

CUIB-EUA
Barcelona Declaration
Barcelona, 27th March 2008

On 27th March 2008, the Consejo Universitario Iberoamericano (CUIB) and the European University Association (EUA) gathered in Barcelona (Spain), at a meeting hosted by the University of Barcelona. The purpose of the meeting was to explore the further development of cooperation between European and Latin American Caribbean Universities based on the Declaration of Asturias, signed in Oviedo (Spain) in 2006, which in turn was inspired by the Framework Agreement signed between the two organisations in Guadalajara (Mexico) in 2004.

CUIB and EUA are committed to develop a long-term, sustainable and regular dialogue between universities in the two regions with a spirit of cooperation and mutual learning that respects our various traditions and cultural heritage. The members of CUIB and EUA would like to promote mutual understanding for the benefit of all, and to strengthen the voice of universities in policy discussions at all levels, thus contributing to societal development both in Latin America and the Caribbean and in European countries.

In Barcelona, the CUIB and EUA agreed that concrete measures to realize cooperation between the universities of these two regions need to be taken forward with urgency. The two organisations discussed potential actions to build regular dialogue between their members and identified the following major topics for future concrete initiatives:

- *developing a framework for increasing and improving the quality and impact of **mobility**;*
- *exchanging and improving practice in **quality assurance**;*
- *developing **common understanding** of the Bologna process to help the construction of the EU-LAC common higher education area;*
- *strengthening **institutional profiles and missions**;*
- *developing **research cooperation** through better use of new information and communication technologies;*
- *strengthening the **inter-university cooperation** in social and cultural activities;*
- *strengthening the role of universities in addressing challenges of **social cohesion**.*

As one means to address the objectives, CUIB and EUA agreed to support dialogue between their members by becoming more involved in each other's activities, e.g. by taking part in each other's conferences and thematic workshops, and by publishing and disseminating news more widely through EUA's newsletter and other relevant higher education and research journals, and by taking advantage of IT tools to develop virtual mobility.

In view of the EU-LAC Heads of State and Government Summit to be celebrated in Lima 2008, May 17th-18th, CUIB and EUA, reiterate that, in addition to the objectives identified in Barcelona, the previous priorities identified in the Declaration of Asturias in 2006 still need to be taken forward. We urge the EU-LAC Heads of State and Government to provide the necessary support for strengthening higher education and research cooperation between the two regions and invite governments to consult with us in all matters related to inter-regional cooperation.