

I Mexico - European Union Summit

Press release, Madrid, 18 May 2002

The first Mexico-European Union Summit under the Economic Partnership, Political Coordination and Cooperation Agreement between the two parties was held in Madrid on 18 May 2002.

The Summit was attended by the President of Mexico, Mr Vicente Fox, the Prime Minister of Spain, Mr José María Aznar, in his capacity as President-in-Office of the European Council, and the Prime Minister of Denmark, Mr Anders Fogh Rasmussen, assisted by the EU's High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Mr Javier Solana, and the President of the European Commission, Mr Romano Prodi.

The leaders emphasised the importance of the meeting and agreed to hold similar meetings in the future in the context of EU-Latin America Summits, or by prior agreement.

They exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest.

They re-stated their belief that interregional dialogue provides an ideal forum for addressing the main issues on the current global agenda. They confirmed their commitment to the United Nations and reaffirmed their belief that the strengthening of multilateral institutions and the implementation of international law help to achieve international security, prosperity and well-being.

They confirmed their rejection of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and undertook to continue combating this scourge.

They re-stated their commitment to the promotion and full implementation of all human rights, bearing in mind their universal, indivisible and interdependent nature, in accordance with the provisions set out in the UN Charter and the human rights instruments agreed internationally, as well as in the 1993 Vienna Declaration on Human Rights.

The leaders welcomed the results of the recent Summit on Development Financing in Monterrey, Mexico, and renewed their commitment to helping to implement them.

After reviewing the main aspects of the bilateral partnership, they welcomed the results obtained during the first 18 months of the Economic Partnership, Political Coordination and Cooperation Agreement between Mexico and the European Union.

The leaders, convinced of the need to strengthen political co-ordination and co-operation measures between the sides, decided to enhance contacts at high level in order to step up relations between Mexico and the EU.

The arrangements will be established by common agreement within the framework of the Association Agreement.

They highlighted the need to deepen political dialogue at all levels in areas of mutual interest and in accordance with the provisions of the Economic Partnership, Political Coordination and Cooperation Agreement, particularly in the headquarters in Brussels, New York, Geneva and Vienna, and in the processes preparing for the main United Nations conferences.

They conducted a detailed analysis of the results of bilateral economic relations and undertook to identify measures enabling these relations to be strengthened even further.

With regard to trade, the leaders noted with satisfaction that bilateral trade had grown by 28,6% during the first eighteen months of this Agreement. Mexican exports to the Union had increased by 44,1%, while European sales to the Mexican market had grown by 23,1%.

They also noted with satisfaction that the Mexican and European private sectors had decided to launch an ambitious initiative, the Mexico-EU Business Forum, the objective of which is to strengthen trading relations between Mexican and European companies.

President Fox reported on the progress in implementing the Puebla-Panama Plan, in particular the measures taken in the context of planning public policies for human development, the fight against poverty and the promotion of investment and productive development in southern Mexico and Central American countries.

The European Union reaffirmed its support for the measures taken by Mexico in the framework of this plan for subregional cooperation.

The leaders agreed on the need to strengthen the cooperation chapter of the Agreement by the conclusion of sectoral agreements in the fields of science and technology, environment, education and further training, and the exploration of other fields of cooperation within the priorities adopted.

They emphasised the importance of strengthening consultation on environmental issues in order to meet the challenges of promoting sustainable development and environmental protection. In particular, they highlighted the importance of maintaining close contact during the preparatory discussions for the United Nations Conference for Sustainable Development to be held in Johannesburg at the end of 2002.

They highlighted the need to maintain open dialogue with Mexican and European civil society for the exchange of information and views on how best to avail of the opportunities afforded by the Partnership Agreement, and the importance of the first Forum with civil society which is to be held in Brussels at the end of this year and which will be attended by all those concerned, including the academic sphere, employers, trade unions, political parties and non-governmental organisations.

Lastly, they hoped for a most successful outcome to the coming third Latin America-European Union Summit to be held in Mexico in 2004 and for rapid progress in the negotiations under way between the European Union and Latin America.