



**11th Joint Committee European Union – Mexico
Brussels, 26-27 October 2011**

1. The Eleventh meeting of the Joint Committee, established under the Mexico-European Union (EU) Economic Partnership, Political Coordination and Cooperation agreement - “Global Agreement”, was held in Brussels on 26-27 October 2011.
2. The Mexican delegation was headed by Mr. Rogelio Granguillhome Morfin, Managing Director of the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXID) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while the European Delegation was headed by Mr. Christian Leffler, Managing Director for the Americas at the European External Action Service (EEAS).

Strategic Partnership

3. Both Parties reaffirmed their satisfaction with progress made in their relations, and their commitment to further expand bilateral cooperation. They agreed that the institutional mechanisms in force have allowed a fluid and open exchange of views as well as concrete cooperation on major issues of the bilateral and international agenda.
4. Both Parties expressed the high value they attach to the Joint Executive Plan (JEP) of the Strategic Partnership, adopted in the framework of the V Mexico – European Union Summit, held in Comillas (Spain) on May 16 2010, which sets the basis for joint work on a number of bilateral projects of cooperation and for strengthening dialogue and facilitating the coordination in the multilateral arena.
5. In this context, they noted with satisfaction the progress and cooperation made in the implementation of the Joint Executive Plan, notably in the area of human rights, with two High level dialogues having been held in 2010 and 2011.
6. Also, the Parties took stock of the 1st EU-Mexico High level dialogue on Security that was held in Brussels on 15th July 2011. It was agreed to establish permanent contact between security and law enforcement agencies from Mexico and the EU, strengthen bilateral cooperation on the fight against trafficking of persons and drugs, pursue a closer relation between Mexican police authorities and Europol, collaborate fully in the implementation of the Guatemala Summit conclusions; and it was determined to set up an efficient mechanism to manage this forum.
7. Concerning human rights, the Parties agreed that a specific civil society seminar will be held just ahead of the next human rights dialogue, foreseen in Mexico in the 1st quarter of 2012. Also, the EU noted the Human Rights constitutional reform approved in Mexico this year and the achievement it represents.
8. Mexico and the European Union also confirmed that the first meeting of the Macroeconomic Dialogue will be held back-to-back with the G20 Finance Deputies'

meeting in Mexico early 2012. This would be a suitable opportunity to exchange views on bilateral macroeconomic issues and on Mexico's priorities for the G20.

9. The Parties will continue the joint work in order to ensure a swift and concrete follow-up to these dialogues.
10. The Parties also discussed plans to enhance cooperation in other areas of their bilateral relationship hitherto less developed.
11. On regional development, Both Parties expressed their interest to explore future joint actions, including establishing a sectoral dialogue on regional policy.
12. Mexico and the EU were pleased about the current on-going cooperation on nuclear safety, with the signing of two Financing Agreements in July 2011, on the management of spent fuel and radioactive waste in Mexico and on the Nuclear Safety cooperation with the Regulatory Authorities (CNSNS National Commission for Nuclear Safety and Safeguard).
13. Both parties underlined the contacts established in order to start the exchange of information on epidemiology and public health and the relevance of current activities in statistical cooperation.
14. Both Parties agreed to explore possibilities of triangular cooperation projects on electoral matters that could develop and enhance technical capabilities and capacity building in Latin American and African countries.
15. On the fight against drugs and organised crime, the Delegations agreed to re-activate the existing agreement on cooperation regarding the control of precursors and chemical substances used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs, and to examine ways to improve cooperation on both supply and demand reduction.
16. The two sides reaffirmed their endeavor to cooperate and exchange best practices on higher education and culture through targeted policy dialogue activities.

Political Dialogue

17. Delegations referred to the increased coordination in multilateral fora. In this context, the Parties had a fruitful exchange of views on some of the most important pressing issues of the international agenda, in particular on the Middle East Peace process and on North Africa recent events.
18. They also reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen their bilateral dialogue on macroeconomic matters, in order to exchange points of view, enhance mutual understanding and promote coordination in the various fora that address the social economic and financial issues of global importance, in particular in the context of the upcoming G20 Mexican Presidency. The EU confirmed its intention to support Mexico during its G20 Presidency.
19. On climate change, the Parties shared views on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) negotiations, in particular on the implementation of the Cancun Agreements and on how to achieve an ambitious, comprehensive and legally binding outcome of the multilateral negotiations engaging all countries according to common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, in accordance with international commitments. They stressed that COP 17 must be a decisive step in the establishment of the post 2012 climate regime. Furthermore, both actors agreed to cooperate in order to overcome negotiation deadlocks and build common understandings to achieve a successful outcome in Durban.

