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COMMUNICATION

INFORMATION

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Subject: **EARLY WARNING**

Full Powers for the signing of a Free Trade Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, on the one part, and Colombia and Peru, of the other part (see doc. 14764/11)

The signing ceremony of the abovementioned Agreement is envisaged to take place in the region of Colombia and Peru during the course of June, (the precise time, place and venue will be communicated to Member States in due course).

To facilitate the signing process, it is therefore proposed that all Member States sign the Agreement beforehand. For this purpose, the Agreement will be available for Member States' Foreign Ministers, or their authorised representatives, to sign in the margins of the FAC on 14 May 2012 and also in the margins of the FAC (Trade) on 31 May 2012 or, alternatively, for Member States' Permanent Representatives to sign in the margins of successive meetings of Coreper 2, as from 16 May 2012.

Member States are requested, if required*, to ensure that an instrument of Full Powers, authorising their plenipotentiary to sign this Agreement, is duly issued and deposited with the Council's Agreements Office¹.

Officials of the Council's Agreements Office will be present at the aforementioned meetings to circulate copies of the Agreement for signature.

* Full Powers are required to be issued to any plenipotentiary who is not a Head of State, Head of Government or a Minister for Foreign Affairs (see Article 7 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties). However, those Member States' Permanent Representatives who have communicated to the General Secretariat of the Council a general authorisation from their authorities to sign EU Agreements on behalf of their country are exempt from this requirement.

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