



Brussels, 08 May 2014
140508/02

P R E S S R E L E A S E

The EU-Central America Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement enters into force

The EU-Central America Political Dialogue and Cooperation Agreement (PDCA) entered into force on the 1st of May. The EU and Central America have maintained close and comprehensive relations for decades, reaching back to the EU's support to the regions successful peace process in the 1980s. The entry into force of the PDCA represents a further step in the process of strengthening relations between the EU and Central America and will allow both sides to conduct political dialogue and pursue comprehensive cooperation at bi-regional level.

Catherine Ashton, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy / Vice President of the European Commission said: *"With the entry into force of this Agreement and the provisional entry into force of the Association Agreement last year, the EU and Central America have put in place the tools to develop comprehensive relations covering political, economic, and cooperation issues. These two agreements with the six countries of Central America reinforce our commitment to a stronger presence in Latin America, which is an important partner for the EU. The EU looks forward to implementing the PDCA and discussing issues of common interest such as regional integration, democracy and good governance, social cohesion, public security, and region-to-region cooperation."*

Background

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

Michael Mann +32 498 999 780 - +32 2 584 9780- Michael.Mann@eeas.europa.eu [@EUHighRepSpox](https://twitter.com/EUHighRepSpox)
Maja Kocijancic +32 498 984 425 - +32 2 298 65 70 - Maja.Kocijancic@ec.europa.eu [@AshtonSpox](https://twitter.com/AshtonSpox) Maja
Sebastien Brabant +32 460 75 09 98 - Sebastien.Brabant@ec.europa.eu
Traversa Maria Lyra +32 2 2956368 Maria-Lyra.TRAVERSA@ec.europa.eu

Follow us on Twitter [@eu_eeas](https://twitter.com/eu_eeas)

www.facebook.com/EuropeanExternalActionService

www.eeas.europa.eu

EN

The PDCA enters into force between the EU and its Member States and the 6 republics of Central America: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Panama. The Agreement provides for a political dialogue at Heads of State and Government level, at Ministerial level and at Senior official and working levels and includes the possibility to cooperate in the field of foreign and security policy. The PDCA replaces the 1999 Framework Cooperation Agreement and will be in force pending the full ratification of the 2012 Association Agreement the trade pillar of which is already in force following the ratification of the Central American countries and the EU.

The EU is the largest donor for regional cooperation in Central America and a strong supporter of the Central American Integration System (SICA). During the period 2014-2020, the EU will increase its bilateral cooperation in four partner countries in Central America (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua) under the Development Cooperation Instrument. Youth, social development, the fight against poverty, security and climate change are among the main shared priorities of cooperation with the region.
