



## **REPORT OF THE BOARD ON TRADE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TO THE CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUE FORUM**

### **CENTRAL AMERICA – EUROPEAN UNION ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT**

**19th November 2014**

The Board on Trade and Sustainable Development (the Board) of the Association Agreement between Central America and the European Union met on the 18th November 2014, with the aim of overseeing the implementation of Title VIII on Trade and Sustainable Development.

The Board agreed to provide this report to the Civil Society Dialogue Forum, which covers the main themes that were discussed.

#### **State of implementation of international agreements on labour and environment related to trade**

Presentations were made on progress in the implementation of the ILO Fundamental Conventions and Multilateral Environmental Agreements related to trade.

The presentation covered the following:

- a) Under the labour theme progress was highlighted in implementation of the fundamental conventions: Convention 29 on Forced Labour, Convention 105 on the Abolition of Forced Labour, Convention 87 on Freedom of Association and the Protection of the Right to Organise, Convention 98 on the Right to Organise and Bargain Collectively, Convention 100 on Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value, Convention 111 on Discrimination, Convention 138 on the Minimum Age of Employment, Convention 182 on the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour.
- b) On environmental matters progress was highlighted in implementation of the following Agreements: Kyoto Protocol of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Montreal Protocol and its amendments, CITES and its amendments, Basle Convention, Stockholm Convention, the Convention on Biological Diversity and its Cartagena Protocol, Rotterdam Convention.

The entry into application of the Gaborone Amendment to CITES was highlighted, thanks to its ratification by the Central American countries. It was also underlined that all Parties to the Association Agreement have now ratified the Rotterdam Convention.



The Board recognised progress in the areas of child labour and social dialogue. Emphasis was placed on the importance of strengthening labour inspections, efforts to increase the rate of school attendance, to strengthen social protection with a focus on protection of children, as well as the right of association and collective bargaining.

Information was provided on recently adopted Conventions and Protocols and their state of ratification, in particular the new Protocol on Forced Labour, the Convention on Maritime Labour and the Convention on Domestic Workers (C189), the Minamata Convention and the Nagoya Protocol.

### **Actions to promote trade that supports sustainable development**

It was highlighted that the work of the Board should focus on the identification of positive links between trade and sustainable development, especially in the following fields:

- Promotion of trade in products that include environmental and social sustainability in their model of production.
- Strengthening of the protection of natural resources as a motor of economic growth
- Promotion of initiatives in which the international environmental and social agenda and trade are mutually supportive
- Promotion of decent work in production chains

The cross-cutting importance was recognised of promoting initiatives that allow for such products to benefit from the benefits and opportunities in international markets, especially in relation to certification and other social and environmental requirements that are demanded in such markets.

A number of diverse projects and programmes were presented related to trade that favours sustainable development. Common themes that were highlighted were corporate social responsibility, renewable energy, sustainable agricultural production, cleaner production processes, sustainable tourism, amongst others.

### **Cooperation**

A presentation was made on European Union regional cooperation for 2014-2020, in which themes related to the agenda of the Board have been included, in particular: climate change and risk management, regional economic integration and security and rule of law, in all of which cross-cutting economic, environmental and social sustainably aspects are included.

### **Next Steps**

The Board will develop a work programme ahead of its next meeting.



The second meeting of the Board will take place in Brussels, in principle at the end of May 2015.

Managua, Nicaragua, 19th November 2014