



Brussels, 9th August 2018

**The Peru Europe Platform welcomes Commissioner Cecilia Malmström’s letter addressed to the Peruvian Minister for Tourism and Foreign Trade, Rogers Valencia, in which she expresses concern at the Peruvian government’s lack of clear progress in the implementation of Title IX on Trade and Sustainable Development, part of the Trade Agreement with the European Union. The letter asks Peru for an action plan that addresses the areas of concern outlined, in particular, in the areas of labour and environmental weaknesses.**

The European Commission highlights Peru’s failure to comply with its labour and environmental obligations, most of which were highlighted in a submission to the European Commission in a formal complaint against Peru from the Peru Europe Platform and 27 Peruvian civil society organisations on 25 October 2017.

In her letter, Commissioner Malmström manifests her concern for the shortcomings in the effective implementation of ILO Conventions 87 and 98, on freedom of association and protection of union rights and collective bargaining, which have remained unaddressed despite the recommendations of the ILO Committee of Experts. The letter also points out that Peru has one of the highest levels of informality in the labour market and a high level of persistent child labour. *“All these issues have been at the heart of the discussions of the Subcommittee of Trade and Sustainable Development during the last 5 years and more efforts are needed to achieve substantial progress”,* says Commissioner Cecilia Malmström.

In environmental matters, the Commissioner emphasized that the simplification of environmental administrative procedures should not conduce to a weakening of environmental rights protection.

In addition, Commissioner Malmström put emphasis on the lack of an adequate Peruvian civil society participation mechanism, which is normally envisaged in the agreement, that guarantees effective dialogue between the internal consultative groups of the State parties to the Trade Agreement. As the PEP has pointed out on numerous occasions, the European Commission warns that European civil society does not have a clear counterpart in Peru, which weakens dialogue. Moreover, it urges Peru to strengthen its consultation mechanisms and reassess the need to create a Domestic Advisory Group to discuss and monitor all aspects of trade and sustainable development.

Commissioner Malmström urges Peru to elaborate a “well-defined and time-bound” action plan to improve all areas of concerns. She also affirms that the action plan should be shared with the European Commission ahead of the Subcommittee on Trade and Sustainable

Development meeting, to be held in Guayaquil next November, as a sign of good political will. She notes that if there is a lack of sufficient progress, the European Union will consider the use of existing mechanisms, including the executing procedure to address the problems identified. In order to assess progress, the Commission will carry out a research mission to Lima in the last quarter of the present year.

The Peru Europe Platform welcomes the document sent to the Peruvian government and calls on the authorities of Peru to comply with the recommendations of the European Commission, and to develop an action plan containing a clear, well defined strategy to address effectively the obstacles that have so far prevented the fulfilment of its international labour and environmental obligations.

It also hopes that the realization of the action plan shows its commitment to achieve real improvements that guarantee sustainable development in the country.

#### Plataforma Europa Perú

*Peru Support Group – Great Britain; Entraide et Fraternité – Belgium; Commission Justice & Paix Belgique Francophone – Belgium; Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos de España – Spain; Centro de Investigación y Documentación Chile-América Latina – Germany; Secours Catholique – France; Informationsstelle Peru – Germany; CATAPA – Belgium; Broederlijk Delen – Belgium; Kampagne “Bergwerk Peru – Reichtum geht, Armut bleibt“ – Germany; Coalition of the Flemish North-South Movement, 11.11.11 – Belgium; PLataforma Q’atary Peru – Spain; Peru Kommittén för MR – Sweden; Entrepueblos – Spain; FOS – Belgium; Asociación Putumayo – Belgium*