

CONTRIBUTION TO THE SECOND SUMMIT OF THE EUROPEAN UNION, LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The encounter of two worlds

**For a more humane global society
founded on solidarity**

14 May 2002

As representatives of the Catholic Church in Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union, we have met at El Escorial for a Social Congress in advance of the Second Summit of Heads of State and Government to be held in Madrid on 17-18 May. During our discussions we noted that in both North and South we are affected by poverty, violence, terrorism, drug trafficking, corruption, political instability and the fragility of some democracies. We are inspired by the search for spirituality, meaning, humanisation and new answers in various spheres in this era of profound change for humanity.

We recognise the strong links that exist between Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe, which in their light and shade, encourage us to look forward with optimism to a future of mutual co-operation between our Churches and our peoples. It must be recognised that whilst Europe and Latin America necessarily view the globalised world from two different angles, they do so with a common aim based on more than five centuries of dialogue. The results of this dialogue are the basis for the firm engagement to continue working to deepen the process of humanisation.

The encounter between two worlds has not concluded. In these days we have sought to reflect on the most immediate political, economic and social challenges, as detailed in the following pages. We have identified the need to:

- a. Give priority to the social dimension of economic development, above all the fight against poverty and the creation of jobs;
- b. Combat both public and private corruption, including the laundering of profits from drug trafficking, by promoting an ethics of responsibility in business;
- c. Ensure through effective political and legal instruments the protection of the environment, the damage of which affects all humanity;
- d. Make our structures of governance capable of meeting the challenges of globalisation, including the modernisation of the state, more effective structures of regional integration and global co-operation, and the strengthening of democratic stability based on participative citizenship as expressed through an ever more active and responsible civil society.

We assure you of our best wishes and prayers for the success of this summit.

Yours sincerely

+ Jorge Enrique Jiménez Carvajal
President of CELAM

+ Josef Homeyer
President of COMECE

Human Rights, Democracy and Security

1. It is imperative that we work together to improve the democratic system with a view to decentralisation, regional life and municipal organisation by sharing experiences through a “bank” of democratic initiatives capable of deepening the rule of law and social justice in society. Rule of law and social justice supported by a participative democracy is an essential condition to guarantee security and respect for all members of society.
2. We cannot permit the use of violence to be trivialised or the gift of life to be instrumentalised. Respect for life forms the essential ethical basis without which society cannot exist as such. If the injunction “You shall not kill” disappears, our civilisation could disappear too.
3. Particular emphasis must be laid upon the struggle against those guilty of violating human rights and those who, in the course of this struggle, flout international humanitarian law. It may be said that the constructive pressure of the European Union is an indispensable condition for achieving the objective of a humanitarian democracy in Latin America ; therefore we are pleased to hear of the International Criminal Court.
4. A concerted and tireless effort must be made to fight corruption. It is well-known that for public corruption to exist there must be private individuals who are corrupt, and for corruption to exist at national level, there must be corrupters at international level. To curb corruption implies, to a great extent, releasing real resources for development. At international level, we encourage the European Union and the Rio Group, which brings together countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, to take the necessary steps to strengthen the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery and to extend it to a greater number of countries. We invite the signatory countries that have not yet adapted their legislation to this Convention to do so as soon as possible.
5. It is indispensable that the movement of the chemical materials that facilitate the production of drugs must be stopped. However, it is equally urgent to work to control demand and to freeze the profits of drug trafficking, which generally remain in North American and European banks. We recognise the initiatives taken by various international institutions, such as the Bank for International Settlements and the OECD. The Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering (FATF) of the OECD, to which other countries also belong, has just published a list of tax havens that have not co-operated with the recommendations of the FATF. We ask the participants of the summit of the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean to persuade these countries of the usefulness of co-operating.
6. We should also be concerned about the profits of guerilla forces engaged in the drug trade, extortion and kidnappings, which have not been frozen in all countries. The greatest contribution to peace would be to cut off the resources of those opposed to peace.
7. It is urgent to control and reduce drastically the arms race that entrains the terrible waste of resources, leading to the death of many and deepening the social plight of the poor.
8. It is urgent to assist the least protected minorities and struggle with all our means against modern forms of slavery and the traffic in human beings. In this context we recall the importance of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons supplementing the United Nations Convention Against Trans-National Organised Crime. This

Protocol should serve as a model for national legislation. We request the Heads of State and Government to put diplomatic pressure on countries that have not yet signed the Convention and the Protocol.

