

**Trade Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part,  
and Colombia and Peru, of the other part;**

**Sub-Committee on Trade and Sustainable Development**

Joint Statement

Peru, Colombia and the European Union held the second meeting of the Sub-Committee on Trade and Sustainable Development (the Subcommittee) under the trade agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and Colombia and Peru, of the other part, in Bogota on 16 and 17 June 2015.

The subcommittee was chaired by Mr Andrés Comba, Adviser to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism of Colombia. The Peruvian delegation was led by Ms Teresa Mera, official in charge of Bilateral Affairs for North America and Europe of the Vice-Ministry of Foreign Trade of Peru; and the European Union delegation was led by Mr Marc Vanheukelen, Director of Sustainable Development, Economic Partnership Agreements, Africa, Caribbean and Pacific; Agri-food and Fisheries in DG Trade of the European Union.

The Subcommittee discussed issues related to the implementation of the Title on Trade and Sustainable Development. Each Party made presentations on progress on environmental and labour matters.

Colombia framed its intervention in its most recent National Development Plan, which incorporates a cross-cutting strategy for green growth and a national policy for decent work. In addition, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development of Colombia described the strategic planning of the environmental sector through 5 levers, related to green growth: education and governance, resource use planning and criteria, improvement of environmental quality, climate change adaptation, and innovation, conservation and efficient use.

Concerning labour matters, Colombia emphasised, amongst others, activities carried out to strengthen: labour inspections, collection of fines, actions against inappropriate intermediary practices, social dialogue with mechanisms such as the Committee on Resolution of Conflicts (CETCOIT), collective bargaining in the public sector, protection of trade union leaders and the fight against impunity.

For its part, Peru gave a presentation on its 2015-2016 Environmental Agenda, describing the four fronts on which it focuses: a) biological diversity, b) climate change, c) environmental quality, and d) environmental governance; in the framework of the National Environmental Management System (SNGA), which is cross-sectoral, decentralised and participatory. The 2015-2016 National Action Environmental Agenda sets short term goals with a view to achieving the objectives set out in the National Environment Policy and articulates the overall set of environmental strategies and programmes.

With regard to labour issues, Peru presented its Sectoral Strategy for Labour Formalization; as well as the 2015 Sectoral Action Plan for labour formalisation, progress in the implementation of the 2012-2021 National Strategy for the Prevention and Eradication of Child Labour. Peru also presented the progress on labour inspections through actions implemented by the National Superintendency for Labour Inspection (SUNAFIL). Reference was also made to progress in the eradication of forced labour by implementing the Second National Plan to Combat Forced Labour (2013-2017) and the approval of the Cross-Sectoral Protocol Against Forced Labour. In addition, actions taken on conflict resolution and developments in the area of social dialogue were mentioned.

In its intervention the European Union provided information on progress in environmental policies and on compliance with Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) since the last meeting of the Subcommittee, highlighting the following: the development of a new cross-cutting policy on a circular economy, CITES, EU Action Plan Against Trafficking of Flora and Fauna, Rotterdam Convention, developments under the EU Action Plan for Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT).

Regarding labour matters the EU gave an update on the ratification of ILO Conventions by its Member States and gave a general explanation on its ratification processes. The EU underlined its commitment to promote decent work and reported on actions undertaken to allow swift ratification of the Protocol on Forced Labour by its Member States.

In relation to Article 286 of the Title on Trade and Sustainable Development in the Trade Agreement the European Union presented cooperation mechanisms relevant for the implementation of the Article. Amongst them the Development Cooperation Instrument and a new one called 'Partnership Instrument' were highlighted. The Parties discussed the cooperation mechanisms and possible areas of interest in the framework of Art. 286 of the Agreement. Preliminary interest was indicated on the following topics:

1. Corporate social responsibility and the supply chain for the mining sector
2. Good practices in labour inspection, labour market, mobilisation of informal to formal work.
3. Nexus between trade and biodiversity.
4. Trade in forest products
5. Chemicals and hazardous wastes
6. Environmental information systems
7. Employment policies with emphasis on green jobs, rural and youth employment
8. Mechanisms for measuring labour and environmental impacts of the implementation of the Agreement;
9. Prevention and eradication of child labour and forced labour
10. Prevention and resolution of labour conflicts

Similarly, they discussed the next steps to develop co-operation activities bilaterally or collectively, with **the aim of** engaging in concrete cooperation activities under Article 286 of the Agreement before the third meeting of the Subcommittee

The European Union presented its methods for impact assessment of trade agreements, mentioning the 3 scenarios in which they are applied: i) before deciding to negotiate, ii)

during the negotiation process, called “Sustainability Impact Assessment” and (iii) subsequent to the implementation of the Agreement.

The parties then had exchanges on good practices related to environmental and labour issues relevant to the Title on Trade and Sustainable Development, including Corporate Social Responsibility. In these discussions, the European Union underlined the support it makes to OECD's work especially in the area of Corporate Social Responsibility in the textile and minerals sectors.

For its part, Peru presented initiatives such as the awarding of prizes such as the national environmental prize and the prize for good working practices, which provide recognition and encouragement for good labour and environmental practices.

Finally, Colombia submitted its National Plan for Green Business - an initiative developed with the public sector, the private sector, Regional Autonomous Corporations<sup>1</sup> among others. This plan seeks to define guidelines and production and demand for green products. It also made presentations on the Colombian Environmental Label and sustainable public procurement.

As a follow-up to the agenda for the first meeting of the Subcommittee there was an exchange of information on the domestic mechanisms established under Article 281 of the Agreement.

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<sup>1</sup> Explanatory note: public authorities at the level of "departamentos" responsible for the implementation of environmental protection plans, policies and projects related to environment and renewable natural resources, according to regulations issued by the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development.

Con formato: Español (Colombia)