

EU – Mexico Joint Committee

Brussels, 26-27 November 2009

Final Joint Communiqué

1. The ninth meeting of the Joint Committee established under the EU-Mexico Economic Partnership, Political Coordination and Cooperation Agreement (Global Agreement) was held in Brussels, on 26-27 November 2009.
2. The Mexican Delegation was headed by Mr. Rogelio GRANGUILLHOME MORFÍN, Head of Unit for International Economic relations and Cooperation of the Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs while the European Union Delegation was headed by Mrs. Elisabeth EKLUND, Deputy Head of the Americas Department in her capacity as representative of the Swedish Presidency of the Council of the European Union and Mr. Angel CARRO-CASTRILLO, acting Director of the Directorate for Latin America of the European Commission External Relations Directorate.

Strategic Partnership

3. Both sides noted that following its approval in 2008 by the General Affairs and Foreign Relations Council of the EU, the Strategic Partnership has increased the quality and intensity of the relations and has provided a new impetus to bilateral cooperation in all fields. They praised the fact that since then good joint progress had been made on an **executive plan**, which will allow for the implementation of the **Strategic Partnership** by means of concrete actions. A draft executive plan spelling out these actions is being discussed. Both sides share the objective to officially approve and launch the Joint Executive Plan at the next EU-Mexico Summit, which will take place in Spain in May, 2010.
4. The EU and Mexico are committed to the principles of international law, multilateralism, international development cooperation, international peace and security. They have agreed that the Strategic Partnership reflects both sides' commitment to advance to a new stage in their relationship, complementing the Global Agreement by means of its focus on fostering cooperation and coordination between the two parties on the multilateral stage. In fact, the EU and Mexico recognise that multilateralism and the enhancement of coordination and cooperation on global issues at UN meetings is an important part of the Strategic Partnership.
5. The Strategic partnership will also enhance bilateral and regional cooperation between Mexico and the EU. Some of the main topics of the Executive Plan include economic, environmental, development, scientific and cultural cooperation. Another important issue that will be enhanced under the Strategic Partnership is that of **Security**. Both sides agreed that a policy dialogue on Security is to be foreseen under the Executive Plan, which is to be launched once both parties agree on practical modalities.

6. Furthermore, the co-operation in matters related to the protection and promotion of human rights is formalised in the Global Agreement. Both sides have confirmed their attachment to human rights and their willingness to cooperate towards the common goal of attaining the highest human rights standards. The Strategic Partnership will therefore include an enhanced cooperation on human rights.

Political Dialogue

7. With regard to global issues, environment, particularly climate change, conservation, and sustainable use of biodiversity and international environmental governance featured high in the discussions. On **climate change**, both parties are fully determined to reach an ambitious and comprehensive agreement in Copenhagen, under the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, and agree that parties to the negotiations need to inject new momentum into the process. The developed countries should lead the way towards a low carbon economy that is safe and sustainable, by taking account of the particular economic and social needs of developing countries. Developing countries should commit to mitigation actions that reduce the growth in emissions, taking into account their particular economic and social needs. The EU and Mexico agree that, in order to reduce the consequences of climate change, global mean temperature should not exceed 2 degrees centigrade above preindustrial levels.
8. Both parties are of the view that all countries, with the notable exception of the least developed, should contribute to the financing of the costs of both mitigation and adaptation. Individual contributions should be based on individual countries' emission and GDP levels to reflect both the responsibility for global emissions and the ability to pay.
9. Mexico and the EU **remain fully committed to supporting the G20 process** at all levels to ensure financial stability and sustained global growth, in particular in view of the next Summits to be held in June 2010 in Canada and in November 2010 in Korea. Both sides agree that the **G20 Framework for Growth** is an important achievement which provides a welcome opportunity to coordinate macroeconomic policies and move towards a more sustainable and balanced global growth model. Parties also concur on the need to ensure that **the reform of the global financial system and that of international financial institutions** will remain high on the G20 agenda.
10. As far as UNGA follow up is concerned, both sides expressed their willingness to share views in order to favour possible synergies and facilitate UN consensus on priority issues to the international community such as: UN reform, and Millennium Development Goals, disarmament/non-proliferation, climate change, drugs, transnational organized crime, human rights, intercultural dialogue, peace building, and the responsibility to protect.
11. Both parties express particular concern at the current major challenges to the nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament regime that the UN Security Council has acted upon. They recall their commitment to continue to address them resolutely.
12. On international migration, the EU has expressed support for Mexico's role as incoming Chair-in-Office of the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD) and its offer to host this event in 2010. Both parties agree to consider the bi-regional EU-LAC

Structured Dialogue on Migration, launched last 30 June 2009, as the main forum between the countries in both regions to discuss and exchange views on migration.

