

**Herman Van Rompuy**  
President of the European Council

Brussels, 16 April 2010  
Our Ref.: B957

Dear Mr. Van Rompuy,

**Subject: EU-LAC Summit, Madrid 18-19 May 2010**

Ahead of the sixth EU-LAC Summit in Madrid on 18 and 19 May 2010, Amnesty International wishes to stress the need for the European Union to use the forthcoming discussions to address the human rights situation in the region. Sustainable development, peace and stability, and respect for human rights are widely acknowledged to be interdependent and mutually reinforcing, as emphasized by the UN World Summit declaration of 2005. As the theme for the summit will be "innovation and technology for social inclusion and sustainable development", this offers a valuable opportunity to address human rights concerns in Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean.

There is an increasing recognition that the realization of human rights is at the heart of poverty eradication. However, the underlying abuses that drive people into poverty and keep them there too often remain unaddressed, even though ethnic and religious minorities, indigenous people, women and girls make up disproportionate numbers of the world's poor. Amnesty International calls on those attending the EU-LAC Summit in 2010 not to ignore the pressing human rights violations in both regions, impacting disproportionately on those living in poverty.

Please find attached a briefing identifying a number of regional trends of human rights violations, common in varying degrees to both the EU and the LAC region. Amnesty International calls on the European Union to press for progress in particular in the following areas:

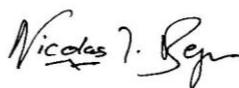
- access to health services, in particular maternal healthcare;
- forced evictions; and
- violence against women and women human rights defenders.

Addressing these and other human rights violations is essential to achieving the EU-LAC Summit objective of social inclusion and sustainable development. Amnesty International therefore urges the European Union to follow up on the issues contained in the attached briefing note.

In addition, Amnesty International calls upon the European Union to give NGOs an opportunity to brief the EU delegation before attending the EU-LAC Summit, and requests the EU to subsequently provide adequate feedback on discussions held. The EU delegation is also urged to hold a meeting with Human Rights Defenders from the LAC region in the margins of the Summit.

We look forward to feedback on discussions held at the Summit and are willing to provide any further information that would be useful to your discussions.

Yours sincerely,



Nicolas Beger  
Director  
Amnesty International EU Office



Esteban Beltrán  
Director  
Amnesty International Spain