

**FRAMEWORK COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN  
THE CONSEJO UNIVERSITARIO IBEROAMERICANO  
(CUIB) AND THE EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION  
(EUA)**

**BY & BETWEEN**

For one party, Mr Juan Antonio Vázquez, as Chairman of the Consejo Universitario Iberoamericano (CUIB), for and on behalf of CUIB.

And, for the other, Mr Eric Froment, as President of the European University Association (EUA), for and on behalf of the EUA.

**BACKGROUND**

- i. The Declaration of the first Summit of Heads of State and Government of the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean (EULAC), issued at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 29 June 1999, set forth an undertaking to create a strong tie of cooperation in the educational, cultural and human spheres; the decision to encourage inter-regional exchanges between educational actors; the will to bolster cooperation in education as a key objective, with an emphasis on partnership between higher education institutions, while respecting their autonomy, in particular through university exchanges and the development of distance education.
- ii. The European Union – Latin America – Caribbean Ministerial Conference on Higher Education, held at Paris, France, on 3 November 2000, declared the need for an action framework favouring the emergence and development of a EULAC higher education area as a key initiative to reinforce bilateral and multilateral relations among States, and appealed to the official institutions in charge of higher education and other bodies to encourage the setting in motion of that initiative. This common area is consistent with the principles and objectives adopted by the Ministries of Research and Technology of Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union at their meeting at Brasilia, Brazil, on 21 and 22 March 2002.
- iii. At the second EULAC Summit of Heads of State and Government, held at Madrid, Spain on 17 May 2002, it was decided to create more opportunities in our regions for education, culture and access to knowledge as the keys to success in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Summit also recommended the development, approval and promotion of the Plan of Action 2002-2004 to build a European Union – Latin America – Caribbean Higher Education Area .

- iv. On 31 May 2003, on the occasion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Convention of European Higher Education Institutions at Graz, Austria, there took place a meeting between the Steering Committee of the Consejo Universitario Iberoamericano (CUIB) and the Board of the European University Association (EUA).
- v. Under the auspices of the Italian Presidency of the European Union and in the context of the National Conference on Latin America and the Caribbean, on 15 October 2003 there was held at Milan, Italy, a further meeting between the EUA and the CUIB, at which both bodies signed a letter of intent.

## **WHEREAS**

- I. The Consejo Universitario Iberoamericano (CUIB), created under a protocol signed on 21 November 2002 at Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, is a non-governmental organisation representing the national associations of universities and higher education institutions of the 21 Latin American countries.
- II. The European University Association (EUA), created in Salamanca, Spain, on 31 March 2001, is a non-governmental organisation representing the universities and national rectors' conferences of European countries.
- III. The European University Association (EUA) and the Consejo Universitario Iberoamericano (CUIB) recognise one another as representatives of the higher education institutions of their respective regions.
- IV. At the Graz and Milan meetings there was stated the intent of the CUIB and the EUA to establish a formal partnership with the principal aim of combining their efforts towards building a common area for higher education, research and knowledge encompassing the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean. Both organisations share the view that education, knowledge and culture are the forces that bring forth equity, social progress and economic growth.

## **THE PARTIES AGREE**

1. To promote initiatives and cooperate on activities in aid of greater compatibility, legibility, transparency and comparability of higher education systems and of the creation of effective systems of quality assurance in order to facilitate recognition of study periods, degrees and qualifications.
2. To study the viability of a framework mobility scheme between the EUA and the CUIB which higher education institutions may join and which may serve as a stimulus and point of reference for academic mobility and exchange.

3. To promote and work towards further and better use of the extant bilateral and multilateral instruments for cooperation, with especial reference to the EU-LA and EU-ACP programmes.
4. To create an electronic system of information on opportunities for cooperation between Latin America – the Caribbean and the European Union in higher education and research.
5. To identify and promote new opportunities and forms of cooperation among universities and between universities and society, with particular emphasis on the training-employment relationship, transfer of research results and cooperation among higher education institutions in social cohesion and inclusion policies.
6. To create a CUIB-EUA Committee as a permanent liaison body for the implementation of this Agreement and for the design, execution and monitoring of such actions as it may bring about. The Committee shall have six members, three for each party, appointed by the CUIB Management Committee and the EUA Board, respectively. For each action resolved by the joint Committee, funding mechanisms shall be planned and put in place and, as applicable, any obligations and commitments undertaken by the parties shall be agreed upon.

Made at Guadalajara, Republic of Mexico, on 27 May 2004.

Juan A. Vázquez

Eric Froment