

Press release

Brussels, February 10, 2026

OIDHACO warns: the European list of “safe countries of origin” threatens the right to asylum and human rights

The International Office for Human Rights – Action Colombia (OIDHACO) expresses its deep concern about today's decision by the European Parliament to vote in favor of the European Commission's proposal to draw up a common list of “safe countries of origin.” This proposal is part of the reform of the European Pact on Migration and Asylum, together with the “safe third country” proposal, which could restrict the right to asylum and weaken the European Union's commitment to fundamental rights.

“Considering certain countries as safe implies, de facto, denying many people the real possibility of seeking international protection. The European Union runs the risk of closing its doors to those fleeing violence and persecution,” said Vincent Vallies, spokesperson for OIDHACO.

Colombia cannot be considered a safe country

OIDHACO emphasizes that Colombia does not meet the conditions to be considered a safe country. In 2025, one human rights defender or social leader was murdered every two days (187 in total, of whom 27 were women). Colombia experienced 78 massacres this year alone, and so far in 2026, there have been 13 massacres. In 2025, the Ombudsman's Office identified the existence of at least ten illegal armed groups, exercising control over 73% of the national territory. These figures reflect structural violence that continues to seriously affect civil society. *“With the presence of illegal armed groups that control territories and decide people's lives, with the murder of a social leader every two days, with high levels of recruitment, use, and exploitation of children and adolescents, how can the European Union consider Colombia a safe country?”* asks Vincent Vallies.

Call to the European Union

OIDHACO urges the European Parliament, the Council, and the European Commission to establish migration policies that are truly based on the protection of human rights, and not just in rhetoric.

OIDHACO thanks all members of the European Parliament who have agreed to listen to the reality of the situation in the country and who have voted against this European regulation.

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OIDHACO – Oficina Internacional de Derechos Humanos – Acción Colombia www.oidhaco.org

The International Human Rights Office – Action Colombia – Oidhaco – is a network comprising more than 40 European and international organisations and platforms that promotes comprehensive respect for human rights, positive peacebuilding and fair and supportive social, economic and environmental relations between the EU, Switzerland, Norway, the United Kingdom and Colombia.