



Council of the
European Union

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AGRILEG 14**

NOTE

From:	General Secretariat of the Council
To:	Delegations
Subject:	Organics equivalence agreements on trade in organic products with Latin American countries - Information to the Council on opening of negotiations

Delegations will find attached a note from the Commission services informing the Council on the opening of negotiations with Mexico and Colombia in view of concluding bilateral agreements on the equivalence of the respective legislations on organic products.

This information is done in accordance with the Council Decision 10474/14 of 16 June 2014 authorising the opening of negotiations.

INFORMATION TO THE SCA AND TO THE EP**AGREEMENTS ON TRADE IN ORGANIC PRODUCTS WITH LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES**

Colombia and Mexico applied to be recognised by the EU as having equivalent organic production rules and control system respectively in 2002 and 2006.

Following exchange of information with these countries, updated versions of their organic legislation were received. The Commission has devoted some additional resources in 2013-2014 to analyse these applications.

In June 2014, the Council authorised the Commission to open negotiations on agreements between the European Union and third countries on trade in organic products (Council Decision of 16 June 2014).

In accordance with the negotiation directives of Council decision of 16 June 2014 authorising the opening of negotiations, the Commission would like to inform the European Parliament and the Council that it will initiate negotiations with Colombia and Mexico in view of concluding a bilateral agreement on the equivalence of the legislation of these countries with the EU on organic products.

The future agreements with Colombia and Mexico on trade in organic products will aim at fostering trade in organic products between the EU and these countries, achieving a high level of respect of the principle of organic production rules as well as the protection of the EU organic logo as defined in the Council's negotiating directives on the matter.
