

THE NEGOTIATION AND LEGAL INSTRUMENTS

[Chronology](#)

Free Trade Agreement between Mexico and the European Union

The Free Trade Agreement between Mexico and the EU, which entered into force on July 1st 2000, is a key section of one of the most ambitious foreign policy instrument ever put in place in Mexico: the Economic Partnership, Political Co-ordination and Cooperation Agreement between Mexico and the European Union, known as the Global Agreement. The promotion of the political dialogue, the reinforcement of bilateral cooperation, and the liberalization of trade and services –the three sections of the Global Agreement-, will bring an unprecedented dynamic to the Mexico-EU relationship.

In political-related matters, the agreement institutionalizes the high-level political dialogue, providing Mexico with a privileged forum to intensify cooperation, promote shared objectives through joint initiatives on a worldwide scale, in matters such as peace, security and regional development.

In the cooperation section, the Global Agreement encourages initiatives in twenty-nine sectors, including, training and education; social matters; refugees; human rights; democracy; society of information; battle against drugs; and poverty.

In trade-related matters, the Global Agreement has laid the basis for the negotiation of the Free Trade Agreement between Mexico and the EU. This accord is the most ambitious trade agreement ever negotiated by the Union. It provides for a complete elimination of tariffs on industrial products, at latest, by 1 January 2007; seeks to take full advantage of complementary export interests in the agricultural sector; and establishes a legal framework for the liberalization of the services market, the promotion of direct investment flows, the protection of intellectual property rights, the opening of government purchases, and the settlement of trade disputes.

Chronology of the Mexico - European Union Free Trade Agreement	
8 December 1997	Mexico and the EU sign the three instruments serving as legal basis for the new bilateral relation: a Global Agreement , an Interim Agreement and a Final Act .
23 April 1998	The Mexican Senate unanimously approves the Interim Agreement.
13 May 1998	The European Parliament approves the Interim Agreement.
1 July 1998	The Interim Agreement enters into force.
14 July 1998	Creation of the Joint Committee of the Interim Agreement. Start of free trade agreement negotiations.
From November 1998 to November 1999 nine technical rounds of negotiation were alternatively held in Mexico City and in Brussels.	
6 May 1999	The European Parliament approves the Global Agreement.
24 November 1999	After nine technical rounds, the negotiation of the free trade agreement concludes. Press release
16 March 2000	The European Parliament gives a favorable opinion on the results of the free trade negotiation.
20 March 2000	The Senate approves the Global Agreement and the results of the free trade negotiation The European Committee approves the results of the goods negotiation.
23 March 2000	Sitting of the Joint Committee of the Interim Agreement and adoption of the goods negotiation results. Signature of the Lisbon declaration on the new association between Mexico and the European Union.
1 July 2000	Entry into force of the agreement (goods). Text of the Mexico - EU FTA

27 February 2001	Sitting of the Joint Committee of the Global agreement and adoption of the trade in services, movements of capital and related payments, and intellectual property subjects. Joint press release
1 March 2001	Trade in services, movements of capital and payments, intellectual property, and government procurement enter into force. The political and cooperation aspects of the Global Agreement enter also into force. From this day on, all the legal instruments of the agreement are in force.
2 October 2001	First meeting of the Mexico - EU Joint Committee. Joint press release
13 May 2002	Second meeting of the Mexico - EU Joint Council. Joint press release
18 May 2002	First Mexico - EU Summit. Press release
3 October 2002	Second meeting of the Mexico - EU Joint Committee. Joint press release
26 November 2002	First EU-Mexico Civil Society Forum . Joint press release
27 March 2003	Third meeting of the Mexico - EU Joint Council. Joint press release