



Bogotá and Lima, 1 September 2012

Deciding our Future: NO to the Free Trade Agreement with the EU!

We, the undersigned organisations – human rights organisations, trade unions, peasant farmer organisations, indigenous people's organisations, Afro-descendants, victims of armed conflict, students' organisations, women's organisations, environmental and development organisations – wish to see a transformation in the existing relations between the European Union (EU) and Latin America. We stand in favour of trade relations based on complementarity and rights-based, inclusive development for all regions. We believe that the free trade agreement (FTA) negotiated by the EU with Peru and Colombia, and also proposed for Ecuador and Bolivia, is heading in the opposite direction, taking into account that:

- There are dramatic differences between the development level of the economies of Europe and of the Andean countries. These asymmetries make it possible for the stronger actor, in this case the EU, to impose conditions in its interest (and particularly in the interests of its corporations), applying rules that limit the ability of countries to define their own development models and also, as a result, limiting the well-being of the majority both in Europe and in the Andean countries.
- The agreement between the EU and the Andean countries was negotiated before the implosion of the European crisis. As it relates to the present, the agreement proposes measures such as financial services liberalisation that will deepen the very model that is in crisis. Such measures are currently threatening not only the real economy but also the existence of public services such as health and education.
- The agreement will deepen the extractive model of mining in Colombia and Peru, and their reliance on primary exports, with serious environmental and social consequences for the land itself and for local communities – consequences which have not been taken into account in the agreement as negotiated.
- The FTA favours the legal security of investors to the detriment of the rights and development prospects of the peoples of Latin America. The current provisions on human rights in the agreement are ineffective, in the same way as those currently in force under the GSP+ framework. In addition, the benefits that European companies will obtain will not result in greater well-being or the fulfilment of citizens' economic and social rights.
- These agreements were negotiated behind the backs of affected peoples in Latin America and Europe alike, in the midst of intense social conflict. As a result, the agreements fail to take into account their views, concerns or interests.

By way of illustration, the following examples indicate some of the possible negative effects of the agreements as negotiated:

- In Colombia, around half of the indigenous population is endangered mostly due to the development of economic projects (mainly extractive industries and agribusiness) in their territories. According to the sustainability impact assessment commissioned by the European Commission itself, the FTA between the EU and Colombia and Peru will result in increased pressure on the land. Indigenous peoples' organisations have repeatedly appeared at the European Parliament to denounce this situation, but their complaints have not been taken into account thus far.
- The FTA as negotiated poses a serious threat to food sovereignty and security, as demonstrated by the adverse impacts expected for small producers in the dairy sectors of the respective countries. The promotion of agro-industry and the expansion of production of oil palm and sugar cane, raw materials for biofuels, implies a modification of the use of the soil, a weakening of the peasant sector and the displacement of indigenous and Afro-Colombian communities.
- Colombia exports 94 per cent of its coal, and the EU is the primary importer. The majority of this coal is mined in the departments of Guajira and Cesar. Fully 67 per cent is extracted by European transnational corporations, and this figure will rise if more privileges are granted to investors, as provided for in the FTA. Colombia is the country with the lowest operating costs on the continent, but sees only the negative environmental, social and economic effects of the extractive industry. The Comptroller General has shown that transnational companies do not pay even what it is required of them in law. Yet nothing in the FTA allows for greater control over the companies or their corporate responsibility. On the contrary, multinational companies may sue the Colombian state if it refuses to issue environmental licences for mining, on the grounds that this is an unjustified restriction on investment.
- In Peru and Colombia, mining projects have not properly considered the environmental and social impacts of their operations, as reflected in the cases of Cajamarca (Peru) and Santurban (Colombia), both located in ecologically sensitive areas, and where the local communities in question have registered their rejection of the projects.

The impacts of this FTA on the population in general – and especially on rural communities, indigenous peoples, Afro-Colombian communities and women – cannot be resolved through a limited 'road map' with no binding relation to the agreement as a whole. At the same time, the critical human rights situation, the violence against trade unions and the continuing threats to human rights defenders with the complicity of the Colombian state remain unresolved. A recent report commissioned by the European Parliament from British academics concludes: "There is no specific mechanism for monitoring the implementation of the human rights clause, nor a subcommittee dedicated to human rights and democracy issues." The report underlines that "contrary to the European Parliament's position, the agreement contains only the most limited references to corporate social responsibility (as areas for cooperation). Nor does it make any reference to ILO Convention No 169 on indigenous and tribal [sic] rights, to which the sustainability impact assessment makes reference."

For these and other reasons, the undersigned Andean organisations call on you to vote **NO to the ratification** of this FTA.

Colombian and Peruvian Organizations

Asesoría a Proyectos de Desarrollo Integral Comunitarios -APRODIC-

Comisión Intereclesial de Justicia y Paz

ASCADES - Putumayo

Asociación agroecológica Esther Cayapú. ASUAESCA - Trujillo - Valle.

