**EUROCLIMA+ regional meeting on climate change opens in Argentina**

*8 October 2018. Buenos Aires, Argentina.* **EUROCLIMA+, the European Union’s flagship programme on climate change, which aims to encourage cooperation between Latin America and the EU, launched its annual meeting today in Argentina. The conference aims to review the status of its ongoing projects and analyse the actions that are being implemented in the framework of the Paris Agreement commitments.**

More than one hundred participants will attend the event, including senior government officials of Latin America as well as representatives of the EU institutions and EUROCLIMA’s member state implementing agencies.

During the opening of the conference, the Ambassador of the European Union in Argentina, Aude Maio-Coliche, highlighted: “We are proud to see how, through actions carried out with the support of the programme, spaces for dialogue are being strengthened to support public policies and strategies for climate change in Latin America.”

The regional meeting will continue until Wednesday 10 October. This year, EUROCLIMA’s annual event is taking place at the Sheraton Buenos Aires Hotel & Convention Center, where the XXI Forum of Ministers of the Environment of Latin America will also be held from 9 to 12 October.

“Programmes like EUROCLIMA+ contribute to increasing the ambition of our region in pursuit of the fulfilment of the Paris Agreement with a common purpose. They allow countries to design and implement actions to mitigate climate change, adapt to it and strengthen national capacities by intensifying cooperation from a regional perspective,” claimed the Secretary of Government of the Secretariat of Environment and Sustainable Development of Argentina, Rabbi Sergio Bergman.

In the next few days, work will be done to improve public policies related to climate change in Latin America and information will be shared on the activities, results and challenges of the programme. “Challenges associated with climate change are broad and require a combination of long and short-term actions, taking into account the development needs of our partner countries, and fostering investment opportunities in the field of green technologies and sustainable energy”, Bergman added.

To date, EUROCLIMA+ has a foreseen budget of EUR 88 million (100 million USD) provided by the European Union. The implementation of the programme is divided in six topics prioritized by the Latin American countries, in addition to a cross-cutting topic for improving Climate Governance. These topics are: Risk Reduction and Management; Forests, Biodiversity and Ecosystems; Urban Mobility; Energy Efficiency; Resilient Food Production and Water Management with an Urban Resilience Perspective.

Background information about EUROCLIMA+

EUROCLIMA+ is a programme funded by the European Union to promote environmentally sustainable and climate-resilient development in 18 Latin American countries, particularly for the benefit of the most vulnerable populations. The programme is implemented under the synergistic work of seven agencies: Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), French Development Agency (AFD), Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLAC), Expertise France (EF), International and Ibero-American Foundation for Administration and Public Policies (FIIAPP), German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), and UN Environment.

During the first nine months of 2018, the different components of the programme have experienced significant progress in their project selection processes. A total of 32 have been selected in the areas of Urban Mobility (19), Forests, Biodiversity and Ecosystems (8), and Risk Reduction and Management (5), for approximately 25 million euros. This process is expected to be completed during the first quarter of 2019, to reach a total of approximately 57 projects. In addition, the Climate Governance component is carrying out regional actions and initiatives in 14 different countries.

Press contacts:

-Alexandra Cortés. EUROCLIMA+ Programme: alexandra.cortes@euroclimaplus.org

-Damian Profeta. EUROCLIMA+ Programme: damianprofeta@gmail.com

-Gisela González Servat. European Union delegation in Argentina: gisela.gonzalez@eeas.europa.eu