



## International Conference “Czechia and Ibero-America – New Forms of Cooperation in the Current Geopolitical Context “

*The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic  
Prague, Czernin Palace, May 21, 2026*

08.30 - 09.00      **Registration**  
09.00 - 09.15      **Opening of the conference**  
or                      **Petr Macinka**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic  
                            **Jiří Brodský**, First Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Foreign  
                            Affairs of the Czech Republic

<b>09.15 - 11.30</b>	<b>Panel I – Challenges in the Current Geopolitical Context</b>
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*The global landscape is undergoing unexpected shifts and growing uncertainty, with potential consequences for the established rules of the international order. Rising domestic polarization, armed conflicts in Europe’s immediate neighborhood, and changes in U.S. strategic priorities present both the European Union and Latin American countries with a set of shared challenges.*

*The EU and Latin America are connected by deep cultural and historical ties that have long shaped relations between the two regions. The question is whether these bonds can help them navigate today’s turbulent environment. What steps can be taken to deepen political dialogue and develop a more ambitious common agenda? And, ultimately, are both regions capable of addressing current challenges together—and supporting each other in doing so?*

**Moderator:**              **Marek Libřický**, Director General of the Security Policy and  
Non-European Countries Section, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the  
Czech Republic

- 09.15 - 09.30 **Keynote Speaker: Mario Lubetkin**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Uruguay
- 09.30 – 10.15 Panel discussion  
**Víctor Alfredo Verdún Bitar**, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Paraguay  
**José Antonio Arróspide del Busto**, President of the EU–LAC Foundation  
**Radek Buben**, Head of the Center for Ibero-American Studies, Faculty of Arts, Charles University in Prague
- 10.15 – 11.00 **Q & A**
- 11.00 - 11.30 **Coffee Break**  
Inauguration of the exhibition of Dominican paintings

**11.30 - 12.55 Panel II – From Dialogue to Action: Strengthening Security Cooperation between the EU and Latin America**

*Security cooperation is increasingly becoming one of the central pillars of EU–Latin America relations, shaped by shared challenges such as transnational organized crime, cyber and hybrid threats, terrorism, and climate-related security risks. While the EU has developed a dense architecture of political agreements, security provisions, and cooperation tools across policing, justice, cybersecurity, and crisis management, these instruments remain unevenly used. For countries such as the Czech Republic, the challenge is not a lack of available instruments, but rather how to activate them in a focused, strategic, and politically sustainable way.*

*Why do mid-sized countries often underutilise existing EU–LAC security frameworks, despite clear common interests? And how can they translate shared concerns into sustained, practical forms of cooperation that deliver tangible results on both sides?*

**Moderator:** **Edita Hrdá**, Former Managing Director for the Americas, European External Action Service

11.30 - 11.45 **Keynote Speaker: Nuno Pinheiro Torres - TBC**  
Deputy Minister of Defense, Portugal

11.45 – 12.30 Panel discussion  
**Joao Taborda**, Vice President for Government Affairs, Embraer  
**Ivan Marques**, Secretary for Multidimensional Security, Organization of American States

**Radka Konderlová**, Director General of Industrial Cooperation Division, Ministry of Defence of the Czech Republic

**Matyáš Pelant**, Director of Trade Promotion Department, EU and Foreign Trade Section, Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic

12.30 - 12.55

**Q & A**

12.55 – 13.10

**Final Remarks**

**Daniel Volf** - Director of the Department of the Americas, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

13.15

**Lunch** – Sala Terrena

Degustation of regional culinary specialties

Argentine Roots: “A journey through Folklore” by María Paula Benítez Jurena y Miguel Ángel Gutiérrez Kuruz

**14.30 – 16.30**

**Panel III – Czech-Latin American Economic Cooperation: Business Opportunities**

*Business-focused discussion highlighting opportunities for Czech companies in Latin America and companies from Latin America seeking to expand their business in Czechia. The event will present practical business experience from Czech companies active in the region, complemented by perspectives from Latin America’s companies and representatives supporting trade and investment.*

14.30–14.45

**Opening Keynote: Where Are the Business Opportunities?**

14.45–15.45

Panel discussion: **From Entry to Expansion – How to Succeed in Latin America**

Moderated discussion combining:

- Czech companies already active in Latin America (real market experience)
- Latin American companies investing or trading with Czechia
- Trade and investment promotion agencies

15.45 –16.15

Open Networking & Bilateral Introductions

Informal exchange with the option of facilitated introductions for interested companies