Asociación Antioqueña de Ligas de Usuarios de Servicios Públicos

Asociación Campesina “Huerto Renacer”-Tequendama - sucre - Cauca

Asociación Campesina de Desarrollo Sostenible San Salvador.

Asociación Codo a Codo – Bogotá.

Asociación de Productores y Procesadores “Camino al Futuro” - ASPROCAF - Putumayo

Asociación de Productores y Procesadores “Semillas de Paz” - ASPROSEPAZ-Putumayo

Asociación de Víctimas de la Violencia de Riosucio, CLAMORES

Asociación de Zonas Humanitarias y de Biodiversidad de la cuenca del Jiguamiandó, y Curvaradó-Chocó

Asopúblico

Cabildo Mayor Indígena de los Resguardos Rio Murindó y Turriquitadó Chageradó Del Pueblo Embera Katio

CENSAT Agua Viva -Amigos de la Tierra Colombia

CINEP/Programa por la Paz

Colectivo de Abogados José Alvear Restrepo

Comisión Colombiana de Juristas

Comunidad de Vida y Trabajo “La Balsita”-Dabeiba

Comunidad indígena de Juin Phubuur-Chocó

Comunidades de Autodeterminación Vida y Dignidad – CAVIDA-Chocó

Consejo comunitario de la comunidad negra del rio Naya - Valle

Convenio Onic - Aecid - Mundubat

Coordinación Colombia Europa Estados Unidos (coalición de más de 220 organizaciones colombianas)

CORPOCEIBA

Corporación Comunitar

CORPORACIÓN COMUNITAR-RUTA PACIFICA DE LAS MUJERES REGIONAL CAUCA

Corporacion Yurupari

Escuela-Taller Ullucos Zonas de Encuentro, Autonomía y Resistencia indígena Nasa-Resguardo de San Francisco - Toribío -Cauca

Espacio Humanitario Ambiental - So Bia Drua, Pueblo Embera Katio

Familiares de víctimas de San Antonio - Inzá - Cauca

Familias campesinas vereda Guadalupe, corregimiento Perla Amazónica – Putumayo.

Familias campesinas vereda Puerto Playa, corregimiento Perla Amazónica – Putumayo.

Familias desplazadas pro-retorno de Argelia-Cauca

Federación Nacional De Cooperativas Agropecuarias

Fundación Estrella Orográfica del Macizo Colombiano-FUNDECIMA

Grupo porvenir–Zona de biodiversidad de Ancurá–Putumayo.

Grupo Semillas

Instituto Latinoamericano para una Sociedad y un Derecho Alternativos -ILSA

JUBCA. Jóvenes unidos por el Bajo Calima-Valle

Juventud Raíces de Dignidad Perla Amazónica. JURADIPA - Putumayo

Kwe’sx ksxa’w. Consejo Regional Nación Nasa del departamento del Putumayo.

Mujeres Ecueménicas Constructoras de Paz.

Organización campesina de sucre BIENANDANTES-Cauca

Proceso de Comunidades Negras

Red Colombiana de Acción frente al Libre Comercio

Red de Alternativas a la Impunidad y Globalización del Mercado

Red Ecu mica de Colombia
Resguardo De Chidima- Tolo, Jurisdicci n Acandi- Departamento Choc , Pueblo Embera Katio
Resguardo Ind gena de Urada Jiguamiand -Choc 
Resguardo ind gena Santa Rosa Guayac n Pueblo Nonaam - Valle
Resguardo Urada Jiguamiand , Pueblo Embera Katio
SINALTRAINAL
Sintrabienestar
Zona de Reserva Campesina Perla Amaz nica – ADISPA- Putumayo
Zona Humanitaria CIVIPAZ, Medell n del Ariari – Meta
Asamblea de ciudadanos cono sur- cap tulo Per 
Asociaci n de Defensa de la Vida, ADEVI
Federaci n de mujeres peruanas Todas somos Micaelas.
Grito de los excluidos - cap tulo Per 
Grupo de Iniciativa de Econom a Solidaria GIES Canchis Cuzco, Per 
Red Peruana Por Una Globalizaci n Con Equidad RedGE, Per 

Las organizaciones de Am rica Latina y Europa apoyan los argumentos y la solicitud de las organizaciones de Colombia y Per , presentadas en este mensaje:

