**DECLARATION OF THE EU DOMESTIC ADVISORY GROUP UNDER THE EU TRADE AGREEMENT WITH COLOMBIA, ECUADOR AND PERU**

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The EU Domestic Advisory Group under the EU multiparty trade agreement (MTA) with Colombia, Ecuador and Peru met on 25 October 2021 to prepare for the joint meetings with its Andean counterparts in November and to provide input to the European Commission ahead of the meeting of the Committee on Trade and Sustainable Development under the agreement.

In preparation to these meetings, the EU representatives declared that:

1. The COVID-19 pandemic presents a historic challenge for the international community and will keep impacting all aspects of EU-Colombia, Peru and Ecuador relations for the foreseeable future. The Advisory Group of this MTA requests to be informed and consulted on any measures that the Sub-committee on Trade and Sustainable Development may adopt or implement in response to such challenges.
2. Attention is drawn to the impact of the pandemic on the labour market of the signatory countries, in particular the increase in unemployment and underemployment in Ecuador, Peru, Colombia and Europe, underlining in general that this makes it difficult to comply with the ILO's Decent Work Agenda.

**Respect for labour standards and the conventions of the International Labour Organisation (ILO)**

1. It is of great importance to monitor and establish proposals for solutions regarding reported abuses and complaints that are included in the DAGs' joint statement in 2020, especially regarding:
2. The serious situation in Colombia, linked to the killing of social and trade union activists and the violation of the commitments made in the peace agreement.
3. Abuses in the area of labour rights such as freedom of association, decent work, living wage, occupational health and safety which are aggravated by the impact of the COVID‑19 pandemic in sectors of interest for trade with Europe such as mining in Colombia and Peru but also the agro-industry such as palm oil, sugar cane and bananas.
4. Following up on complaints from Peru and Ecuador about violations of labour rights, to ensure that they have an impact and that solutions are found.
5. Monitoring compliance with the implementation of the various ILO conventions, on issues such as freedom of association and the promotion of collective agreements.

**Respect for environmental standards**

1. The representatives emphasise that practices encouraging trade and investment by lowering levels of protection granted by environmental laws are not acceptable. They are concerned that, with a view to the economic recovery from COVID-19, measures are put in place that weaken procedures that ensure environmental protection and safeguard collective rights.
2. They underline the need to deliver on the Paris Agreement, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda, with a special focus on information campaigns and support measures for relevant stakeholders both in the EU and in the Andean countries, and pay heed to the requirements laid down in their respective regional systems for safeguarding the environment.
3. Participants call on the European Commission and the Governments of the States that are Parties to this trade agreement to commission a study on the impact of the Paris Agreement, European Green Deal and the Fit for 55 Package on EU-Andean trade relations and the implementation of the Trade and Sustainable Development Chapter.

**A level playing field, capacity-building and technical barriers to sustainable trade**

1. Fair production conditions and respect for the conventions set out in Title IX are key to ensuring that trade takes place on a level playing field and promotes sustainable and inclusive economic growth in all parties to the agreement.
2. It is important for the EC and the Andean countries to cooperate to advance in a favourable framework for investment and trade in goods and services that lead to sustainable development.
3. In view of the upcoming EU legislation on mandatory supply chain due diligence, it will be key that the EU and its Member States coordinate their development policy to work with governments and economic actors from both parties to comply with their obligations resulting from the new legislation. Technical assistance and capacity building projects to assist relevant national and local authorities in their efforts to monitor, implement and enforce environmental, labour and social legislation will be key in this regard. Support for economic and social actors, such as trade unions, societal organisations and companies, especially SMEs, will be essential. A database of enterprises active in EU partner countries which respect human rights, environmental and labour standards could be helpful in this regard.
4. To ensure compliance with European maximum residue levels (MRLs) for foodstuffs imported into the EU, surveillance procedures should be carried out not only upon arrival of imports, but also in the countries of origin. EU development policy in the Andean region should foster compliance through technical assistance and capacity-building projects, and by promoting best agricultural practices.

**Civil society participation**

1. The participants reaffirm the need to strengthen and support the work of domestic advisory groups to enable real effective monitoring. In this regard, they call on the parties to consider the proposals made in the EU DAG non-paper.
2. The participants call on the Andean governments to ensure the good functioning of the DAGs in their respective countries and to allow for a meaningful dialogue in these DAGs. In this context we express our concerns about the non-transparent process of establishing a new Ecuadorian DAG without the knowledge, participation and consent of the three groups of the 2018-2020 DAG, justified by the Ecuadorian government with the withdrawal of the workers’ group from the DAG in November 2020.
3. The participants call for the annual joint meetings of the four parties' DAGs to be formally recognised. The agenda of the annual meeting of the Sub-committee on Trade and Sustainable Development should include an exchange with representatives of all four DAGs.
4. The DAG requests to be regularly informed of the measures taken to achieve the priorities for the implementation of the TSD chapter for Peru, Colombia and Ecuador adopted by the European Commission in 2019. In this regard, the European Commission should develop and publish a matrix detailing EU development cooperation projects relevant for the implementation of the Trade and Sustainable Development Title in the Andean Region.
5. Participants call for a thorough discussion between DAGs and government representatives on the results of the ex-post evaluation of the trade agreement when it comes to environmental, human and labour rights impacts of the trade agreement.
6. The participants call on the parties to the agreement to provide a formal response to the issues raised in this joint declaration.

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