



EU-MEXICO JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

Joint Declaration

18th Meeting of the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee

EU-Mexico

19 - 20 February 2015

Mexico City

The Delegations of the Honourable Congress of the Union of United Mexican States and of the European Parliament to the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee (hereinafter referred to as the JPC), headed by their Co-Presidents, Senator Rabindranath Salazar and Deputy Teresa Jiménez Becerril, in accordance with the Statutes of the JPC, at the conclusion of the 18th meeting held in Mexico City, agree as follows:

Joint Declaration

1. The Mexican and European delegations congratulate each other on the holding and the outcome of the 18th Meeting of the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) and are encouraged that, despite a change in the European parliamentary delegation, the existing relationship between the two parties and the soundness of the work undertaken have been maintained. They restate their desire to revise the

Statutes of the JPC with a view to holding two joint meetings each year, as has been the case since the creation of the JPC, with the aim of strengthening the mechanism for dialogue, contributing effectively to the implementation of existing agreements and achieving the objectives of the Strategic Partnership.

2. Both delegations point out that 2015 sees the 55th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral relations between Mexico and the European Union and the 15th anniversary of the entry into force of the Association Agreement and Free Trade Agreement, hereinafter referred to as the Global Agreement. They also emphasise that the relationship was further developed by establishing a Strategic Partnership and Joint Executive Plan which fleshes out that Partnership.
3. The JPC declares its confidence that the European Union and Mexico are doing what is necessary to overcome current challenges, such as the economic crisis, unemployment, insecurity, terrorism, organised crime, money laundering, energy and food insecurity and climate change, among others, and that as far as possible both parties will strengthen their bilateral and multilateral cooperation to this end.
4. The Mexican delegation repeats its cordial invitation made in the Joint Declaration of the 17th Meeting of the JPC (April 2014) to the President of the European Parliament to pay another visit to Mexico.
5. The members of the JPC reaffirm their commitment to democracy, the rule of law, human rights, peaceful resolution of disputes, cooperation in the development of low-income countries, solidarity and social justice, all of which are values that cement relations between Mexico and the European Union.
6. The delegations welcome the theme chosen for the 2nd EU-CELAC Summit to be held in Brussels on 10 and 11 June 2015: ‘Shaping our common future: working for prosperous, cohesive and sustainable societies for our citizens’, and are firmly committed to contributing to its preparation and development, which will shape the work programme for the next two years. They invite all the parties involved to draw up an ambitious but realistic agenda which will make it possible to draw on knowledge and experience based on shared principles, values, priorities and aspirations in order to achieve the ultimate goal of building more prosperous, equal and fair societies;

Political and economic situation in the EU and Mexico and updating the three pillars of the Global Agreement (political dialogue, cooperation and trade)

7. Both delegations reaffirm their conviction that through mechanisms such as dialogue and cooperation, parliamentarians can make a substantive contribution to achieving more prosperous and fair societies.
8. They reaffirm that elections are a mechanism for renewing the public authorities of a country and that they are the legitimate expression of citizens' needs and desires for their future. They reaffirm that parliamentarians have a particular role in restoring citizens' confidence in politics and democracy.
9. The Mexican delegation welcomes the election of the officers of the European Union and the new impetus that they are seeking to give to political, economic and social integration. They also welcome the elections of 22-25 May 2014, which resulted in the current composition of the European Parliament. Both delegations express their desire that the forthcoming Mexican elections in June-July 2015 will take place in a peaceful environment of democratic normality and will help to strengthen democracy through the election of authorities at various levels of government.
10. They emphasise the importance of strengthening relations between Mexico and the European Union, potentially through a process of updating the three pillars of the Global Agreement: political dialogue, cooperation and trade, as well as incorporating the Joint Executive Plan. They encourage the working sub-groups to continue their analysis and identify the key points to be updated.
11. They emphasise the importance of effectively involving the JPC in the process of considering how to update the Global Agreement, as well as seeing a better flow of information between parliamentarians and executive authorities, both in Mexico and the European Union.
12. They reaffirm the importance of diversifying bilateral trade and not having it concentrated in a few countries of Europe, a few federated states of Mexico and a small number of sectors and products. A dynamic international environment demands a more integrated and consolidated bilateral framework, with instruments which elevate economic and trade relations between both partners, and increase interaction in priority areas.
13. The Mexican delegation expresses its appreciation that after a number of years of economic and financial crisis, we are seeing a stabilisation of the economies of EU

countries, consolidation of public finances, preservation of the internal market and integrity of the euro zone, thanks to the work of the European institutions and the respective national governments. The JPC wants Europe to follow the route of economic recovery and to increase the existing attraction of the continent as a destination for foreign investment. The European delegation expresses its desire for consolidation of the reforms announced by the Mexican Government to create a better environment for foreign investment, to tackle the informal economy and tax fraud, and to achieve greater economic prosperity which will benefit all citizens equally.

