February 2016-2020) between the EU and [UNODC](#), implemented by UNODC with [Interpol](#) and [Transparency International](#), focuses on criminal investigations and criminal justice cooperation in Latin American, Caribbean and West African countries, to enhance their capacity to effectively counter organised crime along the Cocaine Route. The project will facilitate the cooperation and information exchange between criminal justice agencies for effective action in interregional organised crime and drug trafficking cases and help the targeted countries to advance in their response to organised crime. It also supports law enforcement and other justice sector institutions in strengthening integrity, accountability and resilience against corruption and influence of organised crime. It is expected to build synergies with other Cocaine Route programmes, and to work with national authorities in Brazil, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador,

Panama and Peru (but not exclusively with them). Argentina has recently been included.

5) **GAFILAT-EU**: Initiated in 2010 and implemented by the Financial Action Task Force of Latin America ([GAFILAT](#), a regionally based inter-governmental organisation created in 2000 to combat money laundering and terrorist financing), this project is intended to support anti-money laundering efforts across the 17 GAFILAT member states in both the financial and non-banking financial sector, within the framework of the global fight against organised crime. The project is in fact a grant to GAFILAT. Its end was scheduled for December 2016, but it was extended for an additional six months. As of [March 2017](#), over 1 900 agents had participated in more than 60 courses, conferences and workshops, and 11 intensified trans-border transport controls had been carried out.

6) **AMERIPOL-EU**: Aimed at enhancing the capacity for international cooperation of law enforcement, judicial and prosecuting authorities of the partner countries when tackling transnational organised crime networks. Among other things, it supported the consolidation of [AMERIPOL](#) (Comunidad de Policías de América), by providing training and equipment and by creating the AMERIPOL Police Information System ([SIPA](#)), a pilot system for secure communication and exchange of information. It ended in December 2015, but some activities will continue under the DCI regional programme on citizen security and rule of law. It covered Barbados, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela. Over [400 persons](#) took part in 22 training actions, and 10 joint operations were carried out.

7) **PRELAC**: The Prevention of the diversion of drug precursors in the Latin American and Caribbean region project was aimed at strengthening the capacities of national administrative control authorities in Latin America and the Caribbean to prevent the diversion of chemical precursors needed in the manufacture of cocaine as well as other drugs, including amphetamine-type substances. It promoted cooperation and sharing of good practices between countries in the region. It started in [2009](#) and ended in February 2016, and covered 17 CELAC countries.² It has contributed over 10 technical studies and researches, and more than 3 000 persons took part in 109 training actions.

Figure 4 – Cocaine Route projects with Latin American participation

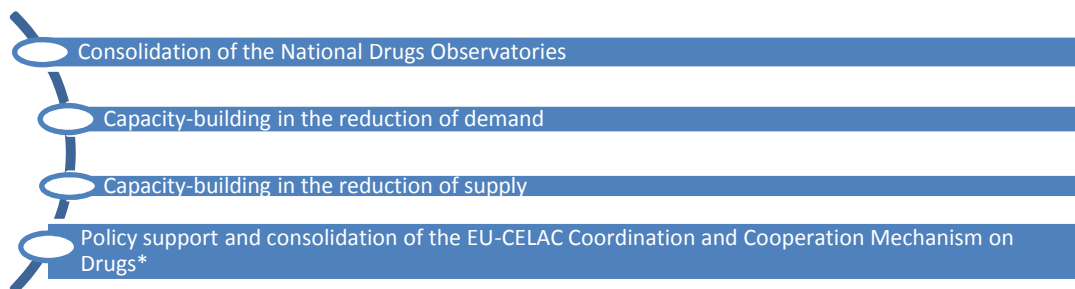


Regional and sub-regional programmes

COPOLAD: The Cooperation Programme on Drugs Policies between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union ([COPOLAD](#)) was launched in 2010, with the [aim](#) of 'improving the coherence, balance and impact of drugs policies, through the exchange of mutual experiences, bi-regional coordination and the promotion of multi-sectoral, comprehensive and coordinated responses'. Its initial total budget was €6.5 million, entirely financed by the EU under the DCI. A second phase ([COPOLAD II](#), 2016-2019)

started in January 2016 with a €10 million contribution. It is included in the priority area related to the security-development nexus. Among its most recent activities are an in-depth study on the situation of the national drug observatories and a first annual meeting of these observatories (2016). Other COPOLAD activities include validation of the quality criteria in the field of drug demand reduction, adaptation and validation of the criteria in the Caribbean countries, revising and updating the online courses already developed, celebration of a first Annual Week on Precursors, preceded by an online survey in CELAC countries, a first Intra-regional dialogue forum on alternative development and a second COPOLAD annual conference.