Nations, Regional Integration and Globalisation

9. In the face of globalisation, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean must base their relationship on the recognition of common values, which will enable them to look towards a common future. This means going far beyond all nominalism. It is not worth paying lip-service to words such as dignity of the human person, freedom, solidarity, justice, democracy, participation, civil society and human rights without knowing what lies behind them and what commitments they involve. This means that we must examine the kind of world we want to build (globalisation), what kind of society we can create (localisation), and ensure that these aims are compatible with human beings capable of recognising themselves as such and seeking with others (participation) to fulfil their destiny. For this reason, and in accordance with the principle of subsidiarity, we believe in the need for a new relationship between nations, regional groupings and global governance.
 10. We often speak of utopian aims. We should not give in to a world governed by fear and terror. Fear does not unite people, it forces them together. We must create a clear consciousness that the meaning of life lies in the creation of active communities which exchange resources, gifts, experience, knowledge and goods as a permanent expression of solidarity and subsidiarity.
 11. For this reason solidarity should be understood as the value central to the reality of globalisation. Without it, globalisation will be no more than the usual scenario of the strongest prevailing over the weakest, the richest over the poorest, the North over the South. It is urgent to establish a new partnership between developed and developing countries, as declared during the recent conference on Financing for Development in Monterrey, Mexico. This new partnership should recognise, as set out in the "Monterrey Consensus", that the role of the state in the market economy may differ according to the level of development achieved.
 12. The countries of our two continents have started along the road to regional integration, albeit at different levels of development and to different extents. In the case of the European Union, this has led to the sharing of national sovereignty in spheres as significant as currency, competition policy and foreign trade. In Latin America and the Caribbean, countries have also taken the first important steps in this direction through sub-regional blocs. This progress in regional integration deserves to be advanced because the political rapprochement of neighbouring countries constitutes an essential response to the problem of global governance. The challenge for the European Union today is to make a success of the accession of the countries of Central, Eastern and Southern Europe in order to a true unification of Europe. For Latin America and the Caribbean, we hope for a dynamic movement towards the convergence of sub-regional blocs for the greater unity of the region.
 13. In a more ambitious vein, we hope that our leaders will work together to reform the current international institutional architecture with the aim of achieving a better system of global governance, where justice is fairly enforced, there is no place for war and there is a preferential option for the poor and excluded. The next opportunity will be during the Johannesburg summit on sustainable development.

Social Justice and Sustainable Development

14. There is an urgent need to close the breach between rich and poor. We cannot deny the scandalous levels and growth of poverty, which puts in question democracy and the rule of law, and is a real cause of violence and insecurity in society. Fighting poverty is also the best way of protecting the environment. Sustainable development begins with working with the poorest people to create more opportunities for them.

15. It is clear that although this poverty is a result of profound internal social imbalances, it is also reinforced by the lack of trade opportunities for the countries of Latin America and Africa in international trade, especially with Europe. Therefore, initiatives for international co-operation should preferably be aimed at facilitating production that thrives on trade. The Association Agreement between the European Union and Mexico and the forthcoming Agreement between the EU and Chile seem to us to establish a model that could be applicable in the long term to all the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean, with a view to real economic partnership between our continents.

16. The aforementioned Agreement between the EU and Chile, with its numerous innovative dimensions (inclusion of services as well as goods, agreement on investment, public procurement rules, competition regulations and intellectual property, as well as a conflict resolution system) should provide a stimulus to the trade negotiations between Mercosur and the European Union. In the medium term, it will offer a new perspective to relations between the European Union and the Andean Pact and the Central American Common Market (MCCA). We also hope for rapid progress in negotiations between the European Union and the Caribbean Common Market (CARICOM). Finally, it is to be hoped that this type of agreement will give an impetus to negotiations within the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and in the context of the new development round.

17. It is imperative that we create a formula that allows a balance to be struck between the drain of capital from Latin America to Europe and European investment in Latin America. On the other hand, we must have the necessary means to alleviate or cancel the burden of foreign debt of the poorest countries, bearing in mind that the servicing of such debts involves extremely high interest payments which result in the mortgaging of the countries' financial reserves. In exchange for the reduction or waiving of the debt, our governments could approve the presence of European government observers to ensure that the money saved is channelled to the most urgent social expenditure.

18. We must treat political asylum-seekers as well as migrants who seek new opportunities in the North in the same way as the countries of the South received European migrants during the last century. These are the most real embodiment of the interdependence between our peoples. Opening borders, legalising the status of migrants and ensuring that irregular immigrants are not exploited because of their precarious legal situation, are steps that must be taken without delay.

19. It is also important that we confront the challenge of unemployment, pensions and leisure time, which not only involves economic problems but also raises questions about the meaning of life. Particular attention should be paid to the promotion of family life and job opportunities for the young who, even when they have higher education, find it difficult to find their place in society.

