



*Mr. Miguel Arias Cañete*  
*European Commissioner in charge of Climate Action & Energy*

Brussels, Friday 13 July 2018

Dear Commissioner Cañete,

On Thursday 20 September 2018, the Commission of the Bishops' Conferences of the EU ([COMECE](#)), [CIDSE](#), [Adveniat](#), and [Misereor](#) will be hosting in Brussels a high-level delegation of the [Red Eclesial Panamazónica](#) (REPAM), the Pan-Amazonian Ecclesial Network. The REPAM network was created in September 2014 in Brasilia following a meeting of Bishops, priests, and missionaries of congregations working to preserve the Amazonian territories of Latin America.

This REPAM delegation will include His Eminence Cardinal Claudio Hummes, President of REPAM and Archbishop Emeritus of Sao Paulo (Brazil), His Eminence Cardinal Pedro Berreto Jimeno, Vice-President of REPAM and Archbishop of Huancayo (Peru), Mauricio López, Secretary General of REPAM, as well as two representatives of indigenous communities from the Brazilian Amazon region. The delegation will be accompanied by H.E. Mgr. Jean-Claude Hollerich, President of COMECE and Archbishop of Luxembourg.

The REPAM delegation is travelling to Europe to present a report elaborated in cooperation with the [Inter-American Commission on Human Rights](#) (IACHR) on issues of human rights, and especially land rights of indigenous peoples living in the Amazon region. This visit to Brussels shall also serve the REPAM delegation in gathering views ahead of the Synod on the Amazon. The Catholic Church is convening this upcoming Synod for October 2019 in Rome to reflect on ways to foster sustainable human development in the Amazon region based on the principles of integral ecology.

In the context of this exceptional visit, and in light of the soon to be published *EU Strategy for a renewed partnership with Latin America and the Caribbean*, due to be presented in autumn 2018, the above-mentioned co-organisers of this visit would like to request a meeting of about half an hour with you on Thursday 20 September, if possible, at 9.30 a.m.

We look forward to this new opportunity for an exchange with you, at a time when global economic tensions require ever more determination and cooperation of public and moral leaders.

Whilst thanking you for your kind attention, I am looking forward to your reply at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,

Fr. Olivier Poquillon OP  
General Secretary of COMECE