



# EU - LATIN AMERICA ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION



# Environmental challenges in Latin America

- Megadiverse countries and several biodiversity hotspots
- Economic development with environmental and social impact
- Fast urban development
- Expansion of the agriculture frontiers, logging, mining and infrastructure building
- Risk for environmental rights defenders

## **Need for:**

- Protection of natural habitats and ecosystems
- Ensuring assessment of environmental/economic impacts in economic development
- Sustainable urban development with waste and water treatment, sustainable transports and green infrastructure

# EU Cooperation with Latin America

## *Multilateral*

- UN fora, multilateral environmental agreements, G20
- Latin America often but not always negotiating as a region (GRULAC) – similarly to EU
- Shared interests e.g. on biodiversity, sustainable consumption and production (G20 also resource efficiency), strong international environmental governance and importance of environmental justice

## *Regional*

- So far not strongly developed but possible interlocutors could be CELAC, CEPAL, Pacific Alliance and others

# EU Cooperation with Latin America

## *Multilateral*

- UNEA: Resolution on Water Pollution

Target: Halving by 2030 the amount of untreated wastewater reaching water bodies; Develop tools to implement integrated water resource management.

- UNEA: Resolution on Environment and Health

Chemicals and waste; Climate change; Biodiversity; Antimicrobial resistance; Sustainable consumption and production.

- G20: Climate Sustainability WG and Resource Efficiency Dialogue

## *Regional: International environmental governance and importance of environmental justice:*

Negotiations of an instrument based on the model of the Aarhus Convention on access to information and justice

# Bilateral cooperation with Latin America

- Commitment to international environmental standards in the trade and sustainable development chapters of our Free Trade Agreements
  - *with 6 countries in Central America (Nicaragua, Honduras, Panama, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Costa Rica)*
  - *3 in South America (Colombia, Peru and Ecuador)*
- Working with Mexico and with the four Mercosur countries (Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay) to achieve similar approaches

# Bilateral cooperation with strategic partners

## BRAZIL

- One of the EU's strategic partners
- Great relevance based on importance of economy and environment (in particular biodiversity)
- Influential and challenging player in multilateral negotiations
- Regular EU – Brazil high level dialogue on environment

# Bilateral cooperation with strategic partners

## MEXICO

- Second largest economy in Latin America
- Mega-diverse country: estimated share of global biodiversity at between 10 to 12% of all species
- Ambitious approach to environmental governance, mainstreaming sustainable development and environmental protection into sectoral policy-making
- Key like-minded partner for the EU in many multilateral environmental fora
- Regular EU – Mexico high level dialogue on environment

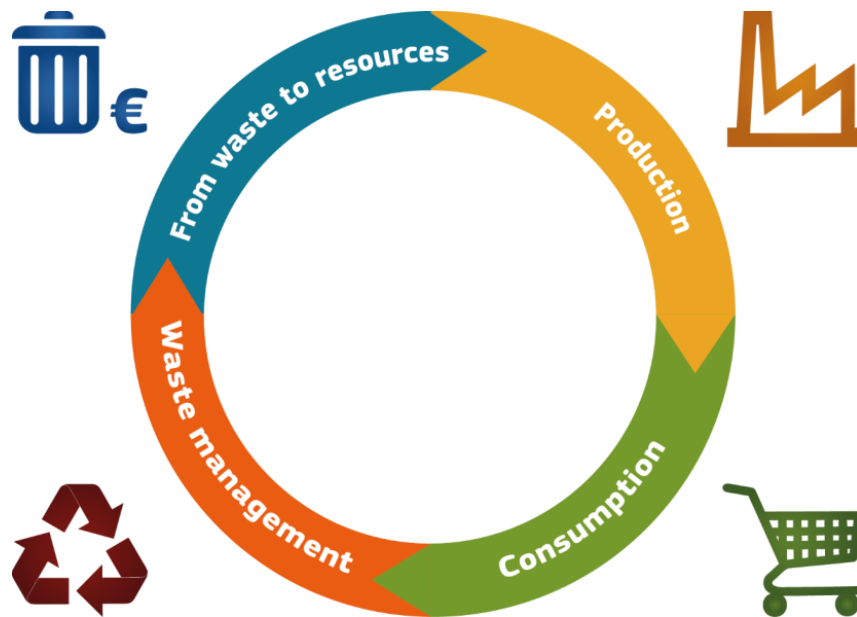
# Projects

## Examples under Partnership instrument

- Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services
- Promoting biodiversity and sustainability in the agriculture and food sector through economic valuation
- Legal and Illegal Trade in Wildlife Species between the EU and Latin America



# Circular Economy, an opportunity for EU-Latin American relations



Circular economy systems **keep the added value in products** for as long as possible and eliminate waste.

They keep resources within the economy, so that they **can be productively used again and again** and hence create further value.

# Circular Economy, an opportunity for EU-Latin American relations

- Circular Economy (CE) is a high priority for the European Commission
- Contribution to SDGs, Jobs and Growth Priority and to fight against climate change
- In 2015, the EU adopted an ambitious Circular Economy Package
- January 2017: Plastics Strategy



# Circular Economy, an opportunity for EU-Latin American relations

- Shared interest in focusing political attention on green growth and sustainable consumption and production (SDG 12)
- Latin America generates some 160 million tonnes of solid waste every year

➤ *less than 3% are reused or recycled and more than 60% end up in inadequately controlled landfill sites*

- But: Concerns in some raw material exporting countries about risk for economic development

# Example of outreach to Latin America: Circular Economy Missions

The EU is actively promoting initiatives to reinforce existing environmental cooperation and to create new synergies between the EU and partner countries, including with the private sectors

## Policy dialogues

**Circular Economy Missions** to Chile and Colombia in 2016 and 2017

# Circular Economy Missions in Latin America

## OBJECTIVES

- Increase cooperation between EU and partner countries in the field of environmental policy
- Promote green solutions through business partnerships abroad (including matchmaking events between green European and local entrepreneurs)

# Priorities for the next year(s)

- COM to present new Latin America Strategy in summer 2018 > strengthened "renewed partnership" needs to reflect environmental issues
- 2018 Argentinian G20 Presidency
- Biodiversity > world to agree on new Global Strategic Framework in 2020 (CBD CoP China), EU wants ambitious and measurable targets > ensure alliances with LA