

EU-Mexico Human Rights Dialogue

As part of the Joint Executive Plan of the Strategic Partnership between the parties, the second meeting of EU-Mexico Human Rights Dialogue was held in Brussels today, thanks to the presence in Europe of a high-level Mexican delegation.

The meeting was chaired on the part of Mexico, by the Secretary of State for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, Ambassador Juan Manuel Gómez Robledo, and on the part of the EU by Ms. Véronique Arnault, Head of the Human Rights and Democracy Department of the European External Action Service (EEAS).

On the Mexican side, the Secretaries of State for Human Rights of the Ministry of Interior and of the Ministry of Public Security also participated, as well as representatives of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence, the Attorney General's Office and the National Women's Institute, participated in the Dialogue. On the European side senior officials from the EEAS and Directorates-General for Justice, DEVCO and Home Affairs were present.

The main purpose of the meeting was to exchange views on the respective human rights situations and foster bilateral cooperation in this area. Mexico presented the recent developments in human rights and legislative reforms, including on the criminal justice and the military. The dialogue also provided the venue to discuss recent legal and institutional developments including the constitutional reform, the protection of human rights defenders, the prevention of gender violence and compliance with international standards.

The European Union presented the developments related to the EU's human rights architecture following the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty and the monitoring of the implementation of the EU Charter on Fundamental Rights. The dialogue addressed also issues concerning the promotion and protection of human rights of migrants as well as matters related to anti-discrimination policy.

In assessing the current state of cooperation on human rights between Mexico and the European Union, both parties agreed on the need to further strengthen such cooperation, at the bilateral level, notably through the Social Cohesion Laboratory and the joint programme of co-operation but also at the multilateral level.