14. The JPC emphasises that sustainable economic development requires investment and growth policies with greater social and environmental focus, as well as investment in infrastructure, education, new technology, research and development.
15. The Joint Parliamentary Committee highlights the inestimable value, richness and variety of the cultural, intangible, linguistic, ethnic, natural and environmental heritage of Mexico; repeats its support for the work undertaken by the national and international bodies responsible for the protection and conservation of that heritage, and highlights the work of the UNESCO office in Mexico, in particular through its Culture and Development Programme in Mexico.
16. It welcomes the fact that the EU and Mexico are continuing to look into new areas of cooperation, particularly in science, technology and innovation, which impact positively in fields such as energy, information and communication technology, the environment, climate change and food security, among others, and highlights the value of sectoral dialogue in this regard.

Human rights situation in Mexico and the EU

17. The Mexican and European members of the JPC recognise that cooperation between Mexico and the European Union in human rights is fundamental and increasingly close; both have a binding commitment to observe and apply all international agreements in this area.

18. They express their conviction that updating the Global Agreement will signify greater cooperation in all aspects of bilateral relations, in particular in the dialogue on human rights, security and justice.
19. They reiterate their support for protecting and promoting respect for human rights and bilateral cooperation programmes in this area, as well as for the provision of the political, financial and technical resources necessary to guarantee such cooperation.
20. They are aware of the next High Level Dialogue on Human Rights between Mexico and the European Union, to be held in the month of April 2015, of the dialogue on Security and Justice, the date of which is expected to be confirmed very shortly, as well as other institutional meetings, in particular the EU-Mexico summit that it is expected to be held in the coming months.
21. They support the strengthening of multilateral mechanisms such as the United Nations Human Rights Council, in which Mexico will act as a member until 2016. They consider that there is no room for attacks on human rights or discrimination on grounds of social status, gender, belonging to an ethnic minority, political or religious affiliation, disability, age or sexual orientation and identity. They also support the efforts of both the Mexican and European governments to combat any form of violence, intolerance, racism, xenophobia, discrimination and violence against women, including femicide, in both regions. To this end, it invites both parties, as far as possible and in their area of competence, to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, and to ratify or, in the case of European Member States, sign up to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women.
22. They condemn any form of violence which breaches human rights, including freedom of expression and public demonstration, rights which must always be fully enjoyed. They consider that tolerance and respect for the dignity of all persons are fundamental values for democratic and plural societies, for which reason they reject all fundamentalism and incitement to hatred in any situation.
23. They refer to the European Parliament Resolution of 23 October 2014, concerning the disappearance of the Ayotzinapa students. On this subject, the JPC condemns in the strongest terms the unacceptable disappearances of the students of the Ayotzinapa Normal School in Iguala, expresses its condolences and support to the

family and friends of the victims and requests protection both for them and their lawyers. It urges the Mexican Government to carry out a full and exhaustive investigation of the case and to pursue and deal effectively with the parties responsible at all levels, in accordance with Mexican law and international norms.

24. They acknowledge the decision of the Government of Mexico to receive the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, with the aim of having the case of the Iguala students observed, investigated and examined by independent experts. For their part, they thank the Mexican executive and legislative authorities for the information provided in relation to the disappearance of the Iguala Normal School students; they explicitly recognise the efforts of human rights defenders and encourage them to continue their work; above all, they express their unbounded solidarity with the victims and their families and support their legitimate demands for truth, justice, dignity and the punishment of the perpetrators to prevail, and for the investigation not to be closed down until there is absolute certainty over the fate of the victims and the responsibility of the material and intellectual culprits.
25. They extend their solidarity to all other victims of violence and human rights abuses, express their condemnation of all other cases of unsolved disappearances and insist on the need for justice to be done in each and every one of them.

Security and transnational organised crime: terrorism, drug trafficking, arms trafficking and human trafficking

26. The members of the JPC recognise that the challenges of combating transnational organised crime, terrorism, drug trafficking, arms trafficking and human trafficking require closer cooperation between both partners.
27. The Mexican delegation expresses its deepest condolences on the terrorist attacks which have affected some EU Member States, such as France and Denmark, and asks the European members of the JPC to convey the solidarity of this delegation to the authorities of those countries and the families of the victims. The JPC jointly condemns all forms and/or acts of terrorism carried out in any part of the world and urges the countries affected by terrorism to combat this scourge by tackling radicalisation and promoting tolerance.

