



16th Meeting of the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee

19-21 November 2013, Strasbourg, France

The delegations of the Congress of the Union of the United Mexican States and of the European Parliament to the Mexico-European Union Joint Parliamentary Committee (hereafter JPC), upon the conclusion of their 16th meeting, held in Strasbourg, France, have agreed on the following

Joint declaration

1. The European and Mexican delegations welcome the holding of the 16th JPC meeting and are happy with the outcome thereof; likewise, they are pleased that the twice-yearly meetings held since the creation of the JPC have continued in 2013. In the light of this, the delegations agree to amend the JPC's rules of procedure to formalise the standard practice of holding two meetings a year. For these purposes, each of the parties will submit to the authorities of the European Parliament and of the Mexican Congress their endorsement of this modification.
2. Similarly, the European and Mexican delegations are pleased with the outcome of meetings of the standing committees and other bodies of the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly which was held in Vilnius (Lithuania), on 16-18 July 2013, and the latest meeting of its Executive Bureau held in Puerto Plata (Dominican Republic) on 19-20 September 2013; these are a testament to strengthening interparliamentary relations between the two regions;
3. The European delegation expresses its solidarity with the Mexican people following the natural disasters which caused devastation in Mexico in the second half of September 2013, leaving over 150 dead and countless injured, and causing significant damage to the country's infrastructure. The Mexican delegation appreciates and is thankful for the concerns of and solidarity expressed by the European Union following these catastrophic events.

GLOBAL AGREEMENT AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

4. Both delegations are pleased with the current state of EU-Mexico relations and the level of cooperation reached during dialogue under the Global Agreement and the Strategic Partnership. The parties welcome the decision of the President of the European Council, the President of the European Commission and the President of Mexico to explore ways to modernise the Global Agreement and

they highlight the opportunities presented by a modernisation of the Global Agreement aimed at bringing it into line with current relations in trade, policy and cooperation and their Strategic Partnership. The JPC is in favour of forging as close a relationship as possible for future negotiations on the modernisation of the agreement's three pillars (political dialogue, cooperation and trade).

5. The JPC considers that EU-Mexico relations ought to be further developed, particularly in the fields of Global Agreement services and investment, the strengthening of political dialogue and cooperation with a renewed strategic vision. The JPC therefore calls on the EU and Mexico to launch the first high-level political dialogue and to establish, in the near future, all study groups which are to be created as part of the modernisation of the agreement.
6. The JPC is fully committed to participating in the modernisation of the Global Agreement and, in this context, expresses its desire to be regularly informed about the work of the study groups.
7. The parties are pleased with the holding of the 'Joint seminar on the further development of the Global Agreement and the role of the EU-Mexico JPC in negotiations concerning the modernisation of the agreement' and jointly call for a report to be drafted which would consider, from a parliamentary point of view, the opportunities presented as part of the modernisation of the agreement, the titles to be reviewed and the role of the JPC in the negotiating process.
8. The JPC reiterates its desire for the Global Agreement to be updated independently but in tune with the negotiations on the EU-US Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership in an effort to facilitate transatlantic trade relations while also taking account of the recent conclusion of an ambitious free trade agreement between the EU and Canada.
9. The JPC highlights the importance of increasing the visibility of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in trade relations between the two partners. The EU-Mexico Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (PROCEI) has made a significant contribution to the growth and internationalisation of SMEs in Mexico; both parties believe that it is necessary to continue to support projects that facilitate the entry of Mexican and European SMEs into bilateral markets, focusing on those regions and/or countries in which the opportunities presented by the Global Agreement have not been fully exploited.

MIGRATION AND BORDER MANAGEMENT

10. Both delegations express their shock at the dramatic incidents which have taken place in the southern Mediterranean, particularly the recent sinking of a boat carrying hundreds of migrants attempting to reach Europe close to the island of Lampedusa; equally, they regret the dramatic situations faced by Central American and Mexican migrants attempting to reach the US.
11. The JPC considers that, in the light of the seriousness of irregular immigration and the vulnerability of the human rights of migrants in both regions, structured

and global bi-regional dialogue on migration needs to be stepped up in an attempt to find a swift solution to the problem.

12. The JPC welcomes the constitutional reforms which have taken place in Mexico and the adoption in 2011 of the laws on migration and refugees in response to international commitments made by Mexico; highlights the importance of the full application of this law and supports the full implementation of the Mechanism adopted by Mexico in 2012 in an effort to protect human rights defenders, including those working for the rights of migrants at risk. Calls for regional dialogue on migration to be held in Central America which, together with the US, would aim to implement mechanisms to deal with the causes of migration and limit the risks to which migrants and associations defending the rights of migrants are exposed.
13. The JPC calls for the EU and Mexico to examine ways to tackle the challenges posed by migrant flows and to conduct an assessment of the way in which current policies to tackle irregular immigration impact on human rights.
14. The parties make an urgent appeal to the international community to consider the plight of refugees fleeing from armed conflict in Syria.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

