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P R E S S R E L E A S E

EU and Colombia start negotiations for a Framework Participation Agreement in EU crisis management operations

Today the EU and Colombia have launched the negotiations for a Framework Participation Agreement for Colombia's participation in EU crisis management operations. The first round of negotiations was held at the European External Action Service between a delegation from Colombia under the leadership of the Vice-Minister of Defence, Jorge Bedoya, and the EU negotiating team under the leadership of the Acting Director of the Crisis Management and Planning Directorate, Didier Lenoir.

The Framework Participation Agreement will set a legal basis to govern and facilitate the participation of the Republic of Colombia in the EU led civilian and military crisis management operations. Once finalised, this Agreement will constitute a very significant result in the development of our cooperation in crisis management.

Colombia has become a regional security provider and successfully participated in international peacekeeping such as the Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), Emergency Force in the Sinai (UNEF) and the Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL).

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Colombia-EU relations are well established and covering various areas. Political and policy dialogue between Colombia and the European Union is based on the 2009 Memorandum of Understanding between the European Commission and Colombia on the establishment of a mechanism for bilateral consultations. A Multi-Party Trade Agreement is in application since 2013 and cooperation has been ongoing for several years. On 12 December 2013 President Barroso and President Santos agreed to start preparations for the launch of negotiations on a broad framework agreement on political dialogue and sectoral cooperation. The EU is currently carrying out internal procedures with a view to lifting the Schengen visa requirement for the Colombian citizens.

The EU is supporting the current peace negotiations in Havana.

For more information:

http://eeas.europa.eu/colombia/index_en.htm
