

Question for written answer E-010354/2014
to the Commission (Vice-President / High Representative)
Rule 130
Teresa Jiménez-Becerril Barrio (PPE)

Subject: VP/HR - renewal of the EU-Mexico Association Agreement

Mexico was the first Latin American country to sign an Economic Partnership, Political Coordination and Cooperation Agreement with the EU in 1997 (it entered in force in 2000). The agreement has had a very positive effect for both parties, and it was complemented in 2009 by the establishment of the Strategic Partnership, in view of the country's increasing importance on the international stage.

At the 2013 EU-CELAC Summit, it was agreed that options would be explored for a comprehensive update of the agreement, since the full potential of relations enabled by the agreement has not yet been reached, meaning it has fallen behind other agreements which have either recently been concluded or are being negotiated.

Accordingly, in March 2014, Mexico and the EU agreed to carry out a scoping exercise to assess both parties' level of ambition regarding the revision of that agreement. This revision should not only be measured in economic terms, but also – crucially – according to the political message it conveys.

In light of the next EU-CELAC and EU-Mexico summits:

1. How much will the High Representative and Vice-President of the Commission prioritise renewal of the Agreement?
2. When is the Council expected to give the Commission a negotiating mandate?