

Madrid, 18 May 2002

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**MEETING BETWEEN THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT
OF THE ANDEAN COMMUNITY OF NATIONS AND THE EUROPEAN UNION
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JOINT COMMUNIQUE

On the occasion of the Second Summit between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union, held in Madrid, the Presidents of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela, Heads of State of the member countries of the Andean Community of Nations, held a working session with the Spanish Prime Minister, acting as President of the European Council, the Danish Prime Minister as future President of the European Council, the President of the European Commission and the Secretary-General of the Council.

At that meeting, the Heads of State and Government welcomed the new initiative to negotiate a political and co-operation Agreement between the EU and the Andean Community as well as the decision to strengthen the co-operation on trade investment and economic relations. They stressed that the achievement of the objectives of such an agreement together with the strengthening of their co-operation should establish conditions under which, building on the outcome of the Doha Work Programme, a feasible and mutually beneficial Association Agreement, including a FTA, could be negotiated between both regions. They highlighted the importance in this connection of the forthcoming negotiation of an agreement on political dialogue and co-operation which will offer an opportunity to advance the common objectives of strengthening democracy, good governance and respect for human rights, stimulating the integration process in the Andean Community of Nations and promoting the benefits of economic development.

The Heads of State and Government analysed the situation in the Andean region and the achievements both in the strengthening of democracy through the development and application of the Inter-American Democratic Charter and in the integration process in the light of the outcome of the 15th Presidential Summit held in Santa Cruz de la Sierra in January 2002. In this context they agreed on the necessity of preserving full institutional and democratic normality and the rule of law. They also stressed the importance of good governance and policies directed towards promoting fundamental rights and freedoms and eradicating poverty.

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The Heads of State and Government agreed to step up their co-operation in order to engage in a concerted fight against terrorism, the drug problem and related crimes, which threaten their democracies.

The Heads of State and Government expressed their will to continue to promote the strategic partnership between the two regions and to encourage the exchanges necessary to establish favourable conditions for a better relationship built on solid and mutually beneficial foundations.
