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# **Memo to Ursula von der Leyen and António Costa: Make the Right Priorities for the EU-CELAC Summit 2025**

*By Renata Zilli, Researcher at ECIPE*

**Brussels, 23 October 2025** - As Europe and Latin America prepare for the EU-CELAC Summit in Santa Marta, Colombia, a new [ECIPE Policy Brief](#) urges European leaders to transform political dialogue into tangible strategic cooperation.

The paper highlights that Latin America and the Caribbean remain essential for Europe's economic security, offering diversification in critical raw materials, energy, and digital connectivity. As the EU faces rising protectionism and geopolitical fragmentation, a reinvigorated transatlantic agenda could turn EU-CELAC relations into a genuine strategic partnership. **Europe must show that EU-CELAC partnership delivers more than promises.**

The study calls on European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen and European Council President António Costa to focus on five actionable priorities:

- Deepen EU-CELAC **economic security cooperation** to reduce supply-chain vulnerabilities and avoid the weaponisation of economic dependencies.
- Promote **integration of regional value chains** across CELAC countries, fostering complementary specialisation in industries such as lithium, semiconductors, and aerospace.
- Bridge digital divides through strategic investment under the EU-LAC Global Gateway, expanding broadband networks, data centres, and **transatlantic connectivity**.

- Complete and implement pending **trade agreements with Mexico and Mercosur**, leveraging Europe's extensive network of association accords for growth and diversification.
- Launch a **"Coalition of the Willing"** for a rules-based international trading system, aligning like-minded economies in Europe and Latin America.

***"The single market is rightly celebrated as one of Europe's greatest achievements in the history of economic integration. But it is not a silver bullet. As the Letta Report underscores, the EU's single market remains incomplete. Its external dimension must therefore be recognised as the missing piece in the formula to strengthen the EU's competitiveness and resilience"***, said Renata Zilli, author of the study.

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