



Over 440 European Parliament candidates pledge to support Fair Trade

5 June 2009 (Brussels) – Over 440 candidates running for the European Parliament elections have made a pledge to support Fair Trade and to ensure that the needs of marginalised producers and workers in the South are reflected across all European Union policy areas, if elected.

Sergi Corbalán, Coordinator of the Fair Trade Advocacy Office, a joint initiative of the four main Fair Trade networks WFTO, FLO, EFTA and NEWS!, stated:

“We are pleased to see that over 440 candidates, irrespective of their political group and country, have made a pledge to support Fair Trade. We look forward to the candidates’ support in bridging the gap between EU policies and EU citizens’ support for Fair Trade¹ and thank the candidates for their support. We would also like to thank all those Fair Trade organisations and individuals that have been approaching the political parties and candidates, engaging in debates and gaining support for Fair Trade”.

The objective of the *Pledge for Fair Trade* campaign was to raise awareness about the situation of marginalised producers and workers in the South and seek the political commitment to tackle the obstacles preventing marginalised producers and workers in the South to trade their way out of poverty.

The campaign was implemented with the active support of a large number of Fair Trade organisations and supportive individuals across Europe. Many activities at national and regional level took place in the context of the World Fair Trade Day, organized by the World Fair Trade Organization.

The list of candidates having made the pledge, as well as photos and personal statements, are available at: www.fairtrade-advocacy.org/pledge

The text of the pledge reads:

If elected as Member of the European Parliament (2009-2014):

I will strive to ensure that the European Parliament and other EU Institutions give, as far as possible, public support to Fair Trade.

In particular, I will do my best to ensure that the needs of marginalised producers and poor workers in the South are reflected across all EU policy areas and adequate EU support is made available for Fair Trade projects that help them to trade their way out of poverty.

The Fair Trade Advocacy Office speaks out for Fair Trade and trade justice with the aim to improve trading conditions for the benefit of small and marginalised producers and poor workers in developing countries. Based in Brussels, the office coordinates the advocacy activities of the four main Fair Trade Networks: Fairtrade Labelling Organizations International [FLO](#), World Fair Trade Organisation [WFTO](#), Network of European Worldshops [NEWS!](#) and European Fair Trade Association [EFTA](#). These four networks bring together over 1.5 million Fair Trade producers from more than 60 countries, 20 labelling initiatives, hundreds of specialized Fair Trade importers, 3000 worldshops and more than 100,000 volunteers.

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¹ For information on consumer support for Fair Trade, *Fair Trade 2007: new facts and figures from an ongoing success story* - Jean Marie Krier, prepared on behalf of DAWS, in cooperation with the WFTO, FLO, EFTA and NEWS!. Available under: www.fairtrade-advocacy.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=11&Itemid=13