20. Concerning the upcoming UN Rio+20 Conference on Sustainable Development, both Parties discussed ongoing preparatory work and priorities, and highlighted the opportunities of moving towards a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, as well as to improve international environmental governance. EU and Mexico reiterated their joint commitment to achieve a successful and ambitious outcome in the conference and beyond. They expressed their satisfaction on the fruitful discussions and shared vision to promote green economy and sustainable development and undertook to cooperate further in the preparations for the upcoming conference.
21. Mexico and the EU recognized the importance of the bi-regional relationship. The Parties had a comprehensive exchange of views about preparations of the 2012 EU/LAC Summit, to be held in Santiago de Chile on 7-8 June, and about LAC regional integration processes, in particular on CELAC prospects and on the "Alianza del Pacífico", which seeks the establishment of an area of deep integration between Mexico, Chile, Colombia and Peru. The Parties conferred that the proposed theme, *"Alliance for Sustainable Development: Promoting Investments of Social and Environmental Quality"*, is particularly relevant and should lead to a productive debate.

Cooperation

22. The Parties underlined their satisfaction for the high quality cooperation among them on social cohesion, which continues to be a priority for the relationship within the EU and the Mexican government. A series of exchanges on social cohesion policies have been launched between Mexico and the EU through the project "EU-Mexico Social Cohesion Policy Dialogues". The good progress in this project has facilitated the development of the project "Social Cohesion Laboratory I" which includes three complementary results. The first targets, at federal level, policy making and implementation in the fields of urban poverty and development, decentralisation of social development programmes, health systems, social protection, and tax administration. In addition, it provides specific support for the mainstreaming of four crosscutting areas of particular relevance to social cohesion, i.e. transparency, gender, indigenous peoples as well as the fight against discrimination, into policy making and implementation in the above mentioned sectors. The second result reflects the important role of Non State Actors (NSA) in the process of social sector structural reform, in particular at federal level, by providing tailor-made grant schemes for civil society organisations active in the field of social cohesion as well as in the four before mentioned crosscutting areas. The programme's third result represents a local, micro-regional dimension of the action and focuses on the development of an integrated model for the sustainable social development of Chiapas' marginalised Sierra region. The inception phase of the project was supported by six experts and culminated in the design of key planning documents as well as in first concrete project results (call for NSA proposals in Ciudad Juárez; institutional support to INDESOL; "Plan Rector" for Sierra region in Chiapas, etc).
23. The "Social Cohesion Laboratory I" will be further developed with a sequel project which is currently under review. The project will target social cohesion key areas such as human rights, access to justice and security activities at federal level, as well as an integrated line of actions in specific social cohesion related sectors at Mexico's State level (in Oaxaca and San Luis Potosí). The "Social Cohesion Laboratory II" will focus on a very recent approach pursued by Mexico in the field of crime prevention, and the social mitigation of their causes and effects. A Commission Decision on this project is expected in the course of 2012.

24. The Parties acknowledged that human rights cooperation has shown to be an instrumental issue for both Parties. The bilateral cooperation in human rights is closely interlinked with the High-level EU–Mexico Dialogue in Human Rights. The Parties showed appreciation for the EU-Mexico Human Rights Project which has achieved important results, positively impacting in the promotion and defence of human rights in Mexico. It has supported different strategic initiatives, and achieved its significant goals to promote and facilitate various legislative and public policy reforms in accordance with selected international human rights standards, at both the federal and local level. In the light of the success of this programme, the Parties will strengthen the cooperation in human rights through a second chapter of the social cohesion project as a tool to reinforce the bilateral dialogue.
25. Concerning economic cooperation, Mexico and the EU stressed the importance of continuing to strengthen their economic trade and business relations. At this occasion, both Parties expressed their willingness to increase competitiveness and innovation processes of Mexican Small and Medium Size Enterprises (SMEs) in order to facilitate their access to the EU market. To this end, over the next four years the Economic Competitiveness programme PROCEI will aim at strengthening innovation and technology transfer processes, at increasing the Mexican export capacity, in particular through better access to the EU market, and strengthening the information systems through the creation of the EU-Mexico Business Intelligence System. This programme will greatly benefit Mexican SMEs by boosting their competitiveness. The Delegations also expressed their satisfaction regarding the successful closure in June of the Trade Facilitation project PROTLCUEM co-financed by the federal government and the European Commission.
26. The Parties acknowledged that research cooperation has become an important element in the overall EU-Mexico relationship. Cooperation in science and technology is accompanied by an important and dynamic policy dialogue. In this context the Fifth meeting of the Joint Steering Committee that will be held next November in Mexico is a step forward to explore ways to develop a more strategic partnership by increasing the scale and scope of existing bilateral cooperation, and increase regional cooperation where appropriate (EU-LAC process). Both parties agreed that the FONCICYT project co-financed by the EU and Mexico has represented an excellent opportunity to boost the collaboration in R&D between the EU and Mexico. The EU recognises the commitment of CONACYT (for its acronym in Spanish, the National Council for Science and Technology), which led to the delivery of expected outcomes.
27. Both Parties highly value their cooperation under the Erasmus Mundus Programme, which has allowed promoting and enhancing cooperation between European and Mexican universities and the participation of students in Joint Masters and doctoral programmes. They recognize the importance of higher education for economic and social development. The EU and Mexico also greatly appreciate the contacts promoted through other programmes such as Marie Curie, Jean Monnet or Youth in Action, as they open avenues of mutual understanding.
28. Both Parties stressed the potential for increased Mexican participation in these programmes and the necessity to further raise awareness on the possibilities offered to students, staff, teachers, researchers and higher education and research institutions under these programmes. In this context, they welcomed the success of the EuroPosgrados Students' Fair, which took place in Guadalajara, Querétaro and Mérida between 4 and 8 October.