13. When discussing Bilateral issues, the EU touched upon the Lisbon Treaty, the External Action Service (EAS) and Enlargement. The EU expressed its conviction that the new Treaty will foster a more efficient, more democratic and more coherent Europe. The Treaty contains two important institutional innovations which will impact on the EU's external action: the "*permanent*" President of the European Council appointed for a renewable term of 2 ½ years, and the new Vice President of the Commission in charge of External Relations who will also be the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. This will have a beneficial impact on EU relations with third countries, giving the EU a greater coherence in its relations with partners worldwide.
14. Concerning Enlargement, the EU **informed Mexico of the main developments and the state of play of EU's enlargement policy which also have positive effects for Mexico.** Enlargement also largely **benefits third countries**, as the stability and economic convergence of the new Member States provides access to an enlarged Internal Market where the same standards and rules apply.
15. On its part, Mexico informed the EU side on the public policies and programmes to tackle the impact of the economic crisis. Concerning the internal political situations, including the fight against drugs and related crimes, Mexico and the EU are committed to continue cooperation within international fora on the fight against drugs and organised crime in all its manifestations. In this context, enhanced bi-regional cooperation within the Mechanism for Coordination and Cooperation on Drug Matters between the European Union and Latin America and the Caribbean remains a high commitment for both sides.
16. Both parties had a constructive and open exchange of views on the human rights situation in Mexico and in the EU Member states in a spirit of cooperation and reciprocity. The EU expressed satisfaction with the great importance attached by Mexico to the **Universal Periodic Review**, and remains ready to discuss with the Mexican government ways to support the implementation of these recommendations.
17. Both sides welcomed the establishment of a dedicated human rights dialogue, through which both parties will have the opportunity to deepen the discussion on the respective challenges and experiences in this field, including through the exchange of best practices and information and appropriate public policies. They agreed that such a dialogue will serve to reinforce the already existing good co-operation in international fora.
18. A number of regional issues were touched upon by both sides. Mexico informed of its Presidency of the **Rio Group** and the coordination with Chile, where the next Ministerial meeting will take place in 2011. From its side, the EU highlighted the importance of the Strategic Partnership with Latin America, stepping up bi-regional dialogue and stressed, in this context, the relevance of EU-Rio Group Ministerial meetings.
19. Finally, the EU informed Mexico about the recently launched Eastern Partnership under the **European Neighbourhood Policy and LAIF.**

Cooperation

20. The Parties underlined the good cooperation between the EC and Mexico, both in terms of programming and project implementation. Cooperation with Mexico is oriented toward complementing the policy dialogues foreseen in the context of the EU-Mexico Strategic Partnership.
21. The Parties discussed the State of Play of the Mid-Term Review (MTR) and the importance of continuing the work in sectors where Mexico has expressed its interest: social cohesion, human rights, science and technology and public security. The EU informed Mexico that consultations have progressed at a good pace. The internal procedure has been launched and will be finished by the beginning of 2010.
22. The EU stressed that no significant revisions of the strategy or the indicative programmes are foreseen in the review. Issues such as climate change and sustainable development as well as security have been reinforced. The third focal sector, Education and Culture, will be broadened to include science and technology.
23. In the field of social cohesion, the parties noted the good progress on the EU-Mexico Social Cohesion Policy Dialogues project. The Mexican Delegation reported particularly on the forums held in Mexico City on 14th and 15th of October, on taxation, and on the 20th and 21st of October, on social security. The third dialogue on social cohesion on health is planned to take place in Mexico City on January 26 and 27th, 2010.
24. The Commission also announced the decision of financing the EU-Mexico Integrated Social Cohesion Programme for the second phase of the social cohesion cooperation 2010-2013. The financial agreement is expected to be signed shortly. Its objective is to contribute to increase the degree of social cohesion within the Mexican society. For Mexico it is foreseen the participation of the Ministry for Social Development (SEDESOL), which will coordinate the integral participation at the federal level, and of the specialized institutions and organizations of the civil society.
25. As part of a substantive dialogue on Human Rights, the EU-Mexico Human Rights Programme, to which both parts contribute on an equal basis, continues smoothly. Its objective is to strengthen social cohesion in Mexico by fostering the rule of law and the protection of human rights, in particular by assisting federal and local public institutions in institutional capacity building with an emphasis on the elaboration of legal reforms and public policies.
26. Concerning Economic cooperation, in particular on trade facilitation, the EU-Mexico Trade Facilitation programme – PROTLCUEM II has further advanced. Its objective is to support Mexico in its efforts to enhance competitiveness and further the economic, commercial and business relations between Mexico and the EU, specifically through the optimal implementation of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA). The 2nd Addendum was signed last June, allowing the project activities to be extended until December 2011.
27. The Mexican delegation reiterated that, for the second phase of cooperation on sustainable economy and competitiveness, the Minister of Economy appointed PROMEXICO in a joint effort with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico and the EC Mexican Delegation, supported by a mission of European experts, to prepare the identification file of the new proposal.

