



Dialogue on Human Rights between the European Union and the Government of Colombia.



Terms of Reference

(Version agreed on 19 September, 2012)

Considering that:

The Dialogue is a constructive tool to exchange information about challenges and good practices that can enhance the situation of human rights in the European Union and Colombia.

The European Union and Colombia have a shared vision on the principles and the universality of human rights, and share their commitment in the multilateral system to protect those rights, of which the United Nations is the cornerstone.

The European Union, in the context of the conclusions of the Council of November 27, 2008, considered that it was important to strengthen its dialogue on human rights with the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. Colombia, on its side, considers it essential to move forward and strengthen the Dialogue in order to improve interaction for the promotion, protection and guarantees of human rights of both parties.

Colombia is working to strengthen the rule of law and to achieve full guarantees of human rights in its territory; it considers that both international cooperation and transparent dialogue with the international community are valuable, together with the possibility of exchanging experiences and good practices in this area.

Agree:

To continue a formal dialogue on human rights between the Government of Colombia and the European Union, within the following parameters.

Objectives:

To establish a regular, in-depth and symmetrical Dialogue in relation to human rights.

To make a concerted identification of possible areas of cooperation, initiatives and projects to strengthen the promotion and respect of human rights.

Focal Areas:

The main focal area of the Dialogue will be the exchange of views on human rights thematic priorities in Colombia and in the European Union, as agreed upon by the parties.

Following the conclusion of the Trade Agreement between the European Union and the Republic of Colombia and the start of its provisional application, the Dialogue will also address trade-related human rights topics.

The Dialogue may also promote an exchange of views and lessons learned in human rights at international level.

Composition:

The European Union and Colombia will be represented at the level of high officials of the European External Action Service and the Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with the participation of representatives of the relevant headquarters services and the relevant Colombian Governmental and state entities. EU Member States will participate in an observer capacity.

Workings of the Dialogue:

The Dialogue will be held annually, and alternately in the EU and in Colombia.

Regular meetings for the follow-up of the formal sessions may be held between sessions. Meetings on specific topics may be held by agreement between the two parties.

The agenda will be agreed in advance between the Government of Colombia and the representatives of the European Union.

To the extent possible, presentation points and questions will be exchanged in advance.

Each party will seek the inputs of civil society in advance of sessions, and inform it of their outcomes.

In order to ensure visibility, joint statements will be released after every Dialogue session.