Figure 5 – The COPOLAD programme has four components:



*a bi-regional platform for EU and LAC national drug coordination bodies to exchange experiences, good practices and information; it publishes an [annual report](#) on its activities and results, as well as [declarations](#) following its high level meetings.

EURosociAL: Although the general aim of the *EURosociAL* regional technical cooperation programme is to promote social cohesion, its second phase (*EURosociAL II*, 2011-2015) included [justice and citizen security](#) among its thematic areas. A third phase of the programme, *EURosociAL+*, started in 2016. It is helping to improve access of vulnerable persons, including victims of gender violence, to justice, and to implement public policies for [violence prevention](#) in the region, with a special emphasis on youth violence. Different [results](#) have been achieved in the various Latin American countries.

El PaCTO: [EL PaCTO](#) is a new security programme announced in October 2016, covering all 18 Latin American countries eligible under the DCI,³ with a €20 million budget from the DCI. It is the first EU programme in Latin America to cover all the links of the penal chain: police, justice and the penitentiary system.

Sub-regional programme for Central America

Between 2007 and 2013, around €153 million was assigned to security and justice-related programmes in Central America at bilateral and sub-regional level, aimed mainly at supporting police and forensic institutions, strengthening the justice system, and supporting social cohesion through prevention activities, especially for young people. The 2014-2020 [Sub-regional programme](#) for Central America, focusing on security and the rule of law, has been given an indicative allocation of €40 million under the DCI, out of a total indicative budget of €120 million for the whole programme.

Caribbean crime and security programme: Included in focal area 3 of the [Caribbean Regional Indicative Programme](#) and with an indicative allocation of €44 million under the EDF, this programme's overall objectives are 1) 'crime prevention, risk reduction and enhancement of restorative justice'; 2) 'to enhance citizen and border security, including well managed migration and mobility'; and 3) 'increasing compliance with international norms on financial crimes, terrorism financing and corruption'.

Bilateral cooperation

The EU has bilateral security cooperation with individual Latin American countries, currently eligible under the DCI:

- **El Salvador:** sector 1 (youth and social inclusion) of the 2014-2020 Multiannual Indicative Programme (MIP) focuses on violence prevention, with special emphasis on offering vulnerable youngsters alternatives to gang membership, and on preventive action. A budget of € 83 million targets the overall objective of mitigating social violence and juvenile delinquency risk factors and supporting social inclusion initiatives;
- **Guatemala:** among the strategic priorities proposed for the 2014-2020 programming period and included in sector 2 of the MIP on conflict resolution, peace and security, are: a) 'improving human security by strengthening the justice and security system and supporting violence prevention policies, with an emphasis on upholding human rights and reducing impunity'; b) 'preventing and reducing violent social conflict and contributing to its peaceful resolution'; and c) promoting gender equality and reducing gender-based violence. It serves to support the Guatemalan government's [security and peace agenda](#). The indicative allocation is €37 million.
- **Honduras:** 'promoting stability, security and justice, including by countering drug trafficking, organised crime and corruption' is among the strategic cooperation objectives of the MIP for the 2014-2020 programming period. 'Rule of law: universal accountability to the law and citizen's democratic participation' is one of the three sectors proposed, with an indicative allocation of €40 million;
- **Bolivia:** support to the justice reform and fight against illicit drugs are two of the three bilateral cooperation sectors proposed for 2014-2020, with indicative allocations of €15 million and € 86 million, respectively, for the 2014-2016 period.
- The EU also holds [regular dialogues](#) on security-related issues with its two Latin American strategic partners, [Brazil](#) and [Mexico](#).

Table 1 – Bilateral projects under the EU's [Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace](#) (IcSP) in LAC

Country	Total funding (€)	Number of projects
Brazil	586 380	2
Colombia	25 892 107	14
Dominican Republic	2 900 000	2
El Salvador	1 504 059	5
Guatemala (shared with Belize)	2 649 981	2
Haiti	11 823 391	4
Peru	489 000	2
Total	45 844 918	31

Source: [EU IcSP Map](#), Insight on Conflict website (accessed on 10 November 2017).

