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## **EUROPEAN UNION-MEXICO JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE**

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### **14<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee**

**Strasbourg, 23 and 24 May 2012**

The delegations from the European Parliament and the Congress of the United Mexican States to the European Union-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee (hereafter JPC), having concluded the fourteenth meeting held on 23 and 24 May 2012 in the City of Strasbourg, France, have agreed on the following:

#### **Joint Declaration 2 May 2012**

1. Both delegations express their full commitment to maintaining the arrangement of two annual meetings as provided for in the rules of procedure governing the JPC and welcome the fact that this is being complied with in 2012, despite the difficulties entailed by this being a federal election year in Mexico.
2. Both parties emphasise their satisfaction at the extraordinary meeting of the Committee on Political Affairs, Security and Human Rights and the Executive Bureau of the Eurolat Assembly, held on 21–23 February 2012 in Mexico City. The ‘High Level Seminar on Fighting Drug Trafficking and Organised Crime’, which was attended by many members from both delegations, was held at the same time. The European delegation expresses its gratitude to the Mexican side for the excellent way in which all the meetings were organised, prepared and conducted.

#### **Political, economic and social situation**

3. The European delegation congratulates its counterpart for the satisfactory way in which the election campaign is being conducted and the intense political debate arising from it. It also hailed the good work of the Federal Electoral Institute which, as an independent constitutional body, has the task of organising the federal elections due to take place in Mexico on 1 July 2012.

4. On the economic front, both delegations express their concern at the difficulties faced by European economies in emerging from the financial and economic crisis which originated, primarily, in the USA in late 2008, and was exacerbated by the particularities of each region. Strong pressure on sovereign debt in the euro area has led to a crisis of confidence that has prevented the European economy from getting on track for a robust and early recovery.

Both delegations commit to stepping up dialogue on the matter and call on their governments to reach an agreement at the Los Cabos G20 Summit on ambitious measures to enable progress towards the containment of speculation, financial stability and the consolidation of sustainable economic growth.

5. Both delegations join in welcoming the process of selection of Dr Jim Yong Kim as twelfth President of the World Bank, and they appreciate the opportunity to continue working on a genuine reform of the World Bank that will allow it to remain the main bastion of support for the task of financing development in the international community, a task that is in line with the G20's goal of combining growth and development.
6. Similarly, the delegations highlighted their concern and commitment to strengthen the regulatory framework of the Rating Agencies, so that these can be governed on the broad bases of credibility, impartiality and technical and ethical elements, with regard both to their clients and to the States they study in order to issue their financial forecast reports. The G20's broad agenda must include establishing a position with regard to one of the key players currently active within the global financial and economic system.
7. The Mexican delegation congratulates its European counterpart on the European Parliament's approval of the report by the Greek MEP Anni Podimata on the introduction of a tax on financial transactions, which represents progress in the direction of the Commission's proposal on this subject.
8. The European delegation congratulates Mexico on its economy's positive performance. After contracting in 2009, Mexico saw significant growth in 2010 and embarked on a path of strong growth which, according to forecasts from various national and international bodies, will continue in the years ahead. The Members of the European Parliament congratulate Mexico on its competence in dealing with the international crisis, which is clear proof of the success of the economic policy and structural reforms that it has developed, at the cost of great effort and sacrifice, in recent years.
9. Parliamentary representatives on both sides agree that close economic and trade cooperation between the European Union and Mexico is an important tool that should be used to address the current difficult economic situation. In this regard, they highlight the crucial role played by trade between both regions in recent years. The first ten years of the Association Agreement led to a 122 % increase in the flow of trade and, despite a slight contraction in 2009, strong growth was quick to return. The parties therefore agreed that it was appropriate to make use of the mechanisms provided for in the Association Agreement to deepen those aspects of trade where cooperation is still at an early stage.

The European Parliament delegation highlights the soundness and stability of the Mexican legal framework as regards protecting foreign investment. The numerous Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investments agreements (APPRI) signed by Mexico provide essential legal certainty to companies choosing to locate operations in Mexico.

10. The parties stress the importance of the participation of civil society in all spheres of public life. At a time when worsening economic and social conditions have resulted in a significant divide between the political class and civil society, it is especially important for citizens to take part in decision-making. The delegations therefore undertake to strengthen their interaction with civil society within their areas of competence.

