



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



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Mexico City, 13th-14th October 2008

1. The eighth meeting of the Joint Committee established Under the EU-Mexico Economic Partnership, Political Coordination and Cooperation Agreement (Global Agreement) was held in Ciudad de México, on 13-14 October 2008.
2. The Mexican Delegation was headed by Ms. Luz Maria DE LA MORA, head of the Economic Relations and International Cooperation Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs while the European Union Delegation was headed by Mr. Daniel PARFAIT, French Ambassador in Mexico in his capacity as representative of the French Presidency of the Council of the European Union and Mr. Joao AGUIAR MACHADO, Deputy Director General of the External Relations Directorate General in the European Commission.

P R E S S

Strategic Partnership

3. The Strategic Partnership was introduced by Mr. Daniel Parfait and Mr. Joao Aguiar Machado for the EU side, and for the Mexican side by M. José Ignacio Madrazo.
4. Both sides commended yesterday's approval by the General Affairs and Foreign Relations Council of the EU of the Council Conclusions on launching a Strategic Partnership between the EU and Mexico. They noted that the progressive consolidation and diversification of the bilateral relations have made evident the advantage of establishing closer political ties, and stressed that the Strategic Partnership will increase the quality and level of the relations and will provide a new impetus to bilateral cooperation in all fields.
5. Mexico expressed satisfaction with the Council's decision and acknowledged that the Conclusions adopted reflect both sides' commitment to advance to a new stage of their relationship. Both parties agreed that the Strategic Partnership will operate on the basis of the current Global Agreement, that proved appropriate and successful, and will complement it by focusing mainly on fostering cooperation and coordination between the two parties on the multilateral stage. To fully gain from the strategic effect of this new joint commitment, both parties agreed to start joint reflection on a set of concrete actions to follow up this major development.

Political Dialogue

6. The political dialogue session was chaired, on the Mexican side, by Dra Luz María de la Mora, Head of Unit for Economic Relations and International Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The European Union side was chaired by Mr. Daniel PARFAIT.
7. Both parties highlighted the benefits that the Global Agreement has produced since its entry into effect and commended the progress achieved since the last Joint Committee.
8. Mexico and the EU welcomed the upcoming Third Forum "Dialogue between the Civil Society and Institutions of the Mexican Government and the EU" which will take place next November in Brussels, as a privileged space for dialogue and consultation with civil society.
9. With regard to international migration, Mexico and the EU stressed the importance of respecting the Human Rights of migrants and agreed to engage into a more regular and comprehensive dialogue within the EU-LAC framework that addresses the multidimensional aspects of migration, the common challenges that both parties face today and on areas where we can exchange experiences and best practices.

10. Both parties exchanged views on the situation of human rights in Mexico and in the countries of the EU, aiming to bolster a political dialogue that emphasizes cooperation and reciprocity in this area, exchange experiences on specific issues and identify good practices and appropriate public policies. With regard to human rights on the multilateral stage, both sides agreed to intensify and expand their coordination when drafting resolutions of mutual interest within the General Assembly and Human Rights Council of the UN.
11. Both sides expressed satisfaction for the substantial co-operation within the framework of the Human Rights Council. Furthermore, they expressed their satisfaction for the undertaking of the first two cycles of the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism and shared the understanding that the litmus test for the effectiveness of this process will be the implementation of the relevant recommendations by the States under review. The EU side took note of Mexico's candidature to the Human Rights Council for the 2009-2012 period.
12. Mexico and the EU expressed strong belief that all countries, need to work together to tackle climate change, according to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. Both parties reiterated their commitment to step up the pace of negotiations in order to reach an ambitious, comprehensive and global agreed outcome at the 15th session of the Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC, based on the four pillars of the Bali Action Plan: mitigation, adaptation, technology and financing. The EU welcomed the Mexican proposal to establish a World Climate Change Fund aimed at providing positive incentives to countries willing to enhance their mitigation and adaptation actions.
13. Mexico and the EU reiterated their commitment to continue joint work and develop concrete actions in the fight against illicit drugs, mainly within the framework of the XX UNGASS but also by reinforcing the EU-LAC Mechanism of Coordination and Cooperation. Both parties agree to contribute to the strengthening of this Mechanism in view of increasing its efficiency.
14. Mexico and the EU unequivocally condemned all terrorist actions. Regarding fight against terrorism, Mexico and the EU expressed their commitment to fully respect international law, in particular Human Rights law, refugees' law and international humanitarian law. Both sides emphasized the importance to enhance bilateral cooperation in security matters, such as combating terrorism, organized crime, arms' control, drug and human trafficking and also to establish greater coordination in multilateral fora on these issues. In the same context, the parties reaffirmed their support to have a universal and legally binding instrument about arms trade control, as well as the efforts to achieve full implementation of the UN Program of Action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade of Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its aspects. Furthermore, Mexico and the EU decided to explore ways for improved coordination on disarmament and non-proliferation, in the framework of the UN's First Committee.

15. Both parties recognized the importance of the Institutionalized Ministerial Dialogue EU-Rio Group and reiterated their commitment to strengthen it.