The role of the European Parliament

The European Parliament has been very active in this field, and in particular in the framework of the [Euro-Latin American](#) Parliamentary Assembly ([EuroLat](#)). In 2009, EuroLat adopted a [resolution](#) proposing a [Euro-Latin American Charter](#) for Peace and Security – an initiative launched by the European Parliament, and supported by the Latin American Parliament, the *Parlatino*, as it considered that matters related to international peace and security should have a permanent place in the structured political dialogue agenda between the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean, and called for – unsuccessfully – the adoption of the [Charter](#) by the EU-LAC summit.

The Euro-Latin American Charter for Peace and Security (main chapters)

Five shared principles and values: i) Respect for and promotion of democracy and human rights; ii) effective multilateralism as a relational basis; iii) full respect for international law; iv) peaceful settlement of disputes; and v) use of force as an *ultima ratio*;

Security and defence: vi) Non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; and vii) measures to reduce armaments and encourage disarmament;

Jointly combatting other shared challenges: viii) Jointly combatting all terrorist acts; ix) jointly combating drug trafficking; x) joint action against trafficking in persons; xi) jointly combating arms trafficking; xii) joint strategy on combating corruption and money laundering; xiii) combating criminality and organised crime;

Joint actions in favour of environmental and social sustainability: xiv) Combating poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals; xv) development cooperation; xvi) food security; xvii) energy security; and xviii) environment and climate change.

In 2011, EuroLat adopted a [resolution](#) on relations between the EU and Latin America as regards security and defence, where it identified shared values, common interests, and proposed themes for EU-LAC cooperation in this field. In 2013, it adopted another [resolution](#) on the fight against drug-trafficking and organised crime in the EU and Latin America and submitted recommendations and proposals to the EU-CELAC [summit](#).

On 13 September 2017, the European Parliament adopted a [resolution](#) on EU political relations with Latin America, highlighting the challenges for both regions in terms of defence and security; encouraging continued efforts to strengthen defence and security cooperation through police and military coordination as well as for developing special emergency aid corps; urging Latin American countries to participate in EU crisis management and peacekeeping missions; calling for further cooperation in maritime security, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control; and emphasising the need for continued EU support to the Central America Security Strategy (CASS) and the [Caribbean Security Strategy](#). On 14 December 2016, the EP adopted a [resolution](#) on the Implementation of the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), stressing the importance for the EU to strengthen its relationship with Central and South America in order to reinforce the bi-regional partnership and jointly address major global challenges. On 20 January 2016, it adopted a [resolution](#) in support of the peace process in Colombia.

Outlook

Cooperation on security issues is still far from being a well-established priority in the EU-LAC bi-regional agenda, but considerable progress has been made with the inclusion of citizen security as a priority area in the 2015 EU-CELAC Action Plan, and the conclusion of framework agreements on the participation of some Latin American countries in EU crisis management operations. Nevertheless, the absence of a region-wide security cooperation structure in Latin America (with the exception of the UNASUR CDS), renders the task quite complicated. According to some [analysts](#), the security dimension has been a subordinate component of EU-LAC relations; except for its drug-related aspects, this issue has been dealt with irregularly at political level. The situation could improve with the introduction of a strategic approach to coordinate the different cooperation programmes on peace, security and defence, and with the inclusion of the security dimension in the other pillars of regional cooperation (mutual understanding and reciprocal integration). Regarding the drug issue, it has been suggested that results could

be improved, if the three parties in the Atlantic Triangle (the USA, LAC and the EU) adopt a shared vision of the problem and on how to tackle it, and apply a new policy approach.

Latin American parliaments have become increasingly important as initiators and supervisors of security and defence cooperation initiatives. Accordingly, some experts see [parliamentary cooperation](#), both at regional and international level, as a very useful platform to enhance experience-sharing and measures to face challenges in this field, as shown by EuroLat's excellent work on the Latin-American Charter on Peace and Security. European integration experience in fighting organised crime and terrorism – as amassed, for example, through the work of Europol or the management of the Schengen area – could be useful for starting trans-border cooperation with Latin America on these issues, and for developing new concepts for interregional cooperation on defence and security. So could be the experience of the South American Defence Council. There is also scope for closer cooperation between the two regions in the framework of the UN, given the numerous shared values and commitments to peace and security.

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Endnotes

¹ The drug issue already had a differentiated treatment from the rest of the security agenda, and the 'shared threats' on the interregional agenda were matched to global objectives, such as cuts in military spending, reduction of conventional weapons, non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, third-country conflicts and cooperation in peace missions.

² Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela.

³ Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.

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