



# EU-COLOMBIA RELATIONS

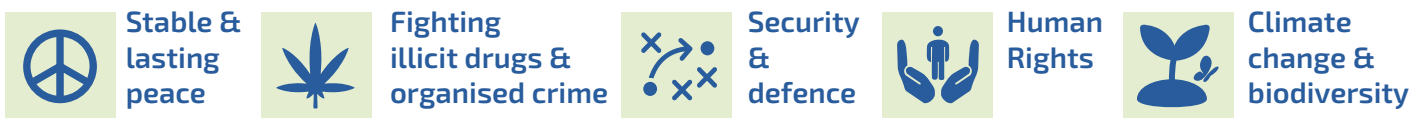


Colombia is a key partner for the European Union in Latin America. The EU's relations with Colombia are based on **political dialogue, trade cooperation** and joint efforts to achieve **sustainable development and support to peace-building**.

## POLITICAL RELATIONS

The European Union and Colombia hold consultations on political issues focussing on bilateral, regional and global issues and meet annually for high-level political and sectorial dialogues. A fruitful bilateral human rights dialogue and a security and defence dialogue complement relations between the European Union and Colombia.

Priority areas and common challenges:



## PEACE PROCESS



In strong political support of the peace process, High Representative Federica Mogherini appointed **Eamon Gilmore** as the EU's **Special Envoy for the peace process** in Colombia in 2015 - 2019.

The **EU has been supporting the peace process** in Colombia since the very beginning. It does so in an integrated approach, using all its tools: diplomacy, international cooperation and development, humanitarian aid and civilian protection and investment and trade.

Overall, the EU has invested **over €645 million**. This includes as its key instrument the EU Trust Fund, pledged loans by the European Investment Bank, short-term actions and ongoing programmes. Some examples:

**PEACE LABORATORIES & NEW PEACE TERRITORIES PROJECT** | €160 million  
These EU projects contributed to boosting economic development, human rights and democracy in Colombia from 2002 to 2017.

**EU TRUST FUND FOR PEACE** | €125 million  
The Trust Fund supports the implementation of the Peace Agreement.

**INSTRUMENT FOR STABILITY AND PEACE (IsCP)** | over €40 million  
Actions under the IsCP focus on support for humanitarian demining, access to justice, the transitional justice system and reintegrating minors from the FARC or other armed groups.

**SUPPORT TO WOMEN IN CONFLICT AREAS** | €3 million (since 2017)  
The EU supports economic empowerment of women in rural Cauca, improving their incomes, economic participation and their access to land.

**SPECIFIC SUPPORT TO CIVIL SOCIETY PROJECTS** | €19 million (since 2017)  
To build lasting peace, the EU supports civil society projects that create opportunities in rural areas, particularly for young people, and that foster inclusiveness and local democracy.

## DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

As part of the EU's integrated approach, development cooperation is particularly important. Bilateral cooperation between the EU and Colombia amounted to **€67 million for 2014-17**, which was topped up with another **€60 million for 2018-2020**.

In addition, Colombia is benefitting from specific conflict-related EU assistance, including a **Trust Fund**, to which 21 EU Member States and Chile have pledged **a total of €125 million**. Currently, 25 projects in 16 departments in Colombia are running on EU contributions amounting to €70 million. They support local economic development and the reintegration of ex-combatants.

The European Investment Bank has since 2006 approved more than €600m in financing for infrastructure projects, primarily in the telecoms and transport sectors. For example, the EIB made available financing for the planned construction of the first metro line in Bogotá, as well as promotes projects in regions that have been affected most by the conflict in the country.



The EU and Colombia work jointly to achieve the ambitious 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

One of the overarching goals is to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, as well as the promotion of human rights and the rule of law.

### HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE



The EU supports humanitarian needs of Colombians affected by conflict, including internally displaced people, communities isolated or confined by the conflict, refugees, and people in need of international protection in neighbouring countries. Since 1994, **the EU contributed with more than €241 million - over €9.6 million in 2018** alone.

## TRADE AND INVESTMENT

The EU is the **biggest provider of foreign direct investments** in Colombia and is its **third trading partner**. The net worth of bilateral trade between the EU and Colombia amounted to **€11 billion in 2018**.



Colombia is part of the **EU-Colombia/Ecuador/Peru Trade Agreement**, provisionally applied since 2013. It has brought important benefits for both sides, including for example for the agricultural sector in Colombia, contributing to rural development which is crucial in the post-conflict context. Colombian SMEs are great beneficiaries of these new opportunities.

