



Department for International Trade

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The Lord Boswell of Aynho
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28th May 2019

Dear Lord Boswell,

On 16th May I wrote to inform you that the UK had signed a trade agreement between the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, of the one part, and the Republic of Colombia, the Republic of Ecuador and the Republic of Peru ('the Andean Countries'), of the other part. The agreement replicates as closely as possible the existing agreement between the European Union and the Andean Countries, in order to avoid disruption to the UK's international trade as we leave the EU.

Following Parliamentary conventions, the Government's intention is that Parliament would be the first body to see agreement text after signature. However, on 22nd May the Government of the Republic of Colombia released the Spanish language version of the signed UK-Andean Countries trade agreement in accordance with their domestic freedom of information laws. This means that the Spanish language version is now in the public domain.

We will shortly commence the Constitutional Reform and Governance (CRaG) Act process for the UK-Andean Countries trade agreement, and in line with commitments provided for in the Trade Bill 2017-19, alongside that we will lay a report explaining our approach to delivering continuity in the UK's trade with the Andean countries. This will set out the articles of the UK-Andean Countries Trade Agreement and explains any significant differences between the trade-related provisions of the UK-Andean Countries Trade Agreement and the corresponding provisions of the EU-Andean Countries Trade Agreement. The release by the Republic of Colombia of the Spanish language version of the agreement does not change our commitment to this process.

However, given the unusual circumstances of our partner countries publishing ahead of our laying it in Parliament, I am also sharing with the Lords EU Select Committee, in confidence, the text of the UK-Andean Countries Trade Agreement that was signed on 15th May. In accordance with the requirements of CRaG we will lay the treaty in parliament, accompanied by an Explanatory Memorandum, as well as the report, in due course.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'George', with a stylized flourish extending downwards from the end of the name.

GEORGE HOLLINGBERY MP
Minister of State for Trade Policy
Department for International Trade