

JOINT CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Geneva, December 16th 2011

1. In the framework of the bilateral relations between our two countries and following consultations, it was mutually agreed that the parties will conduct a joint feasibility study in order to evaluate the effects of an FTA.
2. Information with regards to bilateral trade and investments, macroeconomic data and trade effects of an FTA has been exchanged and satisfying conclusions have been reached.
3. The Joint Study's main conclusions indicate that an FTA between Colombia and Israel would have a positive impact on their economic and trade relations;
 - a. An FTA would, as a result of tariff elimination, increase bilateral trade. Special consideration should be given to its effects on bilateral trade of agricultural products due to their sensitivity for both economies.
 - b. The tariff elimination should create trade in products that neither country are already trading with each other; but are part of their global trade. Increase in trade is also to be expected from a substantive reduction in the transactions' costs and the improvement of trade procedures.
 - c. An FTA, whose disciplines provide for a legal certainty, should improve the investment environment, and should have a positive impact on exports of services.
 - d. An FTA would also facilitate the enhancement of the bilateral flows of investments and the creation of new businesses.
 - e. Finally, an FTA between Colombia and Israel would foster cooperation activities in areas such as technology, innovation, industrial development and environment.
4. Both sides agree to advise their respective Governments on the positive results obtained by the "Joint Study on the feasibility of a Free Trade Agreement between Colombia and Israel", and to recommend their Governments to launch bilateral FTA negotiations between Colombia and Israel.

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