Cooperation

16. The session on Cooperation issues was chaired, on the Mexican side, by M. Luz Maria de la Mora, head of the Economic Relations and International Cooperation Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The European Union Delegation was headed by Mr. Petros MAVROMICHALIS Head of Unit, responsible for Relations with Mexico and Central America, DG External Relations, assisted by Ms. Ana Pumares, Desk Mexico DG AIDCO.
17. Both parties took note of the progress achieved in current projects in the fields of social development, economic cooperation and science and technology. The parties furthermore underlined the positive results of PRODESIS implementation and agreed to explore the possibility of continuing it with a second phase in the 2007-2013 Cooperation Programme.
18. In economic cooperation, both parties noted the recent progress in the PIAPYME project implementation, and Mexico's underscored non-expected contribution of 41.2 million pesos, which increased the number of companies (from 1,800 to four thousand) enjoying the benefits of this project.
19. Furthermore, both parties expressed satisfaction with the progress made by the Capacity Building project for the Free Trade Agreement between Mexico and the EC (PROTLCUEM), especially in terms of successful activities and allocation budgetary resources, also dissemination of actions targeting small and medium-sized enterprises at federal and state level. An addendum aiming to implement certain aspects not included in the first phase, is under preparation and could be approved in the next days.
20. With regards to science and technology, both parties highlighted the progress of the International Cooperation Fund for Science and Technology FONCICYT programme and its successful first call that attracted a great number of high-quality applications. The parties acknowledged the opportunities created under this cooperation programme to improve Mexican participation in the EC's Seventh Framework Programme. Both parties expressed their satisfaction with the Cooperation Agreement on Science & Technology and agreed to hold the next meeting of the Joint EC-Mexico Committee on Science and Technology Cooperation in Mérida, Yucatán in March 2009.
21. Mexico and the EU expressed satisfaction with the signature of the Financing Agreement for the second phase of the Human Rights Programme between the EC and Mexico, 2008-2010. Its main goal is to define actions to support eradication of gender violence, administration of justice for indigenous people, reforms of the Mexico's judicial system and human rights training for civil servants.

22. The Parties took note of the launching of the Mexico "Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window" (EMECW) that aim to foster student and academic mobility between Mexican and European universities. Furthermore, Mexico and the EU agreed to continue negotiations to create a Joint Cultural Fund in 2009, to encourage projects facilitate a cultural policy dialogue, as well as gender equality and civil rights. For 2009, particular attention will be given to projects that will be part of Mexico's Independence Bicentenary celebration and the hundred anniversary of the Mexican Revolution, both in 2010.
23. Both parties confirmed their interest in launching a sectoral policy dialogue in education, culture and youth. Mexico confirmed that the Commission's draft Joint Declarations proposals are under review by its experts.
24. Mexico and the EU welcomed the launching of the bilateral cooperation programme on social cohesion Policy Dialogues, focusing on health, social security and taxation. In addition, they announced the first joint seminar on labour law reform, and health which will take place in the first quarter of 2009.
25. Both parties agreed to continue working on the policy dialogue on environment and climate change. They agreed to hold a meeting in the first quarter of 2009 in Mexico City.
26. With regard to civil aviation, Mexico and the EU expressed their willingness to sign and formalize the Agreement on certain aspects of Air Services, once each Party has fulfilled its domestic requirements.

Trade and trade related issues

27. The session on Trade issues was chaired, on the Mexican side, by Mr. Eduardo Ramos Avalos, Assistant Secretary for Trade Negotiations of the Ministry of Economy, while the European Union Delegation was headed by Mr. Philipp Dupuis, Deputy Head of Unit, Trade Relations with the Americas, Trade Directorate General, European Commission.
 28. Both parties discussed the progress achieved under the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) which clearly shows its positive effects. Since its entry into force in 2000, bilateral trade has been constantly growing and has reached the record level of more than 50 billion USD in 2007 (36 billion euros), representing a growth rate of more than 170%, accompanied by increased flows of trade in services and foreign direct investment.
 29. Regarding the multilateral framework, the EU and Mexico gave their full support to the WTO negotiations and agreed to further deepen cooperation in this forum with a view to reach an ambitious, balanced and comprehensive deal within the Doha Development Agenda.
 30. Both delegations took stock of FTA's special committees' activities, particularly in the areas of customs and rules of origin, technical standards, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, government procurement, intellectual property and steel, and advised the technical experts to continue work on pending specific issues.
 31. Both parties examined the state of play of the FTA review clauses regarding agriculture and fishery products, services, and investment. They took note of the entry into force of Decision 1/2008 related to the framework for Mutual Recognition Agreement on Services and jointly agreed to intensify the efforts in order to achieve further progress in those areas, in view of the deadlines set in the FTA.
 32. Mexico and the EU expressed satisfaction with the formalisation process of the FTA adaptations following accession of Bulgaria and Romania to the EU, including the adoption and entry into force of Decision 2/2008 on goods and all the work done in order to adopt the Decision in the field of services and welcomed its imminent publication.
 33. The next meeting of the Joint Committee will take place in the second half of 2009 in Brussels.
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