

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN

THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA

ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MECHANISM FOR BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS

The European Commission and the Republic of Colombia wish to emphasise the positive progress in their bilateral relations, as shown by their solid political ties, the implementation of the 2007-2013 programme of cooperation with the Republic of Colombia and of earlier programmes, and by their determination to speedily conclude a trade agreement to the mutual benefit of its signatories.

Frameworks for relations between the European Community and the Republic of Colombia include the Framework Cooperation Agreement between the Andean Community and the European Community, signed in 1993 and in force since 1998, and the Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement between the European Community and the Andean Community of 2003, which the signatories are confident will enter into force as soon as possible.

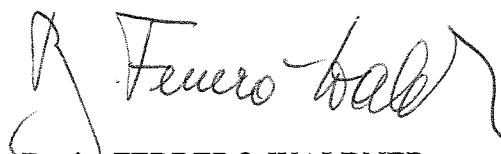
With a view to strengthening and stimulating their relations, the European Commission and the Republic of Colombia have decided:


1. to establish a bilateral consultation mechanism to promote cooperation on, and a common understanding of, all issues on the Colombia-European Community agenda, and any other issues of mutual interest without prejudice to mechanisms of consultation that might exist or that might be established in the future in areas such as trade or other fields. The mechanism may, when the Parties so wish, provide for joint follow-up to agreements, programmes and commitments decided on in the course of bilateral relations;
2. to hold an annual meeting of the bilateral consultation mechanism at senior officials level. Representatives of sectors and services concerned by the agenda may also take part. It may also meet whenever the signatories deem appropriate to discuss a specific or urgent matter. Meetings will alternate between Bogotá and Brussels or any other place decided on by the signatories. The date and agenda will be agreed in advance through diplomatic channels.

Signed on 28th November 2009 in four copies, two in Spanish and two in English.

FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

FOR THE REPUBLIC OF COLOMBIA


Benita FERRERO-WALDNER
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