

EU- MEXICO JOINT COMMITTEE
BRUSSELS
26-27 OCTOBER 2005

FINAL JOINT COMMUNIQUE

- The 5th meeting of the Joint Committee established by the Agreement on Economic Partnership, Political Co-ordination and Cooperation (Global Agreement) between the European Union and Mexico was held in Brussels on 26 and 27 October 2005.
- The meeting was chaired by M. Hervé Jouanjean, Deputy Director-General, Asia and Latin America of the European Commission and H.E. Maria de Lourdes Dieck Assad, the Ambassador of Mexico to the European Union.
- Prior to the starting of the meeting, the European Union expressed its solidarity to Mexico for the victims and the damages caused by the hurricanes Stan and Wilma.
- During the meeting, the parties passed in review the activities carried out in three main areas covered by the global agreement: political dialogue, trade and trade related issues, and cooperation.
- During the political dialogue the European Union and Mexico discussed how to strengthen bilateral political dialogue, the follow-up to the UN Summit, the preparation for the next EU-LAC Summit in Vienna, and developments in both the EU and the Latin America and Caribbean Region.
- Cooperation issues took an important part of discussion. The parties reviewed on-going projects and programmes by sector. The assessment focused on results achieved, status of advancement and timing, identification of problems and corrective measures to be undertaken.
- The parties discussed project management systems and procedures for EU-Mexico cooperation in general. The performance of the various instruments within the context of EU rules and regulations and of the Mexican legal and administrative environment was assessed. Different operational, administrative and regulatory options were discussed in order to further improve the existing situation.
- Following the deliberations of the EU-Mexico Joint Council of May 2005, the priority sectors for the next programming period, 2007-2013, as presented in the Country Concept Note, were further discussed: Social Cohesion and Support to other Policy Dialogues; Economy and Competitiveness; Education and Culture. The discussions provided useful inputs to the process of finalisation of the Country Strategy Paper 2007-2013.
- The parties discussed the operational modalities for the implementation of the EU-Mexico Sectoral Agreement on Science and Technology. The procedures and expected timing for the establishment of a specific Joint Sectoral Committee, in charge of the steering, monitoring and follow up of the agreement were among the main items of discussion. The first meeting of the Joint Sectoral Committee should take place in 2006.

- An exchange of opinions was carried out on the possibility of intensifying and enhancing cooperation in the area of culture in general and of cultural industries in particular. Being “Education and Culture” one of the priority sectors proposed for EU-Mexico cooperation in the period 2007-2013, the discussions provided positive inputs to the finalisation of the Programming exercise.
- The EU side reiterated its strong interest in having a Horizontal Civil Aviation Agreement rapidly negotiated with Mexico. In order to start exploratory technical discussions it was agreed that a mission by the European Commission will be sent to Mexico in the coming months.
- The EU side reiterated its intention to continue to explore the possibility of establishing with Mexico a form of cooperation in the context of the European Programme for Global Navigation Services (Galileo). The parties passed in review the issue and decided to continue discussions in the coming months.
- Regarding trade and trade-related issues, the parties proceeded with the assessment of the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) implementation, which revealed a dynamic trend in exports from both sides. The administrative cooperation between both parties was also positively evaluated: the reports provided by the special committees on matters such as customs, technical standards, sanitary issues and government procurement showed an improvement in mutual understanding that enables the solution of administrative issues. The celebration of the Second Seminar on Government Procurement opportunities, focused this year on Mexico, addresses the need to further disseminate information regarding the business opportunities the Agreement generates.
- The parties also reviewed and took stock of the state of progress in the discussions on the review clauses established in the Free Trade Agreement in the areas of agriculture, services and investment. The parties confirmed their intention to conclude such a review by the end of 2005. Parties are convinced that their negotiating efforts on market access and transparent provisions will result in new opportunities for economic operators, services suppliers, professionals and investors, thus ultimately deepening integration between the two markets. Finally, the parties also discussed outstanding bilateral issues.
- With reference to the Joint Declaration of the last EU-Mexico Joint Council, the Joint Committee discussed alternative options and respective appropriate modalities for assuring a follow up of the Dialogue with the Civil Society. The objective of the institutionalisation of the Dialogue has been endorsed in principle by the Parties during the last EU-Mexico Joint Council of May 2005. The parties decided to identify jointly, in the coming months, the appropriate modalities to allow the civil society to play a consultative role.
- The next meeting of the Joint Council will be held in the first half of 2007 in Brussels. The next Joint committee is planned for the last semester 2006 and will be held in Mexico. The next EU/LAC Summit is to be held in Vienna in May 2006.