20. More serious still is the plight of child workers who, whilst trying to support their families, miss out on opportunities for training and qualification.

21. In this undertaking, we must learn to help one another without expecting quick returns or for contributions to pay dividends. Giving freely is an invincible force in the co-operation between peoples. In any case, if in the first half of the 20th century Latin America offered help to Europe, in the first half of the 21st century it is Europe that should undertake to support Latin America and the Caribbean. In this commitment, let it not be forgotten that the Member States of the European Union once promised to allocate 0.7% of their countries' GDP to development assistance. We ask for a fixed timetable to be established in order to achieve this goal.

22. It is necessary that Latin America and the Caribbean have access to medicines, a resource of inestimable value. To a great extent, medicines are only a product of the contribution to science of a bio-diversity that still has great undiscovered potential. That a balance between the requirements of protecting intellectual property and access to medicines can be achieved was clearly demonstrated by the declaration on this issue during the last WTO ministerial conference in Doha.

23. It is urgent to develop and put into practice an integral concept of ecology. The natural world has proven to be the greatest asset of many developing countries. In order that it becomes a renewable and growing heritage for humanity, we should exchange real development assets which make it possible to halt the reduction of available environmental resources. A shared future and sustainable development require the permanent exchange of goods for survival between poor and rich, a requirement which has become urgent in the face of natural disasters that demand our immediate assistance. We support the political efforts towards closer co-operation between the European Union and Latin America for the prevention of natural disasters.

Cultural Diversity in the Information Society

24. Together, Europe and Latin America must understand and build upon the firm belief that diversity without unity is anarchy and that unity without diversity is tyranny. Globalisation does not mean uniformity but a point of convergence between the differences in the personality of each people bringing it into dialogue with the others. It is important to recognise the enriching contribution of indigenous cultures to the process of globalisation.

25. There is a need to improve international co-operation in the agricultural, technical, technological and scientific spheres and to create links, which are both efficient and just, for real co-operation, technology transfer and scientific exchange. Genetic experiments, which should be regulated by bio-ethics, play a crucial role in these matters. The last Human Development Report noted that the commitments to promote the transfer of technologies to developing countries exist only on paper and that their implementation is often neglected. We hope that the summit of the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean will give a signal for more substantial efforts in this area.

26. It is to be hoped that the European Union will engage more fully in co-operation through information, via the qualification and provision of multipliers capable of leading countries into the global information market and maintaining their position there. The provision of postgraduate bursaries could be increased for this purpose and it should be ensured that individuals receiving

such benefits return to their countries of origin to exercise their profession and contribute their skills. We welcome recent initiatives by the European Commission to support grants for study and research.

27. The digital divide between the European Union and Latin America is real. There are twenty times as many Internet connections in the European Union than in Latin America. Major disparities also exist within and between countries. In a society and economy in which knowledge and information constitutes a new capital, a high-level of education and training is more necessary for active participation than ever before. For this reason we welcome and encourage European Commission's @LIS programme to promote co-operation between the EU and Latin America in the information society.

Conclusions

28. More visible and concrete interdependence between countries requires new methods of conducting international politics, such as the meetings of Heads of State and Government of the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean. A new meeting of this kind should be held in 2005 in a Latin American country in order to examine in greater detail questions such as international security, the role of regional integration in global governance, and to tackle the issue of migration.
29. Taking account of this growing interdependence and the need to live in the "global village" promoted by the media, we respectfully ask our leaders, on behalf of the members of the Church, to exercise decisively the powers of leadership the people have conferred upon them. We all depend upon this leadership, which can exacerbate existing problems if it is timid or ineffectual. On the other hand, making decisions for the common good is an incentive to interdependence and contains an educational value for younger generations.
30. CELAM and COMECE undertake to accompany critically and constructively the political partnership between the European Union and Latin America, which is aimed at overcoming the four major challenges outlined in the introduction, by offering ideas, co-operating in development programmes and evaluating their effects. CELAM and COMECE also accept the responsibility of carrying out the tasks of joint work between the bishops of the two regions as a logical continuation of this first meeting.
31. In the recent past many countries established *Truth Commissions* to help people overcome the trauma and wounds of war and authoritarian regimes and to take decisive steps towards reconciliation. It may now be the opportune time to create *Hope Commissions* in which the most representative institutions and individuals in our countries and the regions of the world we represent in this meeting could take part. They could make an original and prophetic contribution to re-establishing trust in the future of humanity.
32. We commit ourselves to contribute to this hope by proclaiming with still greater enthusiasm the Gospel of Jesus who, we know from experience, is the source of wisdom and inspiration, love and trust, inner cleansing and social liberation, and a sure guide through our life together.