

COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

COM(83) 142 final

Brussels, 21st March 1983

ESTABLISHMENT OF A EUROPEAN/LATIN AMERICAN INSTITUTE

(Communication from the Commission to the Council and to the European Parliament)

COM(83) 142 final

Establishment of a European/Latin American Institute

1. In June 1982 the European Council invited Community Foreign Ministers to examine possibilities for increased cooperation between Latin America and the European Community.

Subsequently a number of positive developments have taken place:

- the entry into force of the cooperation agreement with Brazil;
- the stepping up of Community financial assistance for Central America to more than 100 million ECU in 1982;
- the resumption of the dialogue with the Andean Pact countries with a view to negotiation of a cooperation agreement.

2. The positive stance of the Community towards Latin America in recent months has undoubtedly helped to mitigate the Community's rather negative image in large parts of Latin America. However, Latin America continues to consider itself badly neglected and politically misunderstood by Europe.

Much of the traditional malaise between the Community and Latin America must be attributed to problems of inadequate understanding of each other. Community presence in Latin America is more than scanty: less than a dozen officials (in Caracas, Santiago and soon in Brasilia) have to cover a subcontinent 12 times the size of the Community.

3. The Commission, therefore, strongly believes that a permanent effort should be undertaken by the Community and Latin America to intensify their political and economic dialogue and to increase reciprocal understanding between them.

In this regard the idea of a European-Latin American Institute has been launched by a group of Latin American and European political scientists, government officials and journalists closely interested in European-Latin American affairs.¹⁾

It has since been unofficially discussed with members of the European Parliament, members of Latin American governments, representatives of Latin American organizations as well as within the forum of European Political Cooperation. All those approached have applauded the idea as a step in the right direction.

4. Such an Institute would have four main functions:

- organization of conferences and seminars for European and Latin American diplomats, journalists, officials, businessmen, professors, etc. on questions of European-Latin American relations.
- assistance to journalists, politicians, researchers and businessmen for disseminating information on specific questions relating to European-Latin American relations. The Institute will thus serve as a sort of clearing house.
- furnishing advice and promoting specific studies on behalf of official institutions and private companies in Europe and Latin America (consulting role).

(1) Organizing Committee: Fernando Berrocal Soto (Costa Rica), Carlos Enrique Cardim (Brazil), Wolf Grabendorff (Federal Republic of Germany), Manfred Mols (Federal Republic of Germany), Carlos Moneta (Argentina), Dieter Oldekop (Federal Republic of Germany), Hugh O'Shaughnessy (United Kingdom), Alain Rouquie (France), Allan Wagner Tizon (Peru); Proposal for a European-Latin American Institute, Caracas, Oct. 1982

- research on political and economic issues relating to Europe and Latin America.

It would consist of two branches, one to be established in the Community, the other in a Latin American country.

For organizational reasons it would be wise to start operations with one branch only, preferably the European one. The Institute would function as a private, non-profit organization, to be incorporated under the legislation of the respective host countries. Financing of the Institute would have to come from the following main sources:

- subsidies from the European Community, Latin American governments and institutions;
- subsidies from the host cities (offering the necessary office space);
- fees for consultancy functions;
- donations from individuals, companies, foundations.

However it is clear that a major share of the total financing would have to be borne by the Community, especially in the launching phase.

5. The Commission is convinced that a European-Latin American Institute, provided it is practically conceived and staffed with a small number of highly qualified people, dedicated to the European-Latin American cause, might play a most valuable role in improving communications between the two regions.

The European Parliament and the Council are therefore invited to:

- a) support the establishment of a European-Latin American Institute;
- b) to invite the Latin American governments to give their backing to the Institute and to contribute, in an adequate manner, to its financing.

Subvention pour la création et le fonctionnement d'un Institut
EUROPE - AMERIQUE LATINE

1984 - Crédits demandés 950.000 (en ECUS)

1. Base juridique et description de l'action

a) Base juridique

Décision du Conseil du sur communication
..... de la Commission du

b) Description de l'action

La subvention servira pour soutenir la création et le fonctionnement d'un Institut Europe-Amérique latine. La nécessité d'un tel Institut est largement ressentie par les organes de la Communauté, la Conférence Interparlementaire Europe-Amérique latine ainsi que p.a. r Les instances gouvernementales latino-américaines.

Cet Institut aura pour tâche de contribuer à une meilleure compréhension entre Européens et latino-américains. jugée indispensable pour l'intensification de la coopération économique et commerciale. Pour accomplir cette tâche, l'Institut servira comme pôle de consultation de coordination et de relations publiques (visites, séminaires, programmes d'échanges, documentation, publication, recherche, etc.....).

L'Institut sera établi avec un siège en Amérique latine et un siège en Europe et démarrera, pour des raisons de rapidité d'action, avec sa "branche" européenne.

2. Nature de la dépense

Il s'agit d'une subvention qui permettra le démarrage de l'Institut en 1984. A l'avenir, l'existence de cet Institut, ainsi que de la "branche" en Amérique latine, sera soutenue également par des fonds d'autres organes publics, par des donations et des ressources propres.

3. Ventilation des dépenses

Coûts personnel (gestion de l'Institut)	400.000 UCE
Coûts matériel (dépenses d'installation et de fonctionnement)	400.000 UCE
Conférences, voyages	150.000 UCE

TOTAL 950.000 UCE

=====

4.