

**STATEMENT BY COLOMBIA ON REGULATION No. 258/97
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES**

Statement by Colombia at the Meeting Held on 11 and 12 October 2006

The following communication, received on 12 October 2006, is being circulated at the request of the delegation of Colombia.

1. We wish to express our concern to the Committee on Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures concerning the stringent criteria laid down in Regulation No. 258 of 1997 of the European Communities. One of the reasons for Colombia's concern is that the legislation is deemed to be excessive and restrictive and it affects the trade interests of sectors of high export potential.
2. Furthermore, Colombia would like to emphasize that probably the only way of obtaining access to the European Communities market is to rely on the cooperation, support and assistance of the European Communities themselves so that, on the one hand, Colombian products may meet the standards and, on the other, developing countries are helped to export ecological products from tropical regions that respect the environment.
3. On 6 September 2006, through its Embassy in Brussels, Colombia sent to the European Commission a document containing a list of exotic products that would be affected by Regulation (EC) No. 258/197 as they are considered to be "Novel Foods". The non-exhaustive list of products includes the following: Babaco, Malanga, Biriba, South American sapote, Barbados gooseberry, Tarap, Piñuela, Barbary fig, Mountain papaya, Piquia, Coupeia, Patashte, Mamey apple, Spanish lime, Brazil nut, Choiba, Amazon tree grape, Camu-Camu, Araza, Pineapple guava, Peach palm, Corozo palm, Bataua palm, Passion flower, Sweet calabash, Purple granadilla, Borojo, Genipap, Sapodilla, Lucuma, Mamey sapote, Ross sapote, Yellow star apple, Cocona, Potato varieties, Oca, Ulluco, Mashua, Arracacha, Maca, Yacon, Sweet potato, Arrowroot, Inchi, Sacha-Inchi, Sweet honey leaf and Sagu. (Attached is an annex showing the family, species and common name).
4. The most recent statistics from Colombia's departments show that Amazonian fruit is grown on some 60,000 hectares. Of these, the major crop grown is Arazá (32,615 hectares), followed by Patashte (14,234 hectares), Peach palm fruit (6,306 hectares) Amazonian pineapple (1,780 hectares) and Cocona (219 hectares), *inter alia*. The largest producers are the departments of Caquetá and Putumayo, where 2,469 and 1,972 farming families respectively depend on these products.
5. The European Communities' current measures for the import of traditional exotic foods have been complex and costly inasmuch as these products are considered to be new and it has to be shown that they have a history of safe consumption. Regulation (EC) No. 258/97 calls for a scientific

assessment, which requires large-scale investment that is not consonant with the volume and demand for these products in the European Market.

6. Streamlining and facilitating access to the European Market for exotic agricultural products currently affected by the "novel foods" Regulation and the result of biological diversity could help to boost alternative development programmes that complement the policies and strategies for banning and eradicating illicit crops. It is necessary to emphasize the internationally recognized principle of shared responsibility in combating drugs.

7. In developing these exotic products, *inter alia*, the Colombian Government, in the context of its policies aimed at resolving the problem of illicit crops by developing alternative crops, is pursuing several objectives including the productive, legal, peaceful and secure use of the land, the value of environmental goods and services, regional and global impacts, job creation and its contribution to ensuring equitable socio-economic conditions.

8. In any event, adapting the developing countries' range of exports forms part of the Doha Development Agenda and, consequently, should be part of the assistance programme approved by the General Council.

Annex

Species Selected as Likely to be Considered Novel Foods
Non-exhaustive list

FAMILY	SPECIES	COMMON NAME
CARICAEA	<i>Vasconcellea heilbornii cv</i>	Babaco
ARACEAE	<i>Xanthosoma sagittifolium(L)</i> <i>Schott</i>	Malanga
ANNONACEAE	<i>Rollinia mucosa</i>	Biriba
BOMBACACEAE	<i>Matisia cordata</i>	South American sapote
	<i>Patinoa admirajo</i>	Barbados gooseberry
	<i>Arthorcarpus sp</i>	Tarap
BROMELIACEAE	<i>Bromelia sp</i>	Piñuela
CACTACEAE	<i>Opuntia ficus Mill</i>	Barbary Fig
CARICACEAE	<i>C.pentagona</i>	Babaco
	<i>C.pubescens</i>	Mountain papaya
CARIOCARACEAS	<i>Caryocar villosum</i>	Piquia
CHRYSOBALANACEAE	<i>Cuepia sp</i>	Coupeia
STERCULIACEAE	<i>Theobroma bicolor</i>	Patashte
GUTIFERAS	<i>Mammea americana Jacq.</i>	Mamey apple
SAPINDACEAE	<i>Melicocca bijuga</i>	Spanish lime
LECYTHIDACEA	<i>Bertholletia excelsa HBK</i>	Brazil nut
LEGUMINOCEAE	<i>Oleiocarpum panamenses</i>	Choiba
MORACEAE		Amazon tree grape
	<i>Arthorcarpus sp</i>	Breadfruit
MYRTACEAE	<i>Myrciaria paraensis Berg.</i>	Camu – Camu
		Araza
	<i>Feijoa sellowiana</i>	Pineapple guava
	<i>Bactris gassipaes</i>	Peach palm
	<i>B. Minor</i>	Corozo palm
	<i>Jessenia bataua</i>	Bataua palm
PASSIFLORACEAE	<i>Passiflora serrato</i>	Passion flower
	<i>Passiflora. maliformis</i>	Sweet calabash
	<i>CONALENSIÓ MOLLISIMA.</i>	Purple granadilla
RUBIACEAE	<i>Borojoa patinoi</i>	Borojo
	<i>Genipa americana</i>	Genipap

FAMILY	SPECIES	COMMON NAME
SAPOTACEAE	<i>Achras sapota</i>	Sapodilla
	<i>Lucuma abovata</i>	Lucuma
	<i>Calocarpum mammosum</i> <i>Chrysumphylum</i>	Mamey sapote
	<i>Pouteria sp</i>	Ross sapote
	<i>Pouteria caimito</i>	Yellow star apple
SOLANACEAE	<i>Solanum sp</i>	Cocona
	<i>Solanum tuberosum spp.</i>	Potato varieties (i.e. phureja spp.)
<i>Oxalidaceae</i>	<i>Oxalis tuberosa Molina p</i>	Oca
<i>Basellaceae</i>	<i>Ullucus tuberosum Caldas s</i>	Ulluco
<i>Tropaeolaceae</i>	<i>R. & P.</i>	Mashua
<i>Umbelliferae</i>	<i>Arracacia xanthorrhiza p</i> <i>Bancroft</i>	Arracacha
<i>Cruciferae</i>	<i>Lepidium meyenii Walpers b</i>	Maca
<i>Compositae</i>	<i>Smallanthus sonchifolius P</i> <i>(Poepp. & Endl.)</i>	Yacon
<i>Convolvulaceae</i>	<i>Ipomoea batatas</i>	Sweet potato
<i>Cannaceae</i>	<i>Canna edulis</i>	Arrowroot
<i>Euphorbiaceae</i>	<i>Caryodendron orinocense</i> <i>Karsten</i>	Inchi
	<i>Plukenetia volubilis Linneo</i>	Sacha-inchi
	<i>Stevia rebaudiana</i>	Sweet honey leaf
	<i>Canna edulis</i>	Sagu