28. In the field of Education and culture, the EU-Mexico Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window (EMECW) is being well implemented. The overall objective of the project is to achieve better understanding and mutual enrichment between the EU and Mexico through the exchange of persons, knowledge and skills at higher education level, with a view to fostering better social cohesion and sustainable development in line with the Millennium Development Goals. The project is ongoing and based on a partnership of 11 Mexican and 9 European universities.
29. Furthermore, the EU-Mexico Cultural Fund I is on-going. Its overall objective is to promote cultural cooperation between the EU and Mexico through the implementation of cultural exchanges. The objective of the project is to contribute to Mexican efforts to diffuse, promote and enhance cultural diversity and development between Europe and Mexico as well as fostering cultural policy dialogue and cultural industry exchanges and networks between the parties.
30. Both sides noted that the EU-Mexico Cultural Fund II shows the ample existing collaboration that responds to the important potential of our cultural relations, and will enrich the cultural dialogue between Mexico and the EU, and the interaction among all the cultural agents. The sides agree that the Fund will increase the exchange of artists, creators, specialists and cultural promoters of Mexico and the member States of the European Community. The Fund will support those projects oriented to a varied public and mainly to cultural minorities, in order to strengthen cultural diversity, equality and a more dignified life.
31. Parties also reviewed the ongoing projects under the cooperation 2000-2006, notably: (i) the Small and medium-sized enterprises – PIAPYME, which is on closing procedure. The general objective of the programme is to strengthen economic, trade and business relations between Mexico and the EU, particularly competitiveness and export capacity of Mexican SMEs. With respect of which, promotional and visibility materials, containing the results and best practices achieved during the project execution, were elaborated and delivered (ii) the European Community-Mexico Science and Technology International Cooperation Fund (FONCICYT). The objective of the Fund is to strengthen the capacities of Mexico in the field of Science and Technology. Its implementation allowed the financing of 34 joint projects and the identification of the potential of cooperation in science and technology fields between Mexican and European entities. (iii) Strengthening the Administration of Justice: The objective of the project is to contribute to strengthening and modernising the administration of justice in Mexico, at both federal and national levels. The project is in the closing procedure.
32. Regarding the Sustainable Development Project in Chiapas, already concluded, both Parties agreed to point out that due to its good results, it will be possible to count on with a participatory territorial planning methodology that could be replicable in other regions of that state or other Mexican states. Its possible consolidation during the second cooperation phase on the social cohesion field will be examined.
33. The EC informed that the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) currently finances 9 projects and that the Delegation will sign 6 more contracts in the near future.

