

## International Seminar

Friday 26 October 2018, 15:00 – 18:45

### THE CARIBBEAN- EUROPEAN UNION SYNERGY What challenges and opportunities?

***Access to the Seminar:***

*Free of charge*

***Compulsory registration  
by October 22, at the latest***

*Room Arenberg, Egmont Palace  
Place du Petit Sablon, 8bis, Kleine Zavel  
1000 Brussels*

***Working languages:***

*English – Spanish – French*

***Information and registration:***

[contact@irelac.be](mailto:contact@irelac.be)

The international seminar aims at drawing attention to challenges and opportunities the Caribbean region has to face in economic, energy and climate aspects, as well as to the importance of a cooperative approach, both among Caribbean states and with the EU partners, especially Belgium.

Moreover, it aims at paying a special and academic posthumous tribute to Viktor Sukup, ex-civil servant of the European Commission, IRELAC researcher and Caribbean expert, who accidentally died after publishing his book on the Caribbean islands. The Ibero-American Academy of Yuste Foundation recently published a Spanish version of the book.

Thus, the seminar is the opportunity to tackle aspects of the Caribbean region as well as to enhance diplomatic and academic ties between the EU and the Caribbean with the identification of first operative steps to take in the bi-regional partnership.

Event organized by the “**Interdisciplinary Institute for the Relations Between the European Union, Latin America and the Caribbean**” (IRELAC) and the **European and Ibero-American Academy of Yuste Foundation**, under the auspices of the Directorate for Americas of the **Belgian Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs**



## PROGRAMME

### 15:00 – 15:20 WELCOME ADDRESS

- **Director Alain Van Gucht**, Belgian Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs
- **Miguel Ángel Martín Ramos**, Head of Brussels Delegation of the European and Ibero-American Academy of Yuste Foundation
- **Christian Ghymers**, President of IRELAC
- **Rebeca Grynspan**, Secretary-General of the Ibero-American Conference, Member of the European and Iberoamerican Academy of Yuste

### 15:20 – 16:15 SESSION 1

#### The Caribbean in the frame of the EU-CELAC relations

Chair: **HE Joy Ann Skinner**, Ambassador of Barbados, President of CARIFORUM

- **Patrick Gomes**, Secretary-General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) (tbc)
- **Fernando Ponz Cantó**, Deputy Head of Division for Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean at the European External Action Service
- **D. Rafael Reig Sánchez-Tembleque**, Diplomatic Counselor in Charge of Relations with Latin America at the Spanish Embassy to the European Union

Open discussion

### 16:15 - 17:10 SESSION 2

#### Caribbean Challenges: Growth, Environment, Climate Change, Natural disasters

Chair: **HE Sharlene Jo-Ann Shillingford-Mc Klmon**, Ambassador of the Eastern Caribbean states

- **Christian Ghymers**, President of IRELAC - Macroeconomic development
- **Philipp De Maeyer**, Professor at the University of Gent and researcher on Environmental change in the Caribbean
- **Rebeca Grynspan**, Secretary-General of the Ibero-American Conference, Member of the European and Iberoamerican Academy of Yuste

Open discussion

### 17:10 – 18:00 SESSION 3

#### Caribbean Integration and challenges

Chair: **HE Sheila Ivoline Sealy-Monteith**, Ambassador of Jamaica

- **HE Sheila Ivoline Sealy-Monteith**, Ambassador of Jamaica
- **Caroline Adriaensen**, Deputy-Head of Unit, European Commission, Expert on the Caribbean
- **Carlos Quenan**, Vice President of Institut des Amériques and Professor at Université Sorbonne Nouvelle Paris 3

Open Discussion

### 18:00 – 18:30 SESSION 4

#### Academic Tribute Session to Viktor Sukup

Member of IRELAC, author of a book on the Caribbean islands

Chair: **Miguel Ángel Martín Ramos**, Head of Brussels Delegation of the European and Ibero-American Academy of Yuste Foundation

#### Presentation of Sukup's work on the Caribbean

- **Eduardo Estévez Martín**, Ex General Secretary Assistant at the CMT, Advisor at ULATOC and CLATE

#### Personal testimonies about Viktor Sukup

- **Jean-Paul Marthoz**, Journalist at Le Soir
- **Marc Preyat**, ex Journalist at RTBF (1976-2010), Walcourt's Alderman for Education and Culture

### 18:30 – 18:45 CLOSING REMARKS

### 18:45 VIN D'HONNEUR

Sponsors:



Fondo Europeo de  
Desarrollo Regional  
"Una manera de hacer Europa"

*Alimentos  
de Extremadura*

