

June 2007 - Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru open negotiations with the European Union (EU) for an Association Agreement (AA).

September 2007 - First round of negotiations for an AA take place in Bogota, Colombia. Despite the fact that these AA negotiations would cover three pillars, Political Dialogue, Cooperation and Trade, 11 of the 14 sub-groups in the negotiations are dedicated to trade only.

December 2007 - Second round of negotiations for an AA take place in Brussels, Belgium.

May 2008 - At the request of civil society organisations in the Andean region, HAI Europe joins with Latin American NGOs to form a coalition: the EU-CAN Alliance, to work to protect public health interests from both sides of the Atlantic in the imminent negotiations for an AA between the European and Andean Communities.

April 2008 - Third round of negotiations for an AA take place in Quito, Ecuador.

June 2008 - "Mini-round" of negotiations on Intellectual Property (IP) and Trade Chapter.

July 2008 - Fourth round of negotiations for an AA is cancelled due to deepening division between the Andean Community (CAN).

October 2008 - Meeting of the EU-CAN Alliance takes place in Bogota, Colombia. The enforcement Chapter is extensively discussed as well as data exclusivity (DE) and patent extensions, as it is very likely the EU will include these provisions in their proposal at a later stage.

November 2008 – Peru, Colombia and Ecuador consider pursuing pure trade negotiations with the EU instead of an AA, and pursue the negotiations without Bolivia.

January 2009 - The first analysis of the European proposals on IP and their impact on Access to Medicines is published: *Health Protection in the European and Andean Community Association Agreement*¹. The report offers an in-depth analysis of how the IP provisions will affect public health in the CAN.

January 2009 - The controversial IP Chapter is cited by Evo Morales, President of Bolivia, as one of the reasons for Bolivia's withdrawals, in a letter sent to the President of the European Commission, José Manuel Barroso.²

February 2009 - First round of negotiations towards bilateral trade agreements between the EU and Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru takes place in Bogota, Colombia. (This round of negotiations sees the inclusion of the reference to the *2001 Doha Declaration on TRIPS and Public Health* inserted into the

¹ <http://haieurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/18-Mar-2009-Report-Health-Protection-in-the-European-and-Andean-Association-Agreement-EN.pdf>

² <http://haieurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/January-2009-Letter-Evo-Morales-to-José-Manual-Barroso.pdf>

General principles and not just the patent article and the removal of criminal sanctions for patent infringements. Data exclusivity and Patent Extension provisions are now in the EU proposal.)

February 2009 - International controversy about seizures of generic medicines in transit in the Netherlands.³

February 2009 - Expert Meeting on IP and Access to Medicines in the EU-Andean negotiations is held at the European Parliament, hosted by MEP Helmuth Markov (Green party), and Chair of the International Trade Committee, MEP Thijs Berman (Socialist and Democratic Party).

March 2009 - Second round of negotiations towards bilateral trade agreements between the EU and Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru takes place in Lima, Peru.

The EU-CAN Alliance has a two day meeting in Lima and organises a large media event where preliminary findings of the impact studies, demonstrating the potential harm of the EU demands to public health, are presented and disseminated.

May 2009 - New round of negotiations in Brussels, Belgium. The EU-CAN Alliance publishes finalised impact studies on Peru and Colombia.

June 2009 - New round of negotiations in Bogota, Colombia.

July 2009 - Ecuador suspends its participation in the agreements. EU- Colombia/Peru negotiations continue in Lima, Peru. Notably, the provisions concerning patent extensions are removed, a reference to the Global Strategy on Public Health, Innovation and Intellectual Property is inserted and the Enforcement Chapter is toned down.

September 2009 - Negotiation round in Brussels, Belgium. The negotiation around DE provisions which have proven to be highly controversial are finalised, and towards the end of the week the EU drops their demand for an extended DE period.

February/March 2010 - Conclusion of the bilateral agreement negotiations between the EU and Peru and Colombia, respectively.

May 2010 - The EU-Latin American Parliamentary Summit takes place on 18 May in Madrid, Spain, preceded by a Meeting of Ministers of Foreign Affairs. This summit, which brought together Heads of State and Government from Latin America, saw the political approval of the conclusion of a trade agreement between the EU and Peru and Colombia, as well as the endorsement of the conclusion of the negotiations between the EU and Central America.

³ <http://haieurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/10-Feb-2009-Open-Letter-Dutch-seizure-of-generic-medicines-EN.pdf>

<http://haieurope.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/11/6-Mar-2009-Press-release-More-generic-medicines-intercepted-in-the-Netherlands-English.pdf>