

Dates You Need To Know



November 18, 2003

The Bush Administration formally notifies Congress of its intent to enter into FTA negotiations with Colombia. USTR begins consultations with congressional committees, including the House Ways and Means and Senate Finance Committees regarding a potential FTA with Colombia.

May 18, 2004

Upon completion of the 90-day congressional consultation period required under Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), negotiations with Colombia begin.

February 27, 2006

United States and Colombia finalize the FTA.

August 24, 2006

The Bush Administration sends Congress a letter notifying its intent to sign the U.S.-Colombia FTA.

November 22, 2006

USTR and Colombian Trade Minister sign the U.S.-Colombia FTA.

May 10, 2007

The Bush Administration and Democratic leaders reach a bipartisan deal to clear a path to congressional approval of the Peru, Colombia, Panama, and South Korea FTAs by adding enhanced labor and environmental provisions.

June 14, 2007

Colombian legislature approves U.S.-Colombia FTA as originally drafted.

June 27-28, 2007

Congress extends (365 to 59 in the House and by Unanimous Consent in the Senate) one way, duty-free treatment to more than 90 percent of Colombian goods entering the U.S. market – leaving U.S. companies disadvantaged.

June 28, 2007

Colombian government signs Protocol of Amendments incorporating enhanced labor and environmental provisions agreed to as part of the May 10 compromise.

July 2, 2007

House leaders issue statement indicating they would be willing to consider the Colombia FTA once “concrete evidence of sustained results” in reducing violence and impunity in Colombia are shown.

- In 2007, President Uribe added more than 2,000 Colombians to its Ministry of Interior and Justice’s protection program. Today, more than 9,400 individuals – approximately one-fifth of whom are trade unionists – are receiving protection.
- In 2007, Colombia extradited 200 criminals to the United States. Since President Uribe took office in 2002, Colombia has extradited 720 criminals – mostly for drug trafficking – to the United States.

September 2007

Administration invites more than 400 members to join Cabinet-led trips to Colombia to see first-hand the progress made on labor and environmental fronts. Since then, 58 members – representing both parties – have participated.

October 3, 2007

General Barry McCaffrey (Ret.) releases report on the progress Colombia has made establishing the rule of law, eliminating drug production, reducing violence, and improving the safety and economic well-being of the Colombian people.

October 30, 2007

Colombian legislature approves FTA amendments to reflect the May 10 bipartisan agreement.

November 27, 2007

Center for Strategic and International Studies releases a report on Colombia's progress since 1999 in the areas of security, governance, peace process, human rights, narcotics, social issues, and economic issues.

January 18, 2008

President Uribe issues a special decree allocating \$50 million to the Prosecutor General's office to support 2,165 new positions to further strengthen its ongoing campaign against labor violence and impunity.

February 27-28, 2008

Congress again extends (by voice vote in House and by unanimous consent in Senate) one way, duty-free treatment to more than 90 percent of Colombian goods entering the U.S. market – leaving U.S. companies disadvantaged.

April 8, 2008

President Bush transmits FTA-implementing legislation to Congress.

April 10, 2008

House of Representatives votes to change the agreed-upon rules for consideration of the U.S.-Colombia FTA.

- 42 newspaper editorial boards around the country condemn the unprecedented action.

July 2, 2008

Colombia's military rescues 15 hostages, including three U.S. citizens who had been held hostage for years by the FARC.

August 2007 – September 2008

Bush Administration completes more than 500 contacts with members of Congress on the Colombia FTA.

October 2008

Congress again extends various trade preferential programs, which give duty-free treatment to more than 90 percent of Colombian goods entering the U.S. market – leaving U.S. companies disadvantaged.

692 (As of Monday, October 13, 2008)

Days since Colombia FTA signed, with no action taken by Congress

0

Hearings Congress has held on the Colombia FTA

\$1,256,000,000

Estimated tariffs imposed on U.S. exporters to Colombia since the FTA was signed. The FTA would eliminate tariffs.