

**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 third 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 Brussels on 7th and 8th December 2016.

The Sub-committee was chaired by Ms Alina Boiciuc, Deputy Head of Unit, Trade and Sustainable Development and GSP unit, DG Trade, European Commission. The Peruvian delegation was led by Sayuri Bayona, Director for North America and Europe of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Tourism; and the Colombian delegation was led by Maria Paula Arenas, Director of Trade Relations of the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism.

The Subcommittee discussed issues related to the implementation of the Title on Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD). Each Party made presentations on progress on environmental and labour matters. The meeting was preceded by a technical seminar on the EU's approach to impact assessments of trade agreements and their evaluation.

The EU highlighted a number of developments under multilateral environmental agreements, including the Conference of the Parties (CoP) of CITES, where it had participated for the first time as a full member. Amongst the issues discussed was the need for robust CITES control mechanisms for trade in crocodile and caiman skins. It looked forward to progress in the triple CoP of the Basle, Rotterdam and Stockholm Conventions in April 2017. The EU outlined actions it is taking to implement its Paris Agreement commitments at multilateral and EU level and stressed the urgency of reversing the increase in global greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible in order to

avoid temperature increases of over 2 degrees. The circular economy package was described and the EU side expressed interest in a circular economy mission to Colombia.

Peru set out the policy guidelines of the Ministry of Environment for the period 2016-2021. In the area of environment the need to work across Ministries, different levels of government (regional and local governments) and with business and other stakeholders was emphasised. Key priorities lines are: a) sustainable use of biological diversity, especially forests, b) climate change adaptation and mitigation, c) efficient management of solid waste, d) integrated coastal zone management, e) prevention and control of pollution and eco-efficiency, and g) adequate institutional framework.

Likewise, the Ministry of Environment of Peru highlighted its strategy axes called “Perú Limpio” (Clean Peru) and “Perú Natural” (Natural Peru) and the main goals to be achieved in the first months of the new government.

Regarding labour matters the EU gave an update on the ratification of ILO Conventions by its Member States, emphasising in particular the 2014 Protocol on Forced Labour and ILO Conventions on Domestic Workers and on Work in Fishing. It described the current review of EU Health and Safety legislation and shared information on the European Platform on undeclared work as a tool to address the informal economy.

Colombia focussed on labour issues and described recent legislative and judicial reforms aimed at ensuring freedom of association for workers. Moreover, Colombia highlighted the ratification of ILO Domestic Workers Convention (C189) and its national implementation.

Additionally, Colombia is working hard to implement the main labour policy recommendations from the OECD.

Colombia highlighted its positive experience with social dialogue and with mechanisms for the resolution of labour conflicts. The peace process brought new challenges in decent work and informality in rural areas, which Colombia was seeking to address.

Furthermore, Colombia gave an update of the implemented measures aimed at reinforcing the inspection system of control and surveillance on work and reforms to progress on formalisation and addressing issues related to subcontracting. Colombia has also made considerable progress in diminishing impunity and violence levels.

Peru set out the priorities of the new government on labour issues, which are focused on: a) labour formalization, b) social dialogue, c) preventing and eradication of child labour, d) preventing and eradication of forced labour, and e) labour inspection. Likewise, the Ministry of Labour and Promotion of Employment (MTPE) highlighted the active participation of the social actors in the National Council of Labour and Promotion of Employment (CNTPE), which holds monthly meetings; and the recent ratification of the ILO Maternity Protection Convention (C183).

The parties also discussed Corporate Social Responsibility/ Responsible Business Conduct. The EU made reference to domestic legislation on non-financial reporting of EU companies as well as forthcoming legislation affecting trade in tin, tungsten, tantalum and gold, based on OECD due diligence guidelines. Resources are being mobilised for further work at regional level in this area.

The parties also exchanged views on the functioning of the domestic mechanisms established under Article 281 of the Agreement. The EU recalled the role of the domestic mechanisms to submit opinions and to make recommendations on the implementation of the Title on TSD, through the respective internal channels of the Parties.

Specific EU technical cooperation programmes in the areas of environment and social affairs and employment were brought to the attention of the Sub-Committee. The EU and Colombia and Peru agreed to accelerate their interaction in order to develop concrete proposals on a bilateral basis taking into account their priorities and the outcome of the previous meeting of the Sub-Committee (June 2015).