Catherine Ashton at EUROPA Child Nutrition Programme event in Peru

As part of her official visit to Peru, Catherine Ashton, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the Commission, addressed an event on EU support for Peru’s Child Nutrition programme, alongside Peruvian First Lady Nadine Heredia.

The High Representative praised Peru’s determination to improve social inclusion and highlighted the EUROPA programme as a good example of the EU-Peru cooperation in support of these efforts.

Speaking at the event, Catherine Ashton said: “I want to praise Peru for taking its economic growth and translating that into addressing the challenges of social inclusion and reducing inequality. The EU’s participation in this programme is an expression of our values, of the links we have with Peru and of our desire to see the country prosper and grow”.

The High Representative welcomed First Lady Nadine Heredia's personal involvement in the fight against child malnutrition.

Support for social inclusion has been one of the main targets of the EU cooperation with Peru in the past decade. The creation of a new Ministry of Social Inclusion and the adoption of new social inclusion programmes are good examples of these efforts on the part of the government.
**Background**
The National Coordinated Nutritional Programme (Programa Articulado Nutricional – PAN) was designed in 2007 as part of the Peruvian Government strategy to fight against poverty. EUROPAN, the EU's Sector Policy Support Programme to the PAN, was launched in 2008. Since 2009, when the implementation started, the EU contribution amounted to €60.8 million.

Main elements of the EUROPAN programme are: improvement of public finance management in Peru at national and subnational levels; aid effectiveness, progress in respect of key performance indicators most relevant to effectively reduce child malnutrition; targeting those most in need. Since the start of the programme the prevalence of child malnutrition among children less than three years old has been reduced by 10%: from 28.5% in 2007 to 18.6% in mid-2012.

**More information**

The EU’s relations with Latin America and the Caribbean: [http://eeas.europa.eu/lac/index_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/lac/index_en.htm)

Aid cooperation with Peru.  