

The European Institute of International Studies (EIIS) and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) are pleased to invite to the

Stockholm Conference

The Pacific Alliance – An emerging region in a global world

Towards better integration of regional policies and international cooperation

Stockholm, 5th December, 2017

Venue:

Business Sweden-Headquarters

World Trade Center

Klarabergsviadukten 70, 11164 Stockholm

Organized by:



In collaboration with:



REGERINGSKANSLIET

**Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Sweden**



 **GOBIERNO DE COLOMBIA**

Presidency Pro Tempore Pacific Alliance

Supported by



**Embassy of Chile to Sweden
Embassy of Peru to Sweden
Embassy of Mexico to Sweden**

Stockholm Conference

The Pacific Alliance – An emerging region in a global world

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The Stockholm Conference-Pacific Alliance is the first chapter of a two-fold conference which will see its second edition at Copenhagen Business School (CBS) in spring 2018. This initiative is derived from the joint seminar between EIIS and OECD: “Emerging Markets. The Pacific Alliance: Perspectives & Opportunities” held in the OECD Headquarters in Paris on June 23rd 2017. Participants at the seminar highlighted the immense importance of clear paths to overcome challenges and maximize opportunities for further contact with observer countries, and emphasizing prospects with the OECD members in view of strengthening a robust dialogue amongst member countries, observer and associated states.

The Pacific Alliance is an initiative of regional integration comprised by Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru. Its objectives are to: build in a participatory and consensual way an area of deep integration to move progressively towards the free movement of goods, services, resources and people; drive further growth, development and competitiveness of the economies of its members, focused on achieving greater well-being, overcoming socioeconomic inequality and promote the social inclusion of its inhabitants; become a platform of political articulation, economic and commercial integration and projection to the world.

As the Pacific Alliance initiatives explore areas beyond free trade, there are opportunities found in other areas for cooperation such as: technological and scientific cooperation, promotion of business, and education cooperation among others. In this context, there is huge untapped potential for further interaction among the 28 OECD Member Countries who are also observer or associate members to the Pacific Alliance and the Block’s four member states. Furthermore, such cooperation has great importance as the role of international cooperation, which is challenged particularly by a complex and diverse globalized world, where global actors with a shared long-term vision of sustainable development and inclusive growth ought to find multilateral forums to come closer. This Conference aims to discuss not only the promotion of trade policy guidelines for more sustained and robust growth in the area, but also with other types of mutually beneficial cooperation in view of increasing the well-being of the region, hence coordinating synergies to reinforce regional policies of impact.

In this regard, the specific objectives are to take stock of the Pacific Alliance mandate and agenda in areas such as regional integration, digital agenda, education and competencies, gender; and discuss methods of work and practices, including support (if identified) from observer countries and associate members, as well as regional and international organizations in order to achieve successful outcomes. In this sense, the Conference will culminate by leading a reflection on the global policy context of the Pacific Alliance with in-depth discussions about identified synergies and possible ways to reinforce them through a consensual harmonization exercise.

Finally, it is relevant to point out that since its creation, the Pacific Alliance has experienced increasing economic integration which has led to growth within the region and translated to interest from the international community. In this regard, as the number of observer countries continues to grow it is important to have an informed and ongoing dialogue about the opportunities presented by the region, by opening spaces for political articulation where untapped potential can be explored and exploited.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

9h00-9h30 – Registration and welcome

9h30 – 10h15 – Introductory remarks – The PA, opportunities for LA and beyond

Lena Sellgren, Chief Economist at Business Sweden-The Swedish Trade & Invest Council (BS)

Dr. Mario Torres Jarrín, Director of the European Institute of International Studies (EIIS)

Dr. Oscar Villarreal, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Amb. Sonia Durán, Ambassador of Colombia to Sweden, Denmark and Iceland (Pro-Tempore Presidency-Pacific Alliance)

Andreas Danielsen, Desk Officer-Pacific Alliance, Americas Department-Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden (UD-AME)

10h15-11h30 – Session 1: Regional integration, SMEs and GVCs

SMEs role and impact on growth, job creation, social cohesion and poverty reduction are widely recognized, and are an important part of the PA's economy, but yet with a GDP contribution in LAC of only around 30%. Reinforcing the trade and investment agenda of the PA through SMEs strengthening and integration at a regional level is a key element to foster internationalization.

Speaker – Amb. Sonia Durán, Embassy of Colombia to Sweden with concurrency in Denmark and Iceland

Moderator – Dr. Jacobo Ramirez, Copenhagen Business School (CBS)

11h30-12h45 – Session 2: The Digital agenda of the Pacific Alliance

The ongoing digital transformation of economies is an important driver to enhance well-being of societies, to boost inclusive and sustainable growth and to promote innovation. Reviewing the PA digital agenda (digital economy, digital connectivity, digital government, digital ecosystems) will allow us to find paths to support, promote and implement its ambitious objectives. How can we take part and take advantage of the new digital era?

Speaker – Amb. José Goñi, Embassy of Chile to Sweden

Moderator –Jonathan Violante Pica, European Institute of International Studies

12h45-13h00 – Family photo

13h00 – 14h00 – Lunch

14h00-15h30 – Panel 3 – Education and skills in the Pacific Alliance

The confluence of globalisation, digitalisation and demographic change affect significantly the world of work from a quantity and quality perspective: how and who is doing the job. Investing in skills it's a key

element to support sustainable, robust growth and development and help reducing inequality and poverty. Are the skills for today the skills for tomorrow?

Speaker – Amb. José Beraún, Embassy of Peru to Sweden with concurrency in Denmark

Moderator – Dr. Gian Luca Gardini, Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg

15h30-15h45 – Coffee break

15h45 – 17h00 – Panel 4 – Gender equality in the Pacific Alliance

Women's inclusion in economic life is a key driver of economic growth. PA countries have made good progress on gender equality in the past few decades, however tenacious difficulties remain: low-quality jobs, economic insecurity, poverty... Whilst these touch all and everyone, women are particularly affected. What can the PA do?

Speaker – Amb. Agustín Gasca, Embassy of Mexico to Sweden

Moderator – Lena Sellgren, Chief Economist of the Business Sweden

17h00-17h30 – Wrap and conclusions. Next meeting Q2 2018.

Dr. Oscar Villarreal, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)

Dr. Mario Torres Jarrín, Director of the European Institute of International Studies (EIIS)

17h30-19h00 – Cocktail Reception offer by the Embassy of Colombia to Sweden, Denmark and Iceland (Pro-Tempore Presidency-Pacific Alliance)

RECOMMENDED PUBLICATIONS FOR THE CONFERENCE

