

Seminar

The Colombian Peace Process: State of Play of Negotiations and Challenges ahead

Wednesday 29 June, 2016

09:00 – 17:15

Hotel Sofitel Brussels Europe - 1 Place Jourdan, 1040 Brussels

Colombia is going through a crucial period of its political life. The peace process that is currently being conducted by the government and the *Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia* (FARC) and the one that is formally starting between the government and the *Ejército de Liberación Nacional* (ELN) are having and will continue to have a deep social and political impact on Colombia.

While ambitious and comprehensive plans for political change are underway in the country, internationally the Colombian peace process is viewed with great expectation. The possible end to the longest armed conflict in the Americas through concerted efforts, political will and the use of significant innovative methods offer important inspiration for the international community's engagement in peace processes.

This seminar will present an overview of the Colombian peace negotiations, with a focus on the most innovative aspects of the process with FARC and the first steps of the peace process with ELN. It will also identify the key challenges that national and international actors, including the European Union, will face in the post-conflict period.

This event will bring together experts, practitioners, diplomats and EU officials and will be held in Spanish and English. Interpretation in both languages will be available during the meeting.

Objectives

The overall objectives of the meeting are to:

- (1) Better inform EU policy-makers regarding the local and regional aspects of the Colombian peace negotiations;
- (2) Bring together Colombian, European and international actors supporting the Colombian peace negotiations, including civil society experts, to share concerns, lessons learned, and increase coordination ahead of the post-conflict phase;
- (3) Generate policy recommendations that the EU and the international community can support across the region in order to promote an effective implementation of future agreements that addresses conflict prevention and peacebuilding needs.

Agenda

08:30 – 09:00	Registration
Introductory Session 09:00 – 10:00	Opening remarks Mariano Aguirre , Executive Director of NOREF and Sonya Reines-Djivanides , Executive Director of EPLO Rodrigo Rivera , Ambassador of Colombia to the Kingdom of Belgium, the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the European Union Keynote address Edita Hrdá , Managing Director for the Americas, European External Action Service (EEAS)
10:00 – 10:30	Coffee break
Session I 10:30 – 12:15	The Colombian peace processes: an overview <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Virginia M. Bouvier, Senior Adviser for Peace Processes, United States Institute of Peace <i>The peace talks with the FARC – an overview</i>• Kristian Herbolzheimer, Director of the Philippines and Colombia Programmes, Conciliation Resources <i>The innovations of the Colombian peace process</i>• Marisol Gómez Giraldo, Editor, El Tiempo <i>Perspectives on the negotiations with the ELN</i>• Malgorzata Wasilewska, Head of Division, Conflict Prevention, Peace Building and Mediation Instruments, EEAS Moderated by Sonya Reines-Djivanides , Executive Director, EPLO
12:15 – 13:30	Networking Lunch
Session II 13:30 – 15:00	The Post-conflict phase in Colombia: key challenges of implementing the peace accord <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rodrigo Uprimny, Researcher at the Bogotá Center for Law, Justice and Society, De Justicia, and Professor at the National University <i>Special Jurisdiction for Peace</i>• Stefan Åström, Project Manager for Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration, Folke Bernadotte Academy <i>Demobilisation and security</i>• Angelika Rettberg, Professor and Director of the M.A. in Peacebuilding, Universidad de los Andes <i>New criminal actors and economic dynamics of the post-conflict</i>• Adrianus Koetsenruijter, Head of Division, South America, EEAS Moderated by Barbara Unger , Programme Director for Latin America, Berghof Foundation
15:00 – 15:30	Coffee break

Session III
15:30 – 17:00

The Post-conflict phase in Colombia: What role for the international community?

- Representative of the Colombian Government (TBC)
- **Roland Schäfer**, Deputy Managing Director for the Americas, EEAS
- **Adam Isacson**, Senior Associate for Regional Security Policy, Washington Office for Latin America
- **Thania Paffenholz**, Director, Inclusive Peace and Transition Initiative, The Graduate Institute

Moderated by **Mariano Aguirre**, Executive Director, NOREF

17:00 - 17:15

Key comments and recommendations

Ivan Briscoe, Program Director, Latin America and the Caribbean, International Crisis Group