Colombia and the EU sign Framework Agreement on participation in EU crisis management operations

Colombia and the EU concluded yesterday a Framework Participation Agreement for Colombia’s participation in EU crisis management operations. The Agreement was signed today in Bogota by the Colombian Minister of Defence, Mr. Juan Carlos Pinzón, and the Head of the EU Delegation in Colombia, Ambassador Tanya van Gool.

The Agreement provides a legal basis to govern and facilitate the participation of the Republic of Colombia in the EU led civilian and military crisis management operations. Since Colombia and the EU share common values and the objective of maintaining peace, this Agreement constitutes a very significant result providing a structural framework for their future cooperation in crisis management.

Colombia has become a regional security provider and successfully participated in international peacekeeping such as the Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH), the Emergency Force in the Sinai (UNEF) and the Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL).

The Agreement is a testimony to the excellent and increasingly diversified relations between Colombia and the EU, which reflect a spirit of partnership and the principle of mutual interest. This is the second agreement of this nature signed with a partner country in Latin America and the EU is looking forward to cooperating with Colombia in its implementation.

Political and policy dialogue between Colombia and the European Union is based on the 1996 Rome Declaration, and a 2009 Memorandum of Understanding. The European Union is looking forward to continuing to expand and to intensifying its partnership with Colombia. The EU is also actively supporting Colombia’s efforts to promote a negotiated solution to its internal armed conflict.

For photos and video of the signing ceremony: http://tvnewsroom.consilium.europa.eu/
For more information on EU-Colombia relations: http://eeas.europa.eu/colombia/index_en.htm