



Summary of the discussion held during the joint meeting of the European and Central American civil society Advisory Groups Managua, 18 November 2014

Representatives of the European and Central American Advisory Groups (Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Honduras)¹, set up under the Trade and Sustainable Development Title of the Association Agreement between the European Union and Central America, held their first joint meeting in Managua (Nicaragua) on 18 November 2014.

The participants expressed their commitment to fulfil the mandate foreseen in the Trade and Sustainable Development Title of the Association Agreement, namely to monitor implementation of the Title and to provide advice to the Parties to the Agreement.

They regarded the joint meetings of representatives of the Advisory Groups as a useful framework for a structured, in-depth discussion.

They therefore decided to notify the Board on Trade and Sustainable Development of the following requests:

- that the Parties support the maximum participation of the Advisory Groups in the annual meetings (joint meetings of the Advisory Groups and the Civil Society Dialogue Forum) held in the framework of the Trade and Sustainable Development Title, as of the next meeting, to be held in Brussels in 2015;
- that the Advisory Groups be able to hold a (joint) meeting in Brussels in 2015, with the aim of following on from the Managua meeting and fulfilling their role;

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The representatives of the Advisory Groups of Guatemala, Panama and El Salvador did not attend.

- that the contact persons of each of the Advisory Groups be identified in order to facilitate the preparation of the joint meetings and sharing of information and documents between the groups.

The Advisory Groups would draw up and approve in advance proposals for topics for discussion at the meeting in Brussels in 2015.

The EU Advisory Group suggested the possibility to include representatives of the Central American regional bodies, such as the CC-SICA and CCIE, in work under the Trade and Sustainable Development Title as observers.

The participants commended the work done by the Nicaraguan Advisory Group as the host in preparing and organising the first joint meeting of representatives of the Advisory Groups and the first Civil Society Dialogue Forum.
