



**Heinrich Böll Foundation
Lunch-Debate
Brussels, January 22nd, 2014**

**CELAC-EU Dialogue on Gender Issues
Workshop on Violence against Women
Future steps**

**Minister Alejandra Ayuso
Chargée d'Affaires a.i.
Embassy of Argentina to the EU**



CELAC – EU Dialogue on Gender Issues: an Argentine initiative

- **Since 2002, Latin America and the Caribbean and the EU have established an “Strategic Partnership”.**
- **This Partnership is based on a set of common values: democracy, Rule of Law, promotion and protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms.**
- **There is a long history of collaboration on Human Rights in international fora between Latin American and the Caribbean and the EU (UNGA Resolution on Rights of the Child).**
- **Since 2010, Argentina has been proposing to establish a formal Dialogue on Gender Issues, based on shared values and common experiences.**
- **The First CELAC-EU Summit of Heads of State and Government (Santiago, Chile, January 2013) incorporated a bi-regional dialogue on gender issues to the Plan of Action.**
- **By invitation of the CELAC pro Tempore Presidency, Argentina coordinates this Dialogue.**



Official Launching Event of the bi-regional Dialogue

- **On November 27th, 2013 a Launching event of the bi-regional Dialogue on Gender Issues took place in Buenos Aires.**
- **Strong political signals from both sides regarding the importance of this Dialogue:**
 - **EU representation at a high political level: Mr. Ronald Schaeffer, Director for the Americas of the European External Action Service, Ambassador Alfonso Diez Torres, Chief of the EU Delegation in Argentina.**
 - **EU Member States: experts from capitals, diplomats from EU Embassies in Buenos Aires.**
 - **Argentina: Undersecretary of State for External Policy, Ambassador María del Carmen Squeff, Undersecretary of State for Prevention, Assistance and Eradication of Violence against Women, Ms. Silvina Zabala.**
 - **CELAC: Pro Tempore Presidency (represented by the Special Representative of Argentina for Gender Issues, Ambassador Gloria Bender).**
 - **CELAC countries: experts from all CELAC countries (but 4...)**



Workshop on Violence against Women: Femicide / Feminicide Buenos Aires, November 28th and 29th, 2013

- **Three Panels:**
 - **“Legislation on Femicide / Feminicide”**
 - **“Protocols and Handbooks for action in Specific Fields”**
 - **“Femicide / Feminicide: collecting data and statistics”**
- **Violence against women is not a domestic issue, but has transpired to the public sphere: strong need for action!**
- **Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union can benefit from the exchange of experiences and good practices both in legislation and in action (prevention, assistance to victims, punishment).**
- **CELAC-EU bi-regional dialogue can foster international cooperation to promote women’s rights and to eradicate all forms of violence against women.**



The way forward: proposal for a meeting during next CSW session

- **Both regions agree that it is important to continue the exchanges.**
- **Argentina proposed to CELAC and EU countries to hold a meeting during the next session of the Commission on the Status of Women (New York, March 10th to 24th, 2014).**
- **Issue to be discussed: the future of gender issues after 2015 (in view of the present building of the agenda after the Millennium Development Goals).**
- **Structure: single panel, with two experts from each region.**
- **Waiting for a response from capitals!**
- **Argentina is confident in a positive answer!**



Which role for civil society?

- **Participation of civil society is a sensitive question for both regions!**
- **National agencies in both regions maintain a regular dialogue with civil society: contributions are always welcome!**
- **There is an extensive network of contacts between civil society organizations from both regions: need to use these contacts!**
- **EULAC Foundation was present at the Workshop: the Foundation can also broker participation of civil society!**
- **Civil society has a special participation in CELAC-EU Summits (special events, meeting with Heads of State and Government).**
- **Both CELAC and the EU are open to receiving the contribution of civil society along the road: in SOMs, through the CELAC pro Tempore Presidency and the EU structures.**



Thank you for your attention

alejandraayuso@gmail.com