



**Open Letter from the CSACC-CCT-CES concerning the Central America-EU
Association Agreement (*)
Addressed to the negotiators of both regions
5 March 2009**

Background

In March 2007, the Central American trade union organisations grouped within the Central American and Caribbean Trade Union Coordinating Committee (CSACC), the Central American Workers' Confederation (CCT) and the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) undertook to analyse issues and to formulate proposals relating to the Central America-EU Association Agreement (CA-EU AA). This process culminated, in November 2007, in our **Central American Trade Union Summit**, at which the CSACC-CCT and ETUC representatives presented our proposals both on integration and on the **social-labour chapter** of the CA-EU AA.

This chapter was presented, in San Salvador in May 2008, to the Central American negotiators, and in June 2008 the ETUC presented it to the European negotiating committee. That same month, it was presented to Ambassador Francesca Mosca, head of the European Commission's Central America delegation.

We of the CSACC, CCT and ETUC have jointly, through permanent consultations both in Central America and in Europe, monitored progress in the negotiations and the incorporation of our proposals in the official negotiations, partly through monitoring within both the EESC and the Consultative Council of the Central American Integration System.

Our advisors' reports confirm that no progress has been made in incorporating our proposals into the documents being negotiated.

In spite of all our efforts, at the end of the sixth round of negotiations and looking ahead to the seventh round, we have received only a few vague promises, but no real response to our positions from negotiators in both regions.

We therefore demand:

1. That the substance of the trade union proposals be incorporated into the three pillars of the Association Agreement in order to regulate and overcome conditions that permit the violation of human and labour rights, particularly in the form of unpunished violations of **the right to life and trade union**



freedom in Central America.

2. In order for these points to be properly implemented it is essential to define obligatory monitoring and implementation mechanisms.
3. That a clear and official response be given to the demands set out in the social-labour chapter presented promptly and in due form (attached)
4. That monitoring of everything relating to the social-labour field involve the trade union movement represented by the CSACC-CCT-ETUC on a bi-regional basis.
5. Approval of a social cohesion fund designed to eliminate inequalities in the Central American region.
6. That under present conditions the negotiations not be ended until our demands have been incorporated and until proper studies have been made of the impact that the agreement's implementation would have on the environment and in the social and labour field.
7. That the negotiations exclude certain commercial topics detrimental to the Central American countries' development, such as services and public bodies.

If our demands are not met, subject to the outcome of the seventh round of negotiations, the trade union movement that we of the CSACC-CCT-ETUC represent, **will declare** that this agreement is just **another trade agreement** and will accordingly adopt whatever measures may be necessary to publicise what is happening in the ADA CA-EU negotiations.

- **CSACC: Trade Union Coordinating Committee of Central America and the Caribbean**
- **CCT: Central American Confederation of Workers**
- **ETUC: European Trade Union Confederation**

(1)AA: Central American-EU Association Agreement