

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001941/24
to the Council
Francisco José Millán Mon (PPE)
(3 October 2024)**

Subject: Follow-up to the EU-CLASI Joint Declaration

Organised crime and drug trafficking currently constitute one of the most serious threats to security in the European Union.

In view of this scourge, a joint meeting was held on 18 September 2023 between the EU's interior ministers and 14 Latin American interior and security ministers belonging to the Latin America Internal Security Committee (known as 'CLASI'). At the meeting a joint declaration ⁽¹⁾ on the fight against organised crime and also drug trafficking was adopted.

In this declaration, the countries of both regions undertook, among other things, to 'step up the cooperation to tackle the global drug situation affecting both regions', in particular through increased information exchange and joint investigations in addressing drug trafficking. The parties also agreed to hold regular meetings to strengthen the relationship between the two sides. It was also agreed to hold a meeting of ministers to review progress in the implementation of the joint declaration.

1. Has a schedule of meetings between the two sides been established?
2. Will there be a joint meeting of ministers as set out in the declaration itself?
3. What concrete measures have been implemented or are planned to make good on the commitments made in the declaration?

Submitted: 3.10.2024

**Reply
(24 March 2025)**

Following the meeting of 28 September 2023 between ministers responsible for internal security from the EU and CLASI (Latin American Committee on Internal Security), the first EU-CLASI senior officials meeting was held on 30 May 2024.

On that occasion, working procedures to structure and make permanent the cooperation between the two regions were agreed ⁽¹⁾. Further to the ministers' call for regular meetings, it was proposed that an EU-CLASI meeting cycle be established.

The EU-CLASI meeting cycle spans 18 months (three consecutive semesters) and comprises three meeting configurations, involving ministers and senior officials.

The next ministerial meeting is due to take place in the first half of 2025, in Brussels.

The preparatory meeting held on 28 November 2024, co-chaired by the Hungarian-Presidency of the Council of the EU and the *pro tempore* Presidency of CLASI, the Republic of Ecuador, allowed senior officials of EU and CLASI instances to take stock of the progress made during the cycle, with a view to reporting on the outcome to the ministerial meeting.

EU-CLASI cooperation benefits from the support of the EU's Europe-Latin America assistance programme against transnational organised crime (EL PAcCTO).

Since 2017, EL PAcCTO has helped foster a strategic partnership between the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean region in the fight against organised crime.

In its second phase of implementation, EL PAcCTO 2.0, running from 2024 to 2027, continues to be a crucial instrument for supporting the launch and implementation of key initiatives within and between these regions.

The EU's cooperation with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean on drug-related matters is also pursued through the EU-CELAC Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs.

The Mechanism is supported by the EU cooperation programme on drugs policies between Latin America, the Caribbean and the EU (COPOLAD).

¹ <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-12838-2023-INIT/en/pdf>