

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

July 9, 2014

Luis Felipe Quintero Suarez
Trade Relations Direction
Ministerio de Comercio Industria y Turismo

Dear Mr. Quintero:

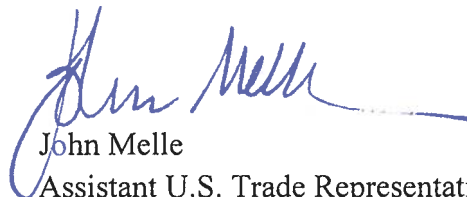
Thank you for your letter of May 28, 2014, providing notification that Colombia has implemented an electronic procurement system (SECOP) which complies with paragraph 3 of Article 9.5 of the United States – Colombia Trade Promotion Agreement (the “Agreement”). We understand that this notification was provided pursuant to the exchange of letters of November 22, 2006 between the United States and Colombia, which states in relevant part:

A procuring entity of Colombia may not reduce the time limit for submission of a tender pursuant to paragraph 3 of Article 9.5 unless the United States and Colombia agree that Colombia has demonstrated its ability to comply with the requirements in that paragraph. If Colombia notifies the United States in writing that it has implemented an electronic procurement system that would enable it to comply with paragraph 3 of Article 9.5 and the United States does not object within 60 days of the receipt of the notification, Colombia may reduce the time limit for submission of a tender pursuant to paragraph 3 of Article 9.4. If the United States objects, Colombia shall not reduce its time limit for tendering under paragraph 3 of Article 9.5.

Pursuant to Colombia’s notification, we further understand that the time period specified under paragraph 3 of Article 9.5 begins when the notices are published on SECOP.

We look forward to continued cooperation with Colombia on government procurement under the Agreement.

Sincerely,



John Melle

Assistant U.S. Trade Representative
for the Western Hemisphere