34. The parties reviewed the current sectoral policy dialogues. The EU expressed satisfaction for the significant recent progress on S&T cooperation between Mexico and a growing number of EU Member States and also the EU as a whole. Both sides expressed their will to ensure that those promises are translated into concrete common achievements.
35. The participation of Mexico in FP7 counts with 39 participations in 33 projects retained for funding. Parties furthermore agreed to continue strengthening S&T cooperation with Mexico and make it more strategic through priority areas decided jointly.
36. Regarding the Mesoamerican dialogue in Science and Technology, a meeting was held on November 18th and 19th with Central American countries and Cuba, with the participation of experts and authorities from different entities. This dialogue took place in the framework of EULARINET project.
37. The EU announced that an evaluation process of the Science and Technology Agreement between Mexico and The European Union will be implemented, in order to renew it in 2010.
38. On social cohesion, the EU expressed appreciation for Mexico's response to mitigate the social and employment impacts of the global crisis and underlined the importance of fundamental labour rights. The EU reiterated the importance it attaches to the dialogue on social cohesion with Mexico, in particular through establishing specific policy sectoral dialogues.
39. On environment, both parties expressed their keen interest in the High Level Dialogue with Mexico on Environment and Climate Change, whose first meeting took place in January 2008. The Mexican side proposed to carry out the next meeting of the High Level Dialogue and the first meeting of the Climate Change Working Group in the first two weeks of March 2010 in Mexico City. An intensified cooperation in this field is foreseen in the Strategic Partnership between the EU and Mexico, particularly considering that 2010 is the “international Year of the Biodiversity” and that Mexico will host the 16 UN COP in Climate Change.
40. The parties welcomed the launch of policy dialogues in education and culture through the signing of Joint Declarations in June this year as a very positive step towards reinforcing cooperation between Europe and Mexico in the larger context of the EU-Mexico strategic partnership.
41. Mexico made a presentation of the Mesoamerica project. The EU reiterated its interest for the project, especially as it focuses on regional integration, social cohesion and sustainable development. The Mexican counterparts have been invited to assess funding possibilities with the EIB and other multi- and bilateral European financial institutions (e.g. KfW; AFD).

The Commission's future LAIF project will cover most intervention areas of the mentioned project. AIDCO organised a presentation of this new project in margin of Joint Committee sessions.

42. In the field of public security, both Parties agreed to express their interest of realizing a specific proposal within the framework of ongoing instruments of the EC in this area.

Triangular cooperation

43. Mexico and the EC express their interest in triangular cooperation in the framework of EC-Mexican cooperation in the medium term. Some areas including electoral observation, science and technology, humanitarian assistance, and security could already be explored. In the context of bilateral or regional cooperation projects and programmes, triangular cooperation requires a joint programming exercise in order to identify areas and sectors of common interest. It also requires the actual appropriation of the process by beneficiary countries and regions which have to agree on the areas of intervention and emerging donors which could collaborate with the Commission. Moreover, financial modalities have to be developed which respect the regulatory frameworks of all parties.

The Commission Communication COM (2009) 495/3 of 30/9/2009 to the European Parliament and Council, "EU and Latin America – An association of global actors", contains four recommendations in the area of cooperation, one of which concerns the possibility to create institutional associations and to establish triangular EU-Latin America cooperation with a renovated EurosociAL programme.

Trade and trade related issues

44. Both delegations revised the positive results the Free Trade Agreement has brought, since trade has grown from its entry into force in 2000 to more than 40 billion Euros (59 billion USD) in 2008, which represents a growth rate of more than 220 percent. During the first half of 2009, despite the international economic crisis, bilateral trade has shown an important amount. Foreign direct investment and trade in services have also reported a positive trend.
45. The Parties presented the negotiation processes and strategies they are carrying out with different countries and regions towards further regional integration.
46. Regarding the Doha Round under the WTO, both delegations reiterated their determination to conclude the negotiations on the Doha Development Agenda in 2010 and their commitment to an ambitious, comprehensive and balanced agreement. They believe that closure of the Doha Round should take place on the basis of progress already made including with regards to modalities and therefore call on WTO Members to set out any specific new demands they may have to enable negotiations to be concluded within this timeframe.
47. Mexico and the EU assessed the results of the Special Committees meetings and other related activities that took place during 2009. They instructed their experts to continue working on pending issues.

48. Both delegations expressed their satisfaction towards the conclusion of the adaptation process of the FTA due to the accession of Bulgaria and Romania to the EU, through the adoption of Decision 3/2008 of the Joint Council regarding trade in the field of services.
49. With respect to the review clauses on agriculture and services, both parties reported on the consultations and informal meetings at the technical level that took place during 2009 and reiterated their determination to advance in those processes.
50. Mexico reiterated its eagerness to negotiate a comprehensive, unique and ambitious chapter on investment once the Treaty of Lisbon enters into force

Other issues

51. Mexico and the EU welcomed the Third Forum “Dialogue between the Civil Society and Institutions of the Mexican Government and the EU” which took place in November 2008 in Brussels, as a privileged space for dialogue and consultation with civil society. In this context, the Parties reached an Agreement on a Joint EU-Mexico reply to the Civil Society recommendations. Both delegations look forward to the Fourth Forum in Mexico City during the fall in 2010.

The next meeting of the Joint Committee will take place in the second half of 2010 in Mexico.