



Bogotá and Lima, 25 October 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  
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 Ecuménicas 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 EcuMénica de Colombia  
Resguardo De Chidima- Tolo, Jurisdicción Acandi- Departamento Chocó, Pueblo Embera Katio  
Resguardo Indígena de Urada Jiguamiandó-Chocó  
Resguardo indígena Santa Rosa Guayacán Pueblo Nonaam - Valle  
Resguardo Urada Jiguamiandó, Pueblo Embera Katio  
SINALTRAINAL  
Sintrabienestar  
Zona de Reserva Campesina Perla Amazónica – ADISPA- Putumayo  
Zona Humanitaria CIVIPAZ, Medellín del Ariari – Meta  
Asamblea de ciudadanos cono sur- capítulo Perú  
Asociación de Defensa de la Vida, ADEVI  
Federación de mujeres peruanas Todas somos Micaelas.  
Grito de los excluidos - capítulo Perú  
Grupo de Iniciativa de Economía Solidaria GIES Canchis Cuzco, Perú  
Red Peruana Por Una Globalización Con Equidad RedGE, Perú

Las organizaciones de América Latina y Europa apoyan los argumentos y la solicitud de las organizaciones de Colombia y Perú, presentadas en este mensaje:

### **Latín América**

Agrupación Agustín Tosco-Río Segundo-Córdoba,  
Agrupación Sindical Tolo Arce-ATE-SENASA  
Agrupación “Germán Abdala” – ATE-Ministerio de Trabajo de la Nación. Argentina  
Agrupación Martín Fierro  
Alianza Mexicana por la Autodeterminación de los Pueblos (AMAP)  
Alianza Social Continental  
Amigos da Terra Brasil  
Amigos de la Tierra América Latina y el Caribe  
Asamblea Ciudadana del Cono Sur  
Asociación De Productores Bananeros Orenses Ecuador  
Bia llii, Asesoría e Investigación, A.C (México)  
Biblioteca Popular Fernando Jara-Cipoletti-Río Negro  
COECOCEIBA-Amigos de la Tierra Costa Rica  
Colectivo de Genero Acción Política de Ecuador  
Comité de Mujeres-Alianza Social Continental  
Comunidad Campesina de Tratagal-Salta  
CONAIE - Ecuador  
Coordinadora Política De Mujeres Ecuatorianas  
Coordinadora Andina de Organizaciones Indígenas - CAOI  
Corporacion Acción Vital de Ecuador  
Democracia Popular-Rosario  
DESDE UNIÓN UNIVERSAL DESARROLLO SOLIDARIO  
Ecuador Decide  
FeTERA Flores  
Foro Ciudadano de Participación por la Justicia y los Derechos Humanos  
FRENVIDAS - Frente Nacional por la Vida y la Soberanía  
Movimiento de Trabajadores Desocupados Flamarión-Rosario  
Plataforma Interamericana de Derechos Humanos  
Plate-forme haïtienne de Plaidoyer pour un Développement Alternatif  
Red Mexicana de Acción 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  
Centro tricontinental, CETRI - 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)  
OSPAAAL  
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