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*Committee on Development*

**2011/0249(NLE)**

20.6.2012

# OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on International Trade

on the proposal for a Council decision on conclusion of the Trade Agreement between the European Union and Colombia and Peru
(COM(2011)0569 – C7-0000/2011 – 2011/0249(NLE))

Rapporteur: Pino Arlacchi

PA_Leg_Consent

## SHORT JUSTIFICATION

Negotiations between the EU and the Andean Community for a region-to-region association agreement, including political dialogue, cooperation and trade, were launched in 2007. Regrettably, disagreement between Andean countries on approaches to a number of key issues led to the suspension of talks in June 2008.

The Commission presented a recommendation to the Council with a view to modifying the existing authorization so as to pursue negotiations on a trade agreement with those countries of the Andean Community willing to move ahead. In January 2009, the Council authorised the Commission to negotiate a multiparty trade agreement with Colombia and Peru, with the general objective of a balanced WTO-compatible agreement.

The rapporteur points out that Article 208 of the Lisbon Treaty requires the EU to take account of development cooperation objectives. He considers that this agreement is an opportunity to provide an anchor for reforms to integrate the global economy, increase welfare and consolidate growth in Colombia and Peru. Members of the Andean Community are also encouraged, via an accession clause, to take part in the trade agreement whenever they see fit.

The rapporteur acknowledges that the Commission included in the agreement measures on the protection of human rights and the rule of law, as well as commitments to implement international conventions on labour rights and environmental protection.

Nevertheless, with regard to the sustainability impact assessment, the rapporteur notes that without appropriate measures, the implementation of the agreement might have an impact on human rights, labour and environmental standards. For this reason, he considers that the EU should actively contribute to the implementation of flanking measures, enforcing the obligations of all parties under the agreement and stresses also that the European Parliament should continue to follow closely the efficacy of the existing monitoring and implementation provisions.

Calls on the EU to implement, efficiently and transparently, the provisions on technical assistance and capacity building.

The rapporteur took note of concerns expressed by civil society organizations, and considers that a significant number have been properly addressed in the final text.

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The Committee on Development calls on the Committee on International Trade, as the committee responsible, to propose that Parliament give its consent.

## RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

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| **Date adopted** | 19.6.2012 |
| **Result of final vote** | +: 16<br>–: 7<br>0: 5 |
| **Members present for the final vote** | Thijs Berman, Michael Cashman, Véronique De Keyser, Nirj Deva, Leonidas Donskis, Charles Goerens, Catherine Grèze, Filip Kaczmarek, Michał Tomasz Kamiński, Gay Mitchell, Norbert Neuser, Jean Roatta, Birgit Schnieber-Jastram, Michèle Striffler, Keith Taylor, Eleni Theocharous, Patrice Tirolien, Ivo Vajgl, Anna Záborská, Iva Zanicchi |
| **Substitute(s) present for the final vote** | Agustín Díaz de Mera García Consuegra, Gesine Meissner, Csaba Őry, Judith Sargentini, Patrizia Toia |
| **Substitute(s) under Rule 187(2) present for the final vote** | Ioan Enciu, Iliana Malinova Iotova, Gabriele Zimmer |