### ***Mexican Presidency of the G20***

11. Both parties agree on stressing the importance of the G20 as a forum for global governance bringing together the major developed, emerging and developing economies. In this respect, it is worth noting that the Mexican Presidency is taking advantage of the informal and flexible nature of the forum to make it more representative, inviting countries such as Chile, Colombia, Cambodia and Benin to take part. Furthermore, as part of its Presidency, Mexico has made a firm commitment to extended dialogue with other international organisations, civil society, the private sector, young people, NGOs and research centres.

12. In keeping with this effort to achieve a broader dialogue, the delegations welcome the fact that the national and supranational parliaments have now been given a voice within the Group of Twenty. With this in mind, they emphasise the visibility accorded to the parliamentary dimension of the G20 by the fact that the Final Communiqué agreed by the representatives of the various parliaments, the so-called G20-Speakers, at their meeting of 24 February 2012 in Riyadh, is to be submitted to the Los Cabos Summit of Heads of State and Government.

13. Parliamentarians from both regions agree that the weight of discussions at the G20 should be shifted gradually from the urgent search for responses to the ups and downs of the economic and financial crisis, towards an agreement on structural reforms laying foundations for steady and sustainable growth. They therefore considered it appropriate that the Cannes Action Plan for Growth and Jobs should be continued within the G20.

14. Both delegations agree on the urgency of strengthening national financial systems and placing special emphasis on financial inclusion to boost economic growth. Furthermore, in a context of globalised economies, it is crucial for an ambitious reform of the international financial architecture to be addressed within the G20 framework. They also believe it is right to provide the International Monetary Fund (IMF) with greater own resources to increase its lending capacity, so that more guarantees can be available when facing future challenges.

15. Both delegations also express their wish for food security and the volatility of commodity prices to remain an essential part of the G20 agenda. These are issues with huge and painful implications, especially for the most vulnerable sectors of the population. They need to be approached horizontally because of the huge variety of underlying causes. Both parties therefore agree to recommend that their governments take action to curb growing speculation in financial derivatives with staple goods as underlying assets.

16. Both delegations stress the importance of green and sustainable growth. Aware that the United Nations provides the reference framework for environmental protection, it is important for the Los Cabos Summit to give this issue political momentum, especially on the eve of the Rio+20 Conference.

17. Both parties agree on the importance of trade as an engine of growth. In these times of budgetary restrictions, trade policy takes on a key role as a highly effective economic policy with little budgetary impact. Both delegations therefore express their wish for trade to be an important issue at the upcoming G20 Summit and for the latter to call for protectionism to be combated and for World Trade Organisation's Doha Development Agenda to be moved forward.
18. Both the Mexican delegation and the European delegation welcome the fact that the two regions are in broad agreement as regards the positions they have taken concerning the main items on the G20 agenda. In certain areas, such as combating climate change, this has been very useful in adding greater value to common positions.
19. The European Parliament delegation congratulates its counterpart on the success of the Mexican presidency of the G20 and wishes it a very successful Summit in Los Cabos (Baja California) in June.

#### ***The fight against drugs and combating organised crime.***

20. Both delegations believe that drug trafficking is a complex issue in which a range of difficult questions related to health, public safety and social fabric converge, meaning that any political approach to the issue needs to be multidimensional and multidisciplinary.
21. The Mexican and European delegations believe that drug trafficking is a transnational phenomenon that no country can solve on its own. International political, legal, judicial and policing cooperation is therefore an essential tool for dealing successfully with this phenomenon.
22. Both parties agree that policies against drug trafficking have traditionally alternated between the prohibitionist paradigm and the damage limitation paradigm, without resulting in any significant success, and that a thorough evaluation of these models is therefore needed.
23. In this context, the parties are committed to follow up the High Level Dialogue on Security and Justice and to promoting new forms of cooperation with which to combat drugs and organised crime.

#### ***Human rights and the protection of their defenders***

24. Both parties welcome the existence of extensive and continued dialogue between Mexico and the EU in the area of promoting and protecting human rights. In this regard, they reiterate their firm commitment to continue developing the exchange of experience and good practices, with a view to improving public policies that seek to meet their respective and common challenges in this field.
25. Both delegations welcome the progress achieved under the current programme of cooperation between Mexico and the EU on human rights and reiterate the priority they attach to this issue in their bilateral relations. This is clearly reflected in the high quality of the High Level Dialogue on Human Rights evident in the two sessions held so far.

