

**Summary outcome of discussion at the joint meeting of the representatives of the civil society Domestic Advisory Groups of the UE and Colombia in the framework of the Trade and Sustainable Development Title of the Trade Agreement between the EU, Colombia and Peru**

**Bogota, 17 June 2015**

Representatives of the civil society organisations from the EU and Colombia<sup>1</sup> forming part of the Domestic Advisory Groups established in accordance with the Trade and Sustainable Development Title of the Trade Agreement between the EU, Colombia and Peru, held an informal joint meeting in Bogota (Colombia) on 17 June 2015.

The participants discussed provisions of Article 281 of the Agreement referring to establishment, composition and the role of civil society consultative mechanisms (Domestic Advisory Groups) for labour, environment and sustainable development related aspects. Participants were of the view that all those matters should be considered with regard to Trade Agreement and its contribution to trade between the Parties and to sustainable development in its three dimensions.

Participants considered joint meetings of the representatives of the Domestic Advisory Groups from the EU, Colombia and Peru as a necessary framework for a structured and in-depth discussion enabling them to develop joint positions about matters related to implementation of the Trade and Sustainable Development Title.

In this context, they would appreciate support of the Parties for holding informal meetings and urge them to guarantee that Domestic Advisory Groups of all the Parties can meet and issue their joint recommendations and enjoy a full dialogue with Parties to the Agreement.

Participants regretted that neither the Government of Colombia nor the one of Peru had responded to the letter of the Chair of the EU Domestic Advisory Group (sent in May 2015) nor had shared information about their respective Domestic Advisory Groups which would have facilitated contacts between the Groups prior to the meeting in Bogota.

In this context, the participants decided to refer to the Sub-Committee on Trade and Sustainable Development the following requests:

- that the Governments of Colombia and Peru reconsider composition and rules of operation of civil society groups which would serve as their respective Domestic Advisory Groups; these rules and composition should be established in

---

<sup>1</sup> Representatives of the Peruvian Domestic Advisory Group were not present at the meeting.

consultation with civil society organizations with a view to enabling the Domestic Advisory Groups to fulfil effectively their mandates established by the Agreement;

- that contact persons of each of the so established civil society Domestic Advisory Groups from Colombia and Peru are identified and that this information is shared with the remaining Groups of both countries and of the EU, in order to facilitate preparation of joint meetings and sharing of information and documents between the Groups;
- that the Parties adopt all appropriate measures to strengthen the capacities of the Domestic Advisory Groups to enable as many individuals as possible to attend the annual meetings (joint meetings of the Domestic Advisory Groups and the open session with the Sub-Committee on Trade and Sustainable Development), as well as the capacities of civil society to participate fully in monitoring the implementation of the Agreement.

In this context, the participants suggested measures to be taken before the next meeting which will take place in Brussels in 2016, such as providing financial resources, prior information and the possibility of using more advanced media, such as video conferencing.

- that the Governments of Colombia and Peru discuss with civil society representatives, in particular with the Domestic Advisory Groups, the way of using the funds put at disposal of both countries by the European Union for the implementation of Trade Agreement. EUR 67 million are envisaged for each of the two countries for implementation of the Agreement as a whole, including for the Trade and Sustainable Development Title.

The participants considered also important that the EU Delegations in Colombia and Peru facilitate implementation of the Trade Agreement and the Trade and Sustainable Development Title.

The participants expressed their readiness to cooperate with the Parties in these matters.

The participants agreed to stay in contact and cooperate in the coming months in order to prepare the annual meetings to be held in Brussels in 2016, as well as other events relating to the Title.

The participants also agreed that for the purpose of the meeting in Brussels in 2016 the Domestic Advisory Groups would discuss and agree upon (also between the Groups) proposals for topics for discussion and for joint recommendations.