



EUROPEAN UNION

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## **JOINT STATEMENT**

### **Third meeting of the EU-Peru Bilateral Consultation Mechanism**

On 22 November 2012, the third meeting of the EU-Peru Bilateral Consultation Mechanism was held at the European Union headquarters in Brussels, Belgium.

The dialogue focused on the two themes: extractive industries and sustainable development, and enterprise policy. It also covered a range of other issues of mutual interest, such as recent developments in the EU and in Peru, the preparations for the EU-CELAC Summit, and regional integration and other developments in Latin America.

Both sides welcomed the impending provisional application of the Trade Agreement between the EU, and Peru and Colombia, which would lead to an upgrading of the relationship and a deepening of economic and trade relations. The EU side welcomed the document on labour rights, human rights and environmental issues published by the Peruvian government, and offered its assistance in implementing it.

The dialogue addressed the issue of sustainable management of extractive industries and natural resources. Both sides agreed to exchange information on national and regional initiatives at the European and Andean level for the prevention and resolution of social conflicts, the sustainable, transparent and participatory management of natural resources, and the protection of human capital in this area that both parties recognise as key to the sustainable development and growth of Peru and of high interest also to the EU economy.

## **P R E S S**

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The Peruvian side and the services of the EU reaffirmed their commitment to promote cooperation in the area of enterprise policy. They coincided on the importance of the forthcoming visit of Commission Vice-President A. Tajani to Peru that will contribute to strengthen dialogue and cooperation in areas of mutual interest such as industrial policy, SME promotion, raw materials, tourism, construction and standardisation, with a view to rendering economies on both sides more competitive, more productive and more innovative.

Both sides exchanged views on the current situation in Peru and the EU and on prospects for regional integration in Latin America. The EU side commended Peru's role at regional level and expressed its support to the efforts of the Peru's Presidency in UNASUR to find a viable solution to the situation of Paraguay in the region and explore actions to support conciliation in this country. Both sides underlined their support for further regional integration and for strengthening the partnership between the EU and Latin America. They discussed the preparations to the forthcoming EU-CELAC Summit, which will take place in Santiago on 26 and 27 January 2013. They noted the particular pertinence of the topic: "Alliance for Sustainable Development: Promoting Investments of Social and Environmental Quality."

The dialogue was followed by a meeting of experts on the fight against drug trafficking, in which current situation and policy developments in the EU and Peru as well as regional and bilateral cooperation initiatives were discussed. The EU recognised the efforts undertaken by the Peruvian government to address in a comprehensive way the growing problem of drug production and trafficking and welcomed the adoption of the new National Anti-drugs Strategy. Both sides referred to the EU programme aiming to support the implementation of this strategy, to be adopted soon and reaffirmed their commitment to continue working together, under the principle of shared responsibility.

Both parties reiterated their satisfaction with the level achieved in bilateral relations and expressed their commitment to maintain mutual respect and to increase bilateral relations at all levels. They welcomed the results of the meeting, and expressed their expectation that the Bilateral Consultation Mechanism would prove a valuable forum for discussing other topics of common interest, i.a. science, technology, innovation and matters related to the Trade Agreement. The Dialogue allowed a profound exchange on issues of mutual interest, reaffirmed the close relations between the EU and Peru and contributed to a greater understanding of the respective interests and positions. They agreed that the next meeting of the Bilateral Consultation Mechanism would be held in Lima in 2013.

The Republic of Peru was represented by Mr José Beraún Aranibar, Deputy Foreign Minister, and representatives of various ministries. Mr. Gabriel Quijandría, Deputy Minister of Strategic Development of Natural Resources, participated through a video link. Mr Christian Leffler, Managing Director for the Americas at the External Action Service of the European Union, chaired the meeting, which was also attended by Mr Daniel Calleja, Director General, DG Enterprise, and several officials from the European External Action Service and the European Commission.