**Faithfulness Score**: 100/100 - Excellent

# EU-LAC Digital Alliance Days: Key Collaborations and Future Initiatives for 2025 Summit

**Date**: 2023-11-27

**Location**: Colombia

## Executive Summary

The EU-LAC Digital Alliance Days, held from November 27-29, 2023, in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, gathered over 150 senior representatives from Latin America, the Caribbean, and the European Union to enhance digital cooperation. Key discussions focused on five thematic areas: Artificial Intelligence, data governance, digital government, inclusive connectivity, and cybersecurity. Participants identified collaborative initiatives, including aligning cybersecurity frameworks, developing interoperable digital identity mechanisms, and promoting secure data flows. The event underscored a commitment to a human-centric digital transformation and marked a significant step towards the 2025 EU-CELAC Summit. Follow-up dialogues on cybersecurity and other digital issues are scheduled for 2024, reinforcing the partnership’s objectives under the Global Gateway initiative.

## Characteristics

* The EU-LAC Digital Alliance Days took place from November 27-29, 2023, in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, gathering over 150 representatives from various sectors.
* Key discussions focused on digital cooperation, including AI, data governance, digital government, inclusive connectivity, and cybersecurity.
* Participants identified joint collaboration areas such as cybersecurity frameworks, inclusive connectivity strategies, and digital identity mechanisms.
* The event emphasized a human-centric approach to technology, aligning with the goals of the Global Gateway initiative in Latin America and the Caribbean.
* A follow-up dialogue on cybersecurity is scheduled for February 2024 in the Dominican Republic, with additional discussions planned throughout the year.

## Actors

| Category | Actors |
| --- | --- |
| Political Actors | 1. European Commission; 2. Spanish Agency for International Development (AECID); 7. German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) |
| Research and Innovation Actors | 3. Digital for Development (D4D) Hub |
| Government Officials | 4. Félix Fernández-Shaw; 5. Saul Kattan; 6. Miguel González Gullón |

### Main Actors Descriptions

* **European Commission** (Political Actors: Government Officials)
  + Co-organizer of the EU-LAC Digital Alliance Days, represented by Félix Fernández-Shaw, Director for Latin America.
* **Spanish Agency for International Development (AECID)** (Political Actors: Government Officials)
  + Co-organizer of the event, involved in training and development initiatives.
* **Digital for Development (D4D) Hub** (Research and Innovation Actors)
  + Co-organizer of the event, focusing on promoting digital solutions for development.
* **Senior Government Representatives from Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)** (Political Actors: Government Officials)
  + Over 150 representatives participated in the event to discuss digital cooperation.
* **European Union (EU) and its Member States** (Political Actors: EU Member States)
  + Participated in the event to strengthen digital partnerships with LAC countries.
* **Saul Kattan** (Political Actors: Government Officials)
  + Presidential Adviser on Digital Transformation in Colombia, spoke at the event.
* **Miguel González Gullón** (Political Actors: Government Officials)
  + Head of the AECID Training Center in Cartagena, also spoke at the event.
* **Participants from Civil Society, Academia, and Private Sector** (Civil Society Actors)
  + Engaged in discussions on digital cooperation and shared best practices.
* **Dominican Republic** (Political Actors: Government Officials)
  + Scheduled to host a follow-up dialogue on cybersecurity in February 2024.
* **German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)** (Political Actors: Government Officials)
  + Co-financed the policy dialogue component of the event.

## Main Themes

| Main Theme | Subthemes |
| --- | --- |
| Digital Transformation & Strategy | Digital Agenda; Digital Policy; Digital Ecosystem |
| Technology & Innovation | Artificial Intelligence; Cybersecurity |
| Data & Governance | Data Governance; Cybersecurity; Digital Identity Management |
| Inclusion & Social Development | Digital Inclusion; Connectivity |
| Regional & International Cooperation | EU-LAC Digital Alliance; EU-CELAC Digital Partnership; Bi-regional Cooperation |

### Main Themes Description

* **Event Overview**: The EU-LAC Digital Alliance Days took place from November 27-29, 2023, in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, gathering over 150 representatives from government, civil society, academia, and the private sector to discuss digital cooperation.
* **Core Principle**: Emphasis on a human-centric approach to technology, articulated by key speakers, highlighting that technology should serve people.
* **High-Level Dialogues**: Five thematic discussions focused on:
  + Artificial Intelligence (AI)
  + Data governance
  + Digital government
  + Inclusive connectivity
  + Cybersecurity
* **Identified Areas for Collaboration**: Key areas for future cooperation were established, including:
  + Alignment of cybersecurity frameworks
  + Innovative policies for inclusive and secure connectivity
  + Development of interoperable digital identity mechanisms
  + Promotion of free and safe data flows
  + Strategies to mitigate AI risks while leveraging its opportunities
* **Political Commitment**: The event underscored the political will of partner countries to enhance collaboration on digital issues through shared dialogue and initiatives.
* **Milestone for Bi-Regional Partnership**: The event marked a significant step in strengthening the EU-LAC digital partnership, following a Joint Declaration from the third EU-CELAC Summit in July 2023, with a focus on the upcoming 2025 Summit in Colombia.
* **Future Dialogues**: Plans for follow-up dialogues on cybersecurity, connectivity, digital inclusion, data governance, and e-governance are scheduled throughout 2024, starting with a cybersecurity dialogue in February hosted by the Dominican Republic.
* **Global Gateway Initiative**: The EU-LAC Digital Alliance is part of the EU’s strategy to foster trusted and sustainable connections with Latin America and the Caribbean, contributing to the ambitions of the Global Gateway initiative.

## Practical Applications

* Co-leading partnerships established between the EU, EU Member States, and LAC countries in five thematic areas: cybersecurity frameworks, inclusive and secure connectivity, interoperable digital identity mechanisms, free and safe data flows, and AI risk mitigation strategies.
* A Joint Declaration endorsed at the third EU-CELAC Summit in July 2023, marking a commitment to strengthen bi-regional digital partnerships.
* A follow-up dialogue on cybersecurity scheduled for February 2024 in the Dominican Republic, with additional dialogues planned for connectivity, digital inclusion, data governance, and e-governance later in the year.
* The policy dialogue component of the TEI (Team Europe Initiative) co-financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

## Commitments

* A follow-up dialogue on cybersecurity will be hosted by the Dominican Republic in February 2024.
* Follow-up dialogues on connectivity and digital inclusion, data governance, and e-governance will take place later in 2024.
* The next EU-CELAC Summit is scheduled to be held in Colombia in 2025.
* No specific commitments identified regarding numerical targets, pledged funding amounts, specific percentage increases or reductions, or measurable goals with clear metrics.