

## **SIXTH MEETING OF THE EU-MEXICO JOINT COMMITTEE**

Mexico City, 5-6 October 2006

### **Joint Communiqué**

The sixth meeting of the Joint Committee established under the EU-Mexico Economic Partnership, Political Cooperation and Cooperation Agreement (Global Agreement) was held in Mexico City on 5 and 6 October 2006.

The Mexican Delegation was headed by H.E. María de Lourdes Dieck, Permanent Representative of Mexico to the European Union, while the European Union Delegation was headed by Mr Eneko Landaburu, Director-General for External Relations at the European Commission.

The political dialogue section was chaired by HE Enrique Buj Flores, Director-General for Europe at the Department of External Relations, for Mexico, and by Ms Anne Lammila, Director for Latin America at the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, for the Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

The parties reviewed the activities carried out in the sixth year of the Global Agreement, which fell into three areas: political dialogue, cooperation and economic affairs.

1. During the political dialogue session Mexico and the European Union reiterated their interest in strengthening bilateral and bi-regional political cooperation mechanisms and in stepping up joint coordination on international issues. The Mexican Delegation commented in this context on the progress made in developing tools for the "Informal Discussion Group on Political Issues of Bilateral Interest", whose working methods could include innovative political cooperation mechanisms such as videoconferences or the relaunching of the bulletin board system. The European side undertook to examine these

initiatives with a view to working towards the strengthening of bilateral political dialogue.

2. Mexico and the European Union favoured an inclusive approach to the issue of migration in order to maximise benefits for migrants, their countries of origin and their host countries. The two parties supported the setting up of the Forum on International Migration, which is linked to the United Nations and which will enable the phenomenon of migration to be examined from a comprehensive long-term perspective. The parties agreed on the need to work in a spirit of shared responsibility, which should involve joining forces to facilitate legal migratory flows and combat irregular flows, trafficking in immigrants and the trade in human beings.
3. In discussing coordination within United Nations forums, the two Delegations reviewed different ideas on how to strengthen the UN institutions. They agreed on the need to urge the Human Rights Council to ensure that its work reflects current priorities effectively, transparently and impartially. Both parties also expressed their satisfaction that their joint efforts were helping to promote the adoption of the United Nations Convention to promote and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Convention for the Protection of all Persons against Forced Disappearances.
4. The parties also confirmed their commitment to dealing with priority gender issues; they undertook to promote public policy designed to promote the eradication of violence against women, women's integration into the world of work, the eradication of impunity and international cooperation designed to strengthen international institutions working to promote progress towards equity and on gender issues. Both parties also conformed their commitment to continuing to promote and disseminate the content of international instruments in the field of children's rights.

5. Mexico and the European Union exchanged views on the economic situation in Europe and Latin America and on the situation in other regions.
6. In the field of bilateral cooperation, both parties noted the progress made on the projects currently being implemented in the fields of human rights, justice, social development and economic cooperation and expressed their satisfaction at the approval of the new science and technology project which wound up the programming for 2002-2006. They noted that, despite the delay in starting the projects, some of them had reached an advanced stage of implementation, Mexico having made available operational mechanisms which satisfy the European Commission's requirements and which could provide a useful precedent for the 2007-2013 programming period.
7. Both parties expressed their satisfaction at the satisfactory implementation of the Human Rights Cooperation Programme over the last three years. The Programme's results have shown the importance of continuing to engage in dialogue and of cooperation in this field, which is of interest to both parties.
8. As regards the justice project, the Mexican side underlined the importance of the component involving the training of bilingual lawyers and expressed its interest in pursuing cooperation in this area.
9. As regards economic cooperation, the parties expressed their satisfaction at the launching of the project facilitating the operation of the European Union-Mexico Free Trade Agreement and providing support for trade. They also expressed satisfaction at the progress made on the Integral Support Programme to Small and Medium Enterprises (PIAPYME), which encourages business alliances between small and medium-sized companies in the two regions.