28. Both delegations express their profound condemnation and rejection of all types of fundamentalism, restate their unity and solidarity in the face of these phenomena which are an attack on peaceful coexistence between nations and liberty and which seek to erode democratic and secular values.
29. They declare that cooperation and exchange of information are essential in the fight against transnational organised crime, terrorism, drug trafficking, arms trafficking and human trafficking, but always within the framework of the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.
30. The European delegation communicates the adoption of resolution 2015/2530(RSP) of the European Parliament of 11 February 2015; the JPC notes the challenge raised by the legislative differences between the European Union and Mexico with regard to Passenger Name Records (PNR) and the parties therefore undertake to look for an agreed solution as quickly as possible and seek to avoid measures which might damage trade and tourist numbers.
31. They stress the importance of security measures being accompanied by a policy of prevention, including activities in prisons, on social networks, in schools and in underprivileged areas, in order to avoid crimes such as terrorism, transnational organised crime, drug trafficking, arms trafficking and human trafficking. To this end, legal instruments and coercive measures must be complemented by mechanisms to improve education and generate decent employment opportunities, as well as achieving social and economic integration of young people.
32. They express their concern over anti-Islamic movements which have occurred in Germany through the Pegida movement – an acronym for European Patriots Against the Islamisation of the West – which may lead to unnecessary intolerance and violence towards certain religious groups.
33. They call on States which have not ratified the UN Arms Trade Treaty to do so. They welcome the approval and signing of this international instrument by Mexico and the countries of the European Union, respectively. They advocate international coordination as a way of effectively combating the illegal manufacture and trafficking of firearms and ammunition.
34. They condemn human trafficking as an abominable modern form of slavery and as an act contrary to human rights. They also recognise the need to promote international cooperation to effectively combat human trafficking, as well as the universality of

the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, of the Palermo Convention.

35. They indicate that in the fight against human trafficking, international and national laws must be applied and strictly observed. They consider that human trafficking is a global problem which demands concerted responses from all members of the international community and they call for national legislation to be harmonised within the existing international framework in this area.

State of play with regard to achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals and other challenges to be overcome

36. The Mexican and European parliamentarians restate their commitment to push for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), as well as their support for the 17 new goals for sustainable development proposed by the UN for the post-2015 period.
37. They recognise the overall progress, albeit insufficient, towards achieving a reduction in extreme poverty: in 1990, almost half the world's population was living on less USD 1.25 per day, whereas in 2010, that proportion had fallen to 22 %, meaning that 700 million fewer people are living in conditions of extreme poverty.
38. They welcome the fact that the goal of reducing by half the percentage of people without access to an improved source of drinking water was achieved in 2010, five years ahead of schedule.
39. They view positively the fact that 90 % of children in developing countries attend primary school, although truancy rates remain high. They see it as positive that gender parity was achieved or almost achieved in 2012 in all developing regions in terms of enrolment in primary education.
40. They highlight that, at a global level, mortality of children under the age of five years fell by almost 50 %, from 90 deaths per 1000 live births in 1990 to 48 in 2012. While these figures are encouraging, it must also be pointed out that the main cause of death among children aged under five years is preventable disease, for which appropriate measures must be taken.

41. They are pleased to see that participation of women in politics has continued to grow, with 46 countries in January 2014 having more than 30% of women members in at least one of the houses of parliament. The European delegation welcomes the fact that Mexican electoral law includes the principle of parity, with 50 % of candidates for publicly-elected posts being women.
42. They emphasise that in 2013, Official Development Assistance (ODA) reached USD 134 800 million, the highest amount ever granted for this purpose, following two years of decline. They point out that the European Union, along with the Member States, is the leading ODA donor, and that its MDG initiative is an instrument which has contributed to supporting the less developed countries which are furthest from achieving the Goals, such as those relating to hunger, maternal health, child mortality and the supply of drinking water. However, they are concerned about the reduction in aid to the poorest countries, and call on developed and emerging countries to increase or at least maintain this aid. They call for compliance with the international commitments on Official Development Assistance (ODA), such as the objective of allocating 0.7 % of GDP to ODA, and on the Agenda for Aid Effectiveness; they also call for a strengthening of fiscal justice and the mobilisation of domestic resources as a key element in sustainable development. They call for funding of climate change prevention and adaptation to be additional to and separate from ODA.
43. They recognise that there are still major trends which threaten the sustainability of the environment, since global carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions are continuing their upward trend, with emissions in 2011 being almost 50% higher than those recorded in 1990. Furthermore, millions of hectares of woodland are being lost every year, many species are being pushed even closer to extinction and renewable sources of water are becoming ever more scarce.
44. They express their satisfaction at the progress achieved in the EU and the advances made in Mexico with regard to MDG achievement, with Mexico reporting that of the 51 mandatory compliance indicators, 37 have been fully achieved (74.5 %), with good progress being made on the remainder.
45. They stress that the indicators where progress is inadequate, in fields such as education, combating poverty and health improvement, require greater cooperation, encompassing exchange of experiences and best practice, both in Mexico and in the Member States of the European Union.