29. The parties highlighted the progress made in the context of the policy dialogue on education, particularly Mexico's participation in the International Quality Assurance Conference, to be held on 14-15 December; and the launch of a joint study on transparency tools in higher education. These are concrete results from the Senior Officials' Meeting on higher education held on 23 November 2010 in Mexico City.
30. The Parties also welcomed Mexico's increasing participation in the Marie Curie research programme. So far, 34 Mexican researchers were funded by the Marie Curie actions under the Seventh Framework Programme, and there are currently also 31 Mexican institutions participating in the Marie Curie Actions. Calls to be launched in 2012 will allow Mexican organisations to participate in research networks and to host European researchers. Mexican researchers will also be able to participate in the programme. In addition, Mexican doctoral candidates will be able to participate in Innovative Doctoral Programmes (IDP) and in the European Industrial Doctorates (EID). The first action will fund innovative, interdisciplinary and intersectoral doctoral trainings. The second one will support doctoral trainings jointly supervised, by both an academic institution and a commercial research enterprise.
31. Both Parties expressed satisfaction regarding the preparations of the First meeting of the Sectorial Dialogue on Culture, in Mexico City, on 2 December 2011, which will address the priorities of the 2009 joint declaration on culture and in particular the diversity of cultural expressions and the enabling environment for cultural industries. This meeting is set to follow a seminar on publishing, due to take place on 1 December to facilitate the networking of EU and Mexican publishing industries. The Parties pointed out that the Second Phase Mexico Cultural Fund is a fundamental instrument of bilateral cooperation which seeks to enrich the cultural dialogue, to promote projects that make the cultural offer available to all sectors of society, as well as to foster more access for cultural minorities.
32. The Parties were also pleased about the recent start-up of three new cooperation projects between Mexico and the EU, in particular to support Mexico's low-emission development strategy; to work on the measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of greenhouse gas emissions; and to link watershed management projects in several Mexican states with Mexico's national REDD+ strategy.
33. Both Parties expressed satisfaction for the discussions during the Third EU-Mexico High-Level Dialogues on Environment and Climate Change, held in Brussels on 14-15th July 2011. The High-Level Dialogue on the Environment highlighted the need for greening the global economy, discussed the outcomes of the UN Rio+20 Conference and followed up on the post-Nagoya Agreement on Biodiversity. It covered also topics such as forest law enforcement governance and trade (FLEGT), the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, mercury and the Basel Convention. The High-Level Dialogue on Climate Change covered the international negotiations and the bilateral cooperation on climate change. The EU and Mexico will explore working together on the economic modelling of climate policies and intensifying their policy dialogue on the design and implementation of REDD+ policies.
34. In order to support the Central American Security Strategy, the European Union and Mexico agreed to promote joint cooperation initiatives on matters of common interest, particularly technical assistance and exchange of experiences and good practices, which will be followed under the Sectorial Dialogue on Public Safety and Law Enforcement EU-Mexico, as well as the "Group of Friends" of the Central American Security Strategy.

35. Both Parties expressed satisfaction with the initiative from COPARMEX to create the Mexican-European Union Commission (working group) in Business Europe and the Euro-Mexican Business Foundation and convey their support for these proposals which will contribute to strengthen the bilateral economic relations.
36. As a follow-up to the Horizontal Aviation Agreement signed on 15 December 2010, Mexico and the EC exchanged documents related to the launch of an EC-Mexico Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen collaboration in the field of Air Traffic Management.