10. The parties expressed their satisfaction at the holding of the First Bilateral Meeting on Science and Technology and the setting up of the Bilateral Steering Committee within the framework of the Sectoral Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation between Europe and Mexico, which will make for a more productive and long-lasting association in the field of science and technology. They also expressed their satisfaction at the setting up of the Framework Programme Liaison and Promotion Office and the approval and launching of an EU-Mexico cooperation programme in the field of scientific research and innovation. 50% of this programme, which has a budget of €20 million, 50% of which is co-financed by the European Commission and the National Science and Technology Council. It is scheduled to run for four years and aims to build scientific and technological capacity focused on innovation in Mexico by supporting the development of networks and joint research projects. The parties also expressed their satisfaction at the results obtained at the seminars held to promote the Seventh Framework Programme and at the Energy Seminar and the International Biotechnology Congress, of which the European Commission was the main sponsor.
11. In connection with the activities referred to in the previous paragraph, the two Delegations drew attention to the first visit to Mexico of the European Commission's Director-General for Research, an event which reflects the European Union's strong interest in stepping up cooperation with Mexico in the field of science and technology.
12. The Mexican side stressed that the difficulties encountered in starting to use the current project administration framework had gradually been overcome through the joint efforts of the Mexican institutions, with the support of the European Commission. Against this background, the parties agreed on the importance of using the experience thus gained to build a more efficient project administration mechanism for the new 2007-2013 cooperation programme.

13. The European Union agreed to examine a proposal for a single project management mechanism to be presented by the Mexican Delegation to the European Commission which would cover the next bilateral cooperation programme and facilitate the launching of projects, and which would meet both Mexican and EU standards.
14. Mexico and the European Union stated that they were interested in deepening relations with a view to identifying concrete opportunities for cooperation over the 2007-2013 period.
15. The parties agreed to examine concrete options with a view to identifying appropriate conditions for the initiation of a sectoral policy dialogue, particularly in the field of social cohesion.
16. The Mexican side said it would be glad to receive a European Commission mission in Mexico to discuss related issues and possible areas for cooperation and the exchange of experience in the field of social cohesion.
17. The parties stated their intention of pursuing technical consultations on civil aviation, with a view to making progress towards bringing the legal framework covering Mexico in this field into line with Community law. The European Commission stated that it was interested in negotiating a Horizontal Civil Aviation Agreement with Mexico.
18. The European Delegation reiterated that it was interested in establishing with Mexico a form of cooperation with the European Programme for Global Navigation Services (Galileo).
19. Both parties said they were interested in working to define and set up activities involving education and cultural cooperation in the context of the 2007-2013 cooperation programme.

20. Mexico declared its interest in promoting cooperation projects, particularly in the audiovisual and performing arts sectors; it therefore proposed the setting up of a bilateral group on the cultural industries and a European mission to Mexico in 2007 to assess what mechanisms and activities could be set up between the two parties, such as participation in the EU MEDIA-Plus and MEDIA-Training Programmes. Mexico also proposed that conditions be established which would allow both parties to cooperate on invitations to international festivals and events involving a variety of artistic disciplines, exchange experts and students and establish a network for the distribution and exchange of and cooperation on arts programmes between public television companies. Mexico also expressed its interest in working together with the European Union to protect, conserve, restore and provide information about its cultural heritage and cultural tourism.
21. As regards trade issues, the two parties assessed achievements relating to the EU-Mexico Free Trade Agreement (FTA). Trends in bilateral trade, which exceeded US\$35 000 million in 2005, were very favourable. It was also noted that productive investment flows between the two parties had maintained a positive trend.
22. The two Delegations assessed the results obtained at various meetings of the special committees set up under the EU-Mexico Free Trade Agreement, particularly in the areas of customs, technical standards, health measures and steel products. They also agreed to hold a first meeting of the Special Committee on Intellectual Property Issues in the near future.
23. The work carried out in the course of technical negotiations on the review clauses for which the EU-Mexico Free Trade Agreement makes provision in the areas of agriculture, services and investment was examined. The two parties confirmed their intention of continuing to work on this in order to wind up the

process. The Delegations also reviewed a number of topics on the bilateral trade agenda.

24. The Joint Committee acknowledged the importance of pursuing dialogue with civil society and made some progress on examining the conditions needed to create a mechanism that would enable civil society to play an advisory role.

25. The next meeting of the Joint Committee would be held in the second half of 2007 in Brussels.

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