

ANDEAN COMMUNITY - EU TROIKA SUMMIT

Lima, Peru, 17 May 2008

- Joint Communiqué -

1. On the occasion of the fifth summit between Latin America, the Caribbean and the European Union, held in Lima, the Presidents of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, Heads of State of the member countries of the Andean Community, held a working session with the Prime Minister of Slovenia and current President of the Council of the European Union, Mr Janez Janša and the President of the European Commission, Mr José Manuel Durão Barroso.
2. They reviewed the situation in the Andean region and emphasised the advances in the process of furthering regional integration within the framework of the Andean Community, which has been following a more balanced approach to the economic, political, social and environmental aspects of integration. In particular, they engaged in a dialogue on the Association Agreement between the two blocs, on migration and on the global drugs problem.
3. They noted with satisfaction the opening of negotiations between the EU and the Andean Community in 2007 for an ambitious, comprehensive bi-regional Association Agreement taking into account the asymmetries between and within the regions. They also noted the headway made after the first three rounds of negotiations and reaffirmed their shared objective of making substantial progress in the negotiations, with the aim of bringing them to a close during 2009.
4. They welcomed the resolve of the Andean Community and the European Union to make every effort to conclude an Association Agreement contributing to greater development of the Andean integration process. They agreed that particular attention would be paid to the specific development needs of member countries of the Andean Community, taking into account the asymmetries between and within the regions and the need for flexibility, in the appropriate manner, granting a special and differentiated treatment for the member countries of the Andean Community, in particular Bolivia and Ecuador, on the part of the EU.
5. They recalled that the fourth round of negotiations would be held in Brussels from 7 to 11 July 2008 and the fifth round in a member country of the Andean Community before the end of the year.

6. They agreed on the importance they attach to a structured and comprehensive dialogue on migration, which helps develop constructive cooperation that improves mutual knowledge of the realities of both regions, of migration policies and of migration challenges, supports the development of capacity for joint management of migration flows and strengthens the fight against the smuggling of migrants and trafficking of persons. Such dialogue will also make it possible to address issues of lawful and unlawful migration. They emphasised their commitment to the protection of the human rights of all migrant persons. They also emphasised their commitment to policies to combat discrimination and xenophobia and to the promotion of suitable economic, social and cultural integration and they highlighted the link between migration and development as well as their willingness to facilitate the transfer of remittances. They underlined their willingness to develop a comprehensive approach on international migration including the orderly management of migratory flows, focusing on the mutual benefits for countries of origin and destination, and fostering the recognition and public awareness of the important economic, social, and cultural contribution of migrants to the host societies.

7. They in addition confirmed their commitment to strengthen bi-regional cooperation in tackling the global drugs problem and to make full use of existing mechanisms for dialogue and cooperation between the two blocs in this respect, under the principle of shared responsibility. They here emphasised the importance of tackling the scourge of illicit drugs in a coordinated way, through an integrated approach, in order to achieve greater effectiveness. They accordingly stressed the relevance of the new regional projects approved with European Union funding, which will make it possible to step up and consolidate the implementation of Andean policies and strategies relating, among other things, to integrated, sustainable alternative development and to the control of chemical precursors and synthetic drugs.