



European
Automobile
Manufacturers
Association

BUSINESSEUROPE



DIAGEO

DIGITALEUROPE



Brussels, 3rd October 2012

Subject: **APPROVAL OF THE EU-COLOMBIA & PERU FREE TRADE AGREEMENT**

Dear Member of the INTA Committee,

The coalition of European businesses listed here below would like to underline their strong support for the ratification of the EU-Colombia/Peru Free Trade Agreement (FTA) on which you will be soon invited to vote in the International Trade Committee of the European Parliament..

Colombia and Peru offer real commercial potential for a variety of European businesses. In 2011 EU exports to Colombia and Peru were valued at €5 billion and €2.8 billion respectively. Not only do these countries represent significant growth markets but they are also important partners for the European Union (EU). EU sectors that stand to benefit from the deal include: telecommunications, construction, distribution, financial and transport services as well as textiles, chemicals and the wine and spirits sectors. Not only will these and other sectors see a reduction in tariffs, amounting to a total of €270 million annually, but in addition further benefits will emanate from a reduction of non-tariff barriers and the creation of a more favourable business environment.

The FTA will secure access to Colombia and Peru for EU exports in agricultural products and processed agricultural products; there is 100% coverage for industrial goods; and the services chapters are very ambitious, setting an important example for international liberalisation in services. Opening the public procurement market is also a significant

result. In addition to increasing market access, the agreement will promote international best practice for operators and investors as well as a number of benefits that will lead to a marked improvement in the trading environment.

With the FTA in place we expect to see a significant increase in these figures over time, given tariff phase out periods, and in the levels of investment in these growing markets.

We further welcome the agreement's clear rules towards the respect of fundamental human and labour rights. The significant benefits that this FTA will deliver toward the EU's jobs and growth agenda fully justify its ratification. Voting 'no' on the FTA will be a blow to Colombian and Peruvian efforts to continue to bring about positive reform.

Accordingly, we ask that you give your consent to this agreement to strengthen the EU's ties to Colombia and Peru, and allow European business to play its role in returning European economies to growth.

Yours sincerely,

ACEA – European Automobile Manufacturers' Association - <http://www.acea.be/>

BUSINESSEUROPE – European Industrial and Employers' Federations - <http://www.businessseurope.eu>

CEFIC - European Chemical Industry Council - <http://www.cefic.org/>

CEEV - Comité Européen des Entreprises Vin - http://www.ceev.be/index_en.html

CEPS - European Spirits Organisation - <http://www.europeanspirits.org/>

CEPI - Confederation of European Paper Industries - <http://www.cepi.org/>

DIAGEO - <http://www.diageo.com/>

DIGITALEUROPE - Digital Technology Industry in Europe - www.digitaleurope.org/

EBCA - European Branded Clothing Alliance – <http://www.ebca-europe.org/>

ESF – European Services Forum – <http://www.esf.be>

ETNO - European Telecommunications Network Operators - <http://www.etno.eu/>

EURATEX – European Textile and Apparel Confederation - <http://www.euratex.org/>

Pernod-Ricard - <http://pernod-ricard.com/>