

**Colombia-U.S. Trade Promotion Agreement**  
**Report of the Committee on Agricultural**  
**May 06, 2014 - Bogotá, D.C.**

The United States-Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement (USCTPA) Committee on Agriculture, established under Article 2.21 of the TPA, met in Bogota on May 6, 2014. A full list of participants and the agenda of the meeting can be found in Annex I. Key discussion and action points arising from the meeting were as follows:

**i. Opening remarks**

Colombia highlighted the importance of agriculture in the current social and economic context. The U.S. delegation highlighted the longstanding agricultural trade relationship between the two countries and the importance of the two-way trade to the respective agricultural sectors.

**ii. Overview of bilateral trade flows under the CTPA (Colombia):** Colombia presented a summary of the agriculture trade balance, with the U.S. delegation also offering general comments regarding recent developments in two-way trade flows.

**iii. General review of Tariff-Rate Quota Performance under the CTPA and specific cases**

- First come, first serve (Colombia & U.S.): The parties reviewed the performance to date of the tariff-rate quotas (TRQs) administered on a first-come, first-serve basis and established as part of the USCTPA. The Parties agreed that the arrangements appeared to be working without apparent problems. DIAN presented the TRQ administration system implemented to manage the quotas defined in the USCTPA. The U.S. delegation acknowledged the work and progress done by the Colombian Customs Authority in establishing and maintaining the system for administering these TRQs.
- Rice and Poultry Export Trading Companies (U.S.):
  - Poultry: To date in 2014, the ETC has held two auctions and the utilization of the Chicken Leg Quarters TRQ has been modest (around 13.5% of the total volume). Both sides noted that they had not been made aware of problems or concerns from stakeholders regarding the mechanism.
  - Rice: Both sides acknowledged the successful utilization of the CTPA TRQ for rice. The U.S. delegation noted that the U.S. rice industry is seeking to establish and maintain a year-round presence in the Colombian market, as provided for under the agreement. However, because of administrative issues the last two years the auction mechanism has effectively precluded access during the first quarter of the year. Both sides agreed to convey to their respective industries the message that the TRQ is intended to function on a full calendar year basis and request that the ETC board achieve that objective on a basis to be agreed to by the ETC Board.
- Customs inspections of Sugar quota shipments (Colombia):  
Delay in customs inspections of Sugar TRQ shipments (Colombia): Colombia presented three cases (in September and November 2013 and March 2014) where sugar exporting companies have faced delays in the release of goods in the US ports which has caused extra costs. The U.S. delegation was not aware of the situation from March 2014, and the Colombian side indicated it would provide USTR the related details to facilitate a further exchange of information.

**iv. The U.S. – Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement Preference Clause (U.S.)**

- Colombia explained the application of the Preference Clause under the Pacific Alliance (PA). With Chile and Peru there was tariff free trade before PA negotiations. Regarding Mexico, Colombia explained that during the PA negotiations it extended new preferences but the concessions given were made under the USCTPA framework. The U.S. delegation requested Colombia provide an electronic file with the schedule of concessions agreed with Mexico, and Colombia agreed to do so.
- Lastly, Colombia explained that other countries such as Costa Rica or Panama are observers but not members of PA.

**v. Market access conditions for subheading 0210.99.90 (Colombia)**

- Colombia presented concerns of its private sector regarding a poultry product-classification issue, specifically relating to HS0210.99.90.10. Colombia encouraged the Parties to exchange further information on the issue to determine whether action may be warranted. The Colombian delegation indicated that it understood that the Parties' respective industry groups will continue to review the matter in the near future as well.

**vi. Interpretations of CTPA treatment to Guts, bladders and stomachs of animals of subheading 0504.00 (Colombia)**

- Appendix 1 of the general notes of the CTPA defines a quota for 7 subheading of chapter 2 and 5. Colombia pointed out that there is a difference between the corresponding headings of the Spanish and English texts of the Agreement. The English version refers to "Variety meats" in general, while the Spanish version of the heading indicates "Bovine variety meats". Colombia proposed to clarify the U.S. interpretation for the referenced quota and will send a written description to the USTR.

