

PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 15 May 2008

The EU/LAC Lima Summit: Youth must be high on the agenda

On the occasion of the European Union-Latin American and Caribbean Summit on 16-17 May in Lima, the European Youth Forum (YFJ) and the Latin American Youth Forum (FLAJ) remind the Heads of States and Government from both regions that youth should be a priority, in particular, in those fields that affect them directly such as education, decent employment and youth rights.

This political message is framed within the annual Euro-Latin America Youth Forum (FEULAT), a partnership project between the YFJ and FLAJ aimed at strengthening co-operation between youth organisations in both regions, developing youth policies in Latin America and promoting the youth movement and its participation in relevant political decision-making processes.

The Lima Summit will open a high-level dialogue between leaders from both regions about social cohesion policies, including poverty alleviation, measures to eliminate discrimination and the recognition of fundamental social rights. Therefore, "both youth platforms strongly support the active participation of the youth organisations based in Peru -FLAJ members- in the mobilisation of civil society ahead of the Summit", notes Rita Solis Arce, President of the Latin American Youth Forum. "Hundreds of thousands of young people in Latin America are suffering from deep social, political and economic exclusion," she explains. The 3rd Peoples Social Forum 'Enlazando Alternativas' is gathering thousands of civil society activists on 14-17 May, to debate and make their voices heard by governments, on proposals to re-define the relationship between the two continents.

The YFJ and the FLAJ will be carrying out a follow-up assessment on the implementation of the outcomes of the Lima Summit at the Youth and Development University, the 9th edition of which will be held on 14-21 September in Mollina (Spain). "This will also be the right moment to develop the contributions from the youth organisations ahead of the EU-LAC Summit in 2010, to ultimately ensure progress for young people in both regions," highlights Bettina Schwarzmayr, President of the European Youth Forum.

Press contacts

European Youth Forum

Angela Corbalan, tel: +32 485 57 47 68, email: press@youthforum.org

Latin American Youth Forum

Aníbal Cabrera, tel: +595 991 214215, email: abcabreche@flaj.org