Trade

37. With regard to the session on Trade and Trade related Issues, works were led, on the Mexican Party, by Manuel Luna, General Director for Europe of the Ministry of the Economy and, on the European Union Party, by Matthias Jorgensen, deputy Head of Unit for relations with Latin America of the Directorate-General for Trade of the European Commission.
38. The Parties underlined the positive trends in bilateral trade and investment flows. In 2010, the merchandise trade flows between the EU and Mexico reached 34.5 billion euros¹ (47.1 billion dollars²), almost reaching the pre-crisis levels. This, coupled with the positive investment data, with flows of nearly 99 billion US dollars³ over the 1999-2010 period, confirms the importance of the FTA for facilitating trade and investment. The Parties exchanged information on their respective FTA negotiations with third countries.
39. The Parties noted with grave concern the precarious state of the WTO Doha Development Round negotiations. They reaffirmed their commitment towards an active process of multilateral trade liberalisation that contributes to the recovery and rebalancing of the global economy. They urged WTO members to develop a solid roadmap for advancing the negotiations towards conclusion issue by issue on their own merit, on the basis of "early harvest", as paragraph 47 of the Doha mandate allows. The Parties considered that such a roadmap should deliver concrete results within a meaningful timeframe, including on Trade Facilitation, removing non-tariff barriers improving the functioning of the Dispute Settlement Mechanism as well as on targeted "critical mass" initiatives in industry and services under the most favoured nation principle. They also agreed that particular emphasis should be put on addressing the specific needs of the Least Developed Countries.
40. On the issue of sustainable supply of raw materials, the Parties recognised that it is crucial to strengthen raw materials markets through ongoing efforts to improve transparency, enhance development and ensure that natural resources are exploited sustainably and responsibly, in a context of growing interdependence of nations, with each country being in turn importer and exporter, producer and consumer. Moreover, the Parties discussed the scope for active cooperation on raw materials in plurilateral and multilateral settings.
41. The Parties reviewed the issues under consideration in the special committees established in the framework of the FTA, and encouraged technical experts to continue the work to resolve outstanding problems so as to facilitate trade and increase economic opportunities for operators.

¹ Eurostat

² Banco de México

³ Mexican Ministry of Economy

42. The Parties agreed on continuing the dialogue on the problems that have affected the economic operators in relation to the payment of taxes through custom brokers, with the aim to find a satisfactory solution for all the parties involved as soon as possible, in conformity with the Mexican legislation. The Parties noted that improvements have been made on customs procedures, such as introducing new measures to facilitate the payment of duties and taxes directly by the companies.
43. As regards sanitary and phyto-sanitary (SPS) issues, Mexico and the European Union confirmed their determination to establish and implement transparent SPS import conditions that take into account the recommendations of the international standard organizations. Mexico and the EU also confirmed their intention to establish procedures to facilitate the trade (i.e. on approval procedure of establishments, regionalisation) between the Parties without jeopardizing the respective levels of SPS protection. The Parties welcomed the final approval of the import conditions for pig semen and pig meat.
44. As regards cooperation within the Special Committee on Standards and Technical Regulations the Parties took note of the work done and encouraged technical services to maintain an open and collaborative approach with the aim to progress, where possible, with the recognition of equivalence of technical regulations and conformity-assessment procedures of the other Party in the area of electronic products. The Parties agreed also to continue cooperation and exchange of good practices on health products. The Parties reiterated their commitment to internationally-agreed procedures in these fields.
45. The Parties agreed on their common interest in deepening the mutual trade liberalization through the provisions of the review clauses of the EU-Mexico Free Trade Agreement on agriculture, services and investment. The Parties underlined their commitment to continuing this process and envisaged the possibility to enlarge the scope of the reviews to other areas in order to reach ambitious results in conformity with the interests of each Party.
46. The Parties exchanged views on the correct application of the procedures established by the EU-Mexico FTA on the verification of proof of origin, in particular concerning the garlic sector. It was agreed that the EU would reply as soon as possible to the concerns raised by Mexico.
47. Mexico expressed its great interest in the EC proposal COM (2010) 0542 for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the approval and market surveillance of two- or three-wheel vehicles and quadri-cycles. The EU offered to maintain a regular exchange of information on the development of the new legislation.
48. The Parties exchanged views on the new opportunities for bilateral trade and investments following the possible accession of new Member States to the EU in 2013 and the corresponding adaptation of the FTA.
49. The Parties welcomed the celebration on March 30th 2011 of the Joint Committee of the EU-MEX Spirits Agreement, thus reactivating the discussions in that particular forum. They took stock of the current state-of-play regarding trade in spirits and discussed concrete difficulties encountered by them and ways to overcome them. The fruitful discussion that took place in this meeting is set to be continued in the next committee, to be hosted by Mexico.
50. The EU congratulated Mexico on the work carried out by the Mexican competition Authority and the steps to translate this into action at the regulatory level.

51. As a follow up to the Fourth Forum of Dialogue between Civil Society and Government Institutions of Mexico and the EU, which took place on 25 and 26 October 2010 in Mexico City, the Parties issued a joint reply to the recommendations put forward by civil society organisations.
52. The EU and Mexico exchanged points of view on off-shore safety, as both have significant experience in this field, and on implementation of energy reforms.
53. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Joint Committee will be held in Mexico, in the second semester of 2012.