26. The European delegation takes this opportunity to express its interest in the adoption of the law on the protection of human rights defenders and journalists. This legal instrument seeks to strengthen and increase the effectiveness of mechanisms to protect these groups in order to provide them with political space and the guarantees of security enabling them to perform their work, which is of enormous value to society, since development can only be accompanied by justice when human rights are guaranteed.

The delegation expresses its support for a reform of the Military Justice Code backed by the Mexican Congress in line with the jurisprudence of the Mexican Supreme Court of Justice and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

### ***Review of the work of the JPC since its creation and future outlook***

27. Since its first meeting in Strasbourg in September 2005, the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee has been a key player in interaction and dialogue between the European Parliament and the Congress of the Union of the United Mexican States. Within the framework of the Global Agreement and the Strategic Partnership, the JPC has enabled the establishment of frank interparliamentary dialogue brought about through cooperation and the exchange of experience on a wide variety of matters.

28. Political dialogue between the two delegations, both characterised by political pluralism, has been one of the most valuable contributions of the JPC to the development of strong bilateral relations.

29. Migration and security are two transnational phenomena on which the JPC has been focusing ever since its first meetings. Work in this area has been invaluable, and has even gone beyond the bilateral level, resulting in steps being taken in defence of the rights of Mexican immigrants in the United States. More recently the focus of this dialogue has been the shared responsibility of both regions regarding the fight against organised crime and drug trafficking, as well as border security.

30. Financial cooperation and encouragement of investment has been another area of intense cooperation between both regions and one where the JPC has been involved on numerous occasions.

In this regard, the Framework Agreement for Financial Cooperation between the United Mexican States and the European Investment Bank (EIB) has been a major achievement, helping to finance many environmental sustainability projects in Mexico.

31. Collaboration concerning training and education has been a major focus of attention, and has complemented the intense scientific and technological cooperation reflected in the sectoral agreement existing between the EU and Mexico. In terms of business, attention has also been paid to the correct development of an environment favourable to the growth of the small and medium-sized enterprises that are key to the business environment of both regions.

32. During the seven years of its existence, the JPC has sought to promote triangular and regional cooperation. In this regard, it has promoted activities aimed at developing joint actions, especially with Central and South America and the Caribbean. Outstanding among these are the trilateral discussions held with the Executive Bureau of the EU-Chile Joint Parliamentary Committee and multilateral dialogue in the framework of the Euro-

Latin American Parliamentary Assembly. In this connection, it would be beneficial if the Association Agreement between the EU and certain countries in Central America helped to strengthen triangular EU-Mexico-Central America relations.

In this same context, the European Parliament delegation takes the opportunity to congratulate Mexico for establishing, along with 32 other nations, the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), wishing the new institution every success and expressing its desire to be able to establish direct dialogue with it.

33. Dialogue on the environment and climate change moved to a higher scale at the meeting of the COP16 in Cancun in late 2010. The EU and Mexico are both strongly committed to promoting the achievement of a global and legally binding agreement on the matter. The JPC has repeatedly urged governments to take bold steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, halt deforestation of the planet, develop carbon markets and ensure they are run properly, promote green technology transfer and encourage efficient use of global energy resources.
34. Both parties express their intention to continue working to deepen bilateral cooperation in the areas identified and to update this cooperation to reflect the new socio-economic situation in both regions. Nonetheless, they consider it appropriate to seek to extend the scope of their collaboration to cover new issues, and they reaffirm their interest in continuing to work to make the JPC increasingly influential in the context of bilateral relations in the political, economic, cultural and social fields.
35. The European side recognises the work the Mexican Deputies and Senators in the Mexican delegation who have been members of the Joint Parliamentary Committee for the last six years and, bearing in mind the end of their term in office, wishes them every success in their future projects.
36. The group of European parliamentary representatives extends special thanks to Senator José Guadarrama Márquez, who has acted as Co-Chair of the JPC with great enthusiasm and professionalism since its third meeting in May 2006 in Brussels.
37. Both delegations agree to hold the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the JPC in the second half of 2012 in Mexico. The European Parliament will await appropriate notification concerning the new members of the delegation from the Mexican Congress.
38. Both delegations agree to submit this declaration to the members of the EU-Mexico Joint Council and renewed their call for the two Co-Chairs of the European Union-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee to attend future meetings of this Council.

Signed in Strasbourg, France, on 24 May 2012.

<b>European Parliament Delegation to the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee</b>	<b>Delegation of the Congress of the United States of Mexico to the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee</b>
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**MEP Ricardo Cortés Lastra**

**Senator José Guadarrama Márquez**

