



Latin American Initiative of German Business

Your Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

the **Latin American Initiative of German Business** (LAI) is the regional initiative of German Business for Latin America and the Caribbean. It consists of the leading associations of German economy.

As part of the **informal EU27-LAC Foreign Ministers' Meeting**, to be held virtually December 14th to 15th, 2020, LAI will host a conference with the aim of exploring potentials for deepening business relations between our regions and countries.

The strong economic relations between Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean have a long and stable tradition. As an example, Germany's first foreign chambers of commerce (AHK) outside of Europe were founded, more than 100 years ago, in countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. First investments of European industry date back to the 19th century. Trade relationships between the regions even further.

There is an ongoing paradigmatic change of world trade. This is due to different issues like the Corona Pandemic, climatic change and the growing protectionism on economic relations. Therefore, we feel compelled to rethink global value chains, economic cooperation, trade ways and investment paths, innovation and digitalization.

In a direct encounter between European Politics and Business with high level representatives of several countries of Latin America and the Caribbean we want to discuss these developments together.

We cordially invite you to participate in the **virtual** conference

Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe: strenghtening business ties

December 15th, 2020, 03:00 p.m. to 05:10 p.m.

The conference languages are English, Portuguese and Spanish with simultaneous traduction. The participation is free of charge. Please register at event-international@dihk.de to receive your accreditation and the participation link. You may pass this invitation to interested business associations or partners in your countries.

The program is attached to this invitation. We look very much forward to your participation.

Best regards

Dr. Reinhold Festge

Chairman
Latin American Initiative
of German Business

Dr. Mark Heinzl

Coordinator
Latin American Initiative
of German Business



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Latin America, the Caribbean and Europe: strengthening business ties

Virtual Business Conference as part of the EU-LAC foreign ministers conference

December 15th, 2020, 03:00 p.m. to 05:00 p.m.

Program Moderator

Wolfgang Niedermark, Executive Board Member, Federation of German Industries (BDI)

03:00 p.m. **Welcome adress**

Dr. Reinhold Festge, Chairman, Latin American Initiative of German Economy
Christoph Leitl, President, EUROCHAMBRES

03:05 p.m. **Statement from the European Commission**

Dr. Sabine Weyand, General Director Trade, EU Commission

03:15 p.m. **Statement**

Marco Wanderwitz, Parliamentary State Secretary, Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, Federal Republic of Germany

03:20 p.m. **Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean: a sustainable partnership for future**

H. E. Erika Mouynes, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Panama
H. E. Kamina Johnson-Smith, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Jamaica
Andreas Renschler, Chairman, Latin America Committee of German Business
Francisco Herrero, President, Ibero-American Chamber Association (AICO) (tbc)

Moderation: Orlando Baquero, CEO Latin American Association of German Economy

04:05 p.m. **Fields of Economic Cooperation between Europe and LAC**

H. E. Diego Mesa, Minister of Mines and Energy, Colombia
H. E. Ernesto Araújo, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Brazil (tbc)
Monika Beck, Board Member, German Investment and Development Company (DEG)
Prof. Dieter Kempf, President, BDI

Moderation: Dr. Volker Treier, Chief Executive of Foreign Trade, DIHK

04:50 p.m. **Questions and Answers**

H. E. Heiko Maas, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Federal Republic of Germany

05:10 p.m. **End of Conference**