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## **Commissioner Malmström welcomes Parliament's consent for Ecuador to join trade agreement**

The European Parliament today approved the Protocol of Accession of Ecuador to the EU's Trade Agreement with Colombia and Peru, with a 544-114 majority.

"I am very pleased with the outcome of the Parliament's vote," said Cecilia Malmström, EU Commissioner for Trade. "We've managed to clear the way for Ecuador to join its Andean neighbours in building a privileged trade relationship with Europe. This agreement can give a positive boost to sustainable and inclusive development in Ecuador. It is also an important building block in our strong partnership with Latin America."

The today's vote follows the Council's decision on 11 November and allows the deal to become effective, on a provisional basis, as of 1 January 2017.

The agreement will result in a fundamental upgrade of the EU's bilateral relationship with Ecuador. The Commission will now be working together with Ecuador to ensure that provisions of the agreement translate into tangible benefits for companies, consumers, citizens and civil society on both sides.