46. They call on the international community to work with the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), based on the 17 sustainable development goals proposed for the post-2015 era, and express their desire that the UN General Assembly adopt the new development agenda in September this year.

Climate change: Analysis of the outcome of COP 20 (December 2014, Lima) and prospects for COP 21 (December 2015, Paris)

47. The JPC reaffirms its commitment to combating climate change from the parliamentary angle and expresses its readiness to support the measures and actions taken by the respective Executives to confront this phenomenon, which represents a threat to all living beings.
48. It reaffirms that the goal of restricting global warming to less than 2° C is absolutely indispensable.
49. It welcomes the progress made in COP20 (held in Lima, Peru, in 2014). It reaffirms the need for COP21 (Paris, 2015) to come up with an ambitious and transparent Agreement which reflects the principle of common but distinct responsibilities. At the same time, it expresses its desire for the negotiations on the draft Agreement to be finalised within the agreed timescale (May 2015), and to display a balance between factors such as mitigation, adaptation, funding, development and transfer of technology, development of capabilities and transparency. It reiterates that this Agreement must be seen as an opportunity to create employment and wealth through developing new models of production and consumption.
50. It expresses its appreciation that the subject of gender will be incorporated in the decisions of COP20 by means of the approval of the Lima Work Programme on Gender, 2014-2016.
51. It emphasises that in the negotiations on combating climate change, the methods of implementation, particularly funding, are a key aspect. It hopes that countries will contribute to the Green Climate Fund as part of their responsibility and the commitment to act globally in combating climate change.

52. It urges the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to submit their Nationally Determined Contributions during the first quarter of 2015, as agreed in COP20.
53. It considers that cooperation in development is an important tool in assisting developing countries to move towards being low-carbon economies.
54. It welcomes the European Council Agreement of October 2014 on reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by at least 40 % by 2030.
55. It recognises that although fossil fuels continue to be significant at a global level, it is imperative that we continue to move towards new renewable energy sources, especially as world energy demand may increase significantly by 2040.
56. It points out that Mexico and the European Union are making efforts to combat climate change. Mexico has reduced its greenhouse gases by 4.5 % since 2010, while the European Union managed to reduce its emissions by 1.8 % in 2013 compared to 2012, achieving its lowest level since 1990.
57. It encourages Mexico and the European Union to achieve their projections of a reduction of 30 % and 21 % respectively by 2020, and to seek to reduce their emissions by 2050 by 50 % in the case of Mexico and 80 % in the case of the European Union.
58. It is concerned that climate change may cause an increase in the displacement of persons, which may then lead to violent internal and inter-state conflicts.
59. It declares that actions and policies to combat climate change must go hand-in-hand with monitoring of the Rio Conference, the MDG and the post-2015 Development Agenda.
60. It requests that other policies to combat climate change continue to be developed, such as energy efficiency, energy saving, development of renewable energy sources, efficient use of resources, innovation and investment.

Future meetings of the JPC and strengthening of inter-institutional relations between the Mexican Congress and the European Parliament.

61. The delegations of the Mexican Congress and European Parliament welcome the results achieved at this eighteenth meeting of the Mexico-EU JPC. They state the need for the JPC to continue to be the vehicle for dialogue, monitoring and control of relations between both partners. They reaffirm their wish to have a permanent interaction with the Joint Council and that this Council and the Joint Committee monitor the agreements of the JPC and that it be invited to state its position in the context of discussions on the updating of the Agreement.
62. The delegations of the Mexican Congress and the European Parliament invite their respective competent administrative and political bodies to develop and implement a Memorandum of Understanding and Institutional Cooperation which covers forms and models of political, administrative and technical cooperation, as well as a joint research and exchange programme, and programmes of visits on themes of mutual interest and/or related to strengthening relations between the EU and Mexico, and between the Mexican Congress and the European Parliament. .
63. The delegations agree to hold their next meeting in Europe, preferably during the second half of 2015.

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