

Political dialogue promotes the exchange of views, helps secure peace and establishes the necessary conditions for cooperation.

■ POLITICAL DIALOGUE



From left: Peruvian President Ollanta Humala, CDU/CSU parliamentary group leader Volker Kauder, Dr. Andreas Schockenhoff MP and Prof. Monika Grütters MP

VOLKER KAUDER VISITS LATIN AMERICA

The CDU/CSU parliamentary group leader Volker Kauder joined his colleagues in the Bundestag, Monika Grütters MP and Andreas Schockenhoff MP and the respective KAS representatives in Brazil and Peru on a visit to both countries. Spurring political, economic and cultural exchange between Germany and the region in general was at the centre of his talks, with a particular view to Brazil in light of the Year of Germany in Brazil that will take place from May 2013 through 2014.

In Peru the delegation met, among others, with President Ollanta Humala. Fellowship programmes and the importance of a good academic dialogue between Germany and Peru figured prominently in the discussion. The legislators also met with a group of economists to discuss the development of the Peruvian economy and

opportunities for small- and medium-sized businesses in the country.

In Brazil's capital Brasilia meetings took place with Vice President Michel Temer, Foreign Minister Antonio Patriota and Finance Minister Guido Mantega. Bilateral relations were raised, and the topics under discussion also included student fellowship programmes and the academic dialogue between Germany and Brazil. In Rio de Janeiro, the host city of the next Olympic Summer Games, the MPs inquired about how preparations were proceeding and developments in the city, especially in regards to security and social development in the favelas. The delegation also informed itself on the country's economic progress and relations with Germany in a meeting with experts.



From the left: ODCA Chairman and Senator Jorge Ocejo (PAN party Mexico), Patricio Aylwin, former Chilean president, and Senator Ignacio Walker, chairman of the PDC party in Chile

MONEY LAUNDERING AND ORGANISED CRIME

The members of the Central American think-tank network La Red and the KAS presented a policy paper in 29 August 2012 in Guatemala City on the effects of money laundering on regional security. In the report, 11 institutes from five countries provide an overview of the situation in Central America and recommend for example closer cooperation as well as the harmonisation of legislation in the region. The opening event in Guatemala was followed by further events and discussions in Honduras, Costa Rica, Nicaragua and El Salvador

CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS IN LATIN AMERICA

On the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the founding of the Association of Christian Democratic Parties of Latin America (ODCA), an international conference discussed the contributions that Christian democracy had made to the development of democracy in Latin America. The high point of the ODCA event on 1 September 2012 was honouring several Latin American personalities, among them the 93-year-old former Chilean president Patricio Aylwin, who received his award amid a standing ovation.