

Diplomatic relations between the Republic of Peru and the European Union

The diplomatic relations between Peru and the European Union (EU) started on 25 January 1961, when the EU was still the European Economic Community (EEC). Our country attaches special importance to the close relation with the EU, one of our main strategic partners, with which we share a common vision of values and principles.

The relation with the EU includes a wide and diverse bilateral agenda. This agenda includes topics such as trade and investments expansion; climate change; competitiveness; education; innovation; science and technology; among others. The political link is strengthened through the meetings of the Bilateral Consultation Mechanism and is accompanied by a framework for relations in the cooperation area (bilaterally and regionally).

On the regional level, Peru and the EU support a dialogue as part of the bi-regional CELAC-EU, CAN-EU dialogue and of the Pacific Alliance.

The key facts in the bilateral relation between Peru and the EU, over the last couple of years, include:

The Multiparty Trade Agreement (MTA)

The MTA between the EU and Peru came into force in 2013. Five years from that moment, both parties highlighted the Agreement's positive outcome and reaffirmed their willingness to keep boosting the optimal use of it. This agreement marks the beginning of a new stage in bilateral relations, for it includes issues that go beyond the economic and commercial field, enabling a momentum to new perspectives for cooperation and joint action in areas such as sustainable development, environment, industrial development, among others.

Bilateral Agreement on the short-stay visa waiver for the Schengen area

The Bilateral Agreement on the short-stay visa waiver for the Schengen area, which has been in force since 15 March 2016, has had a significant impact on tourism. In the agreement's first two years of existence, the number of Peruvian citizens travelling to Europe increased by about 40%. It is thought that by October 2017 there had been more than 380 000 Peruvian visitors. The main destinations were Spain (56%), Italy (13%), France (12%) and Germany (5%).