**vii. Update on Trade Agreement Negotiations with 3rd Countries (Colombia & U.S.)**

- Both parties provided updates on ongoing and pending discussions with third countries. For Colombia, this included comments on Korea, Costa Rica, Israel, Panama, Turkey and Japan. The United States offered brief comments regarding the TransPacific Partnership (TPP) and the TransAtlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).

**viii. Other Business-Capacity building request (Colombia):** Both Parties agreed on covering all capacity building issues during the SPS subcommittee taking place on Wednesday, May 07 2014.

**ix. U.S. Farm Bill (Colombia):** Colombia asked about the main changes the New Farm Bill law is going to introduce and its implementation process. The U.S. delegation noted that the Farm Bill implementation process was underway and would be finalized by late summer or fall 2014. It was noted that the Dairy Export Incentive Program had been repealed and that the U.S. expected to stay within its WTO Aggregate Measurement of Support commitment.

**Annex I**  
**Colombia-U.S. Trade Promotion Agreement**  
**Participants-Committee on Agricultural**  
**May 06, 2014 - Bogotá, D.C.**

**COLOMBIA DELEGATION**

**Luis Felipe Quintero**

Director - Direction of Trade Relations  
Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism

**Maria Carolina Salazar**

Advisor - Direction of Trade Relations  
Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism

**Ana Fabiola Guzman**

Advisor - Direction of Trade Relations  
Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism

**Verónica González**

Advisor - Direction of Trade Relations  
Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism

**Lorena Guarnizo**

Advisor – International Legal Affairs Bureau  
Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism

**Carlos Alberto Rojas**

Advisor – International Legal Affairs Bureau  
Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism

**Andrés Campos**

Director - International Affairs Office  
Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development

**Enrique Millan**

Director  
Colombian Government Trade Bureau/ Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism

**Luis Ernesto Forero**

SPS Representative in Washington, Proexport/ Colombian Government Trade Bureau

**Diana Jimenez**

Advisor - International Affairs Office  
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**Jazmine Medina**

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**Eduardo Muñoz**  
Director  
Center for Trade Agreements

**Rafael Suarez**  
Senior Adviser  
Center for Trade Agreements

**Maria del Pilar Angarita**  
Customs Technical Management  
Direction of National Tax and Customs Administration "DIAN"

#### **U.S. DELEGATION**

**Brian Grunenfelder (U.S. Chair)**  
Deputy Assistant U.S. Trade Representative  
Office of Agricultural Affairs

**Charles Bertsch**  
Director, Bilateral Agreements and Enforcement Division  
Office of Agreements and Scientific Affairs  
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**Dylan Daniels**  
International Economist  
Bilateral Agreements and Enforcement Division  
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**Charles Marston**  
Andean Region and Chile Desk Officer  
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United States Department of Agriculture

**Joe Lopez**  
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American Embassy, Colombia

**Juan Sebastian Diaz**  
Agricultural Specialist  
American Embassy, Colombia

**Agenda**  
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**2:00 pm**      **Introductions, Opening Remarks, Adoption of Agenda**

**2:15 pm**      **Overview of Bilateral Trade Flows under the CTPA (Colombia & U.S.)**

**General Review of Tariff-Rate Quota Performance Under the CTPA, Including Specific Cases (Colombia & U.S.)**

- First come, first serve (Colombia & U.S.)
- Rice and Poultry Export Trading Companies (Colombia & U.S.)
- Customs inspections of sugar quota shipments (Colombia)

**The U.S. – Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement Preference Clause (U.S.)**

**Market access issues concerning subheading HS0210.99.90 (Colombia)**

**CTPA Treatment for Guts, Bladders, Stomachs of Animals Under Subheading HS0504.00 (Colombia)**

**Update on Trade Agreement Negotiations with 3rd Countries (Colombia & U.S.)**

**Other Business**

- Capacity building request (Colombia)

**Discussion of U.S. Farm Bill (Colombia)**

**Concluding Remarks & Adjourn**