Lat n Am rica

Agrupaci n Agust n Tosco-R o Segundo-C rdoba,
Agrupaci n Sindical Tolo Arce-ATE-SENASA
Agrupaci n “Germ n Abdala” – ATE-Ministerio de Trabajo de la Naci n. Argentina
Agrupaci n Mart n Fierro
Alianza Mexicana por la Autodeterminaci n de los Pueblos (AMAP)
Alianza Social Continental
Amigos da Terra Brasil
Amigos de la Tierra Am rica Latina y el Caribe
Asamblea Ciudadana del Cono Sur
Asociaci n De Productores Bananeros Orenses Ecuador
Bia lii, Asesor a e Investigaci n, A.C (M xico)
Biblioteca Popular Fernando Jara-Cipoletti-R o Negro
COECOCEIBA-Amigos de la Tierra Costa Rica
Colectivo de Genero Acci n Pol tica de Ecuador
Comit  de Mujeres-Alianza Social Continental
Comunidad Campesina de Tratagal-Salta
CONAIE - Ecuador
Coordinadora Pol tica De Mujeres Ecuatorianas
Coordinadora Andina de Organizaciones Ind genas - CAOI
Democracia Popular-Rosario
DESDE UNI N UNIVERSAL DESARROLLO SOLIDARIO
Ecuador Decide
FeTERA Flores
Foro Ciudadano de Participaci n por la Justicia y los Derechos Humanos
FRENVIDAS - Frente Nacional por la Vida y la Soberania
Movimiento de Trabajadores Desocupados Flamari n-Rosario
Plataforma Interamericana de Derechos Humanos
Plate-forme ha tienne de Plaidoyer pour un D veloppement Alternatif
Red Mexicana de Acci n frente al Libre Comercio (RMALC)
Red Nicaraguense de Comercio Comunitario
REDES Amigos de la Tierra Uruguay
SERPAJ - Ecuador

Tlaxcala, la red internacional de traductores por la diversidad lingüística
Traversees
Unión de Trabajadores de la Provincia de Chubut
UNION NACIONAL DE EDUCADORES

Europe

ACSUR-Las Segovias – Spain
Aide au Développement Gembloux - Belgium
Alianza Zapatista De Liberación Social – Spain
ALOP
Asociación Ciac
Asociación Jambo
Asociacion Libera- Italy
Asociación Paz Con Dignidad – Spain
Associació Catalana d'Enginyeria Sense Fronteres – Spain
Association El Andino - Belgium
Association France Amerique Latine -Lyon- France
ATTAC France - France
ATTAC Norway - Norway
CEAR – Spain
Center for Encounter and active Non-Violence, Austria
Centre National de Cooperation au développement-11 11 11 - Belgium
Colectivo Maloka
Commission Justice et Paix Belgique francophone - Belgium
Comité Oscar Romero - Spain
Comité de Solidaridad Internacionalista de Zaragoza – Spain
Comité pour le respect des droits humains "Daniel Gillard" - Belgium
Coordinación Belga por Colombia, CBC - Belgium
Coordinadora Estatal de Solidaridad con Cuba-Madrid – Spain
Cooperació – Barcelona – Spain
DKA- Austria
Ecologistas en Acción – Spain
Entre Pueblos
Euskadi-Cuba - Spain
FDCL - Germany
grupo Colombia de Nuertingen - Germany
Grupo de Información sobre América Latina (IGLA) – Austria
Grupo Colombia de Nuertingen - Germany
IEPALA - Spain
Informationsgruppe Lateinamerika - Germany
Informationsstelle Peru - Germany
Ingenieria sin Fronteras Asturias - Spain
Instituto Hegoa -Universidad Pais Vasco – Spain
Justicia por Colombia - Spain
Kolko - Menschenrechte für Kolumbien – Germany
La Pluma (www.lapluma.net) - Agencia de Pueblos en Pie, France
Latin American Solidarity Centre - Ireland
Les Amis de la Terre France - France
Libera, associazioni, nomi e numeri contro le mafie - Italy
Mensen met een Missie – Netherlands
Movimiento Internacional de Reconciliación – Austria
Movimiento para el Autodesarrollo el Intercambio y Solidaridad - Italy
Mugarik Gabe - Spain

Mundubat - Spain

Observatorio por la Autonomía y los Derechos de los Pueblos Indígenas en Colombia - Spain

OIDHACO (network of 34 organizations from the EU, Switzerland and Norway)

OSPAAL

Paz con Dignidad – Spain

Periodico digital La Pluma - France

Plataforma por la Paz y los Derechos Humanos en Colombia - Spain

Plataforma Rural

PowerShift - Verein für eine ökologisch-solidarische Energie- & Weltwirtschaft e.V - Germany

Rede Italiana de Solidariete Colombia Vive - Italy

Solidaridad socialista - Italy

Solidaridad Suecia America Latina SAL - Sweden

Union Sindical Solidares – France

Transnational Institute - Netherlands

Travailler Ensemble Jeunes et Engagé-e-s - France

Veterinarios Sin Fronteras – Spain

War on Want - UK

Xarxa de l'Observatori del Deute en la Globalització (ODG) – Spain

Other countries:

ONGD AFRICANDO