15. The JPC agrees with the Joint Committee that the bilateral human rights dialogue has been positive and is pleased to see the incorporation of topics such as migration, focusing on cooperation and the exchange of new practices; is disappointed that the fourth EU-Mexico bilateral dialogue on human rights, and the civil society seminar which was to be part of it, did not take place in Brussels in October 2013 and have been postponed until the first half of 2014.
16. Similarly, the Committee reiterates its appeal to boost cooperation on the tackling of violence against women and girls and the elimination of gender inequality. It also supports organisations which work in this area.
17. The JPC emphatically condemns the alleged mass espionage suffered by citizens and authorities around the world at the hands of US secret services and is keen to see the results of all investigations (including that of the European Parliament); the parties share the view that friends, partners and allies should not spy on each other, besides the fact that the international legal framework deprecates espionage. The parties endorse the interest of the Joint Committee in the creation of a bilateral study group on internet governance, cyber security and cybercrime. The parties stress the importance of guaranteeing the protection of personal data, particularly in the light of the recent NSA espionage scandal which the study group ought to take into consideration in its discussions and proposals.

FIGHT AGAINST ORGANISED CRIME

18. The delegations are pleased with the adoption of the European Parliament resolution of 23 October 2013 aiming at tackling more effectively organised crime, corruption and money laundering, and back the recommendations on the required actions and initiatives;
19. The JPC is pleased with the collaboration between the EU and Mexico in the areas of security and organised crime which began with the first high-level dialogue on security and justice in 2011; it welcomes the efforts of the European Police Office (Europol) to explore opportunities for cooperation with the relevant agencies in Mexico; it calls on the EU and Mexico not to further postpone the second high-level dialogue in order to promote the exchange of information and experiences in this area.

COOPERATION

20. The parties view positively the initiative of the Joint Committee to create a working group to analyse the future of cooperation, taking into account the priorities of the new Mexican Government and the EU's new cooperation instruments;
21. The JPC believes that it is fitting to promote new collaboration projects in areas of common interest such as social cohesion, justice, human rights, the sustainable economy, science and technology, innovation, education and culture, statistics and employment;

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

22. The JPC is pleased with the outcome of the special event on the Millennium Development Goals which took place within the framework of the 68th Session of the United Nations General Assembly in September 2013 and undertakes to boost compliance with the Millennium Development Goals and to participate actively in drafting an agenda for post-2015 development;

CLIMATE CHANGE – COP 19

23. The delegations share a strong commitment to avoiding dangerous levels of climate change and to keeping global warming below the 2°C target; particularly as regards the climate change negotiations which are currently taking place under the auspices of the Conference of the Parties (COP 19) in Warsaw, Poland, the parties reiterate the urgent need for greater global ambition as regards climate change and the need to lay down, in Paris in 2015, a legally binding agreement on the establishment of a single, comprehensive and consistent system for climate protection beyond 2020; encourages cooperation

to promote clean energy systems which provide additional benefits such as cleaner air and sustainable rural life;

WTO

24. The parties highlight the role of international trade as an engine for international economic recovery. The limited impact of the economic crisis on international trade is due largely to the robust international trade system which we have all helped to build over the last decades and which is safeguarded by the World Trade Organisation. In this regard, the parties agree on the importance of fighting protectionism and consolidating free trade, both bilaterally and multilaterally. They therefore reiterate the need to strengthen the multilateral trade system and highlight the convergence of EU and Mexican positions as regards the need to conclude the Doha Round with an agreement which prioritises the facilitation of trade and aspects that will promote growth in the least developed countries.

DIALOGUE WITH CIVIL SOCIETY

25. The JPC is happy that a Dialogue Forum bringing together representatives of Mexican and EU civil society and governmental institutions is being held every other year with the aim of facilitating the exchange of views on the best way to boost relations between both parties within the framework of opportunities provided by the Global Agreement; the latest (fifth) Forum took place in Brussels in October 2012 and the next one will be held in Mexico in 2014.
26. Right from the beginning, the JPC has continually advocated the participation of and contribution from civil society under the Global Agreement and when developing bilateral relations and has suggested that this contribution be directed by a joint body established by the EESC and the institutions or mechanisms of participation which Mexico has set up for this purpose; it therefore backs the creation of a Joint Consultative Committee as an advisory body for the Joint Council and a space for participation and dialogue with social and civil organisations as set out in four of its earlier joint declarations (X, XII, XIII and XV).
27. The delegations also support and encourage improvement of the current dialogue hosted by the EESC and Mexican civil society in an effort to reach a joint agreement on a proposal to establish the abovementioned Joint Consultative Committee under the Global Agreement.

INSTITUTIONAL MEETINGS

28. Both parties eagerly await the 2014 EU-Mexico institutional meetings, particularly the summit, the Joint Council and the Joint Committee; they call on their respective governments to make use of the opportunities provided by these meetings to develop a strong joint vision for the future of the bilateral relations

and they are keen to receive regular updates on progress made during these meetings towards a modernisation of the Global Agreement.

ROLE OF THE JPC, ENHANCED PARLIAMENTARY SCRUTINY

29. The parties reiterate the need to ensure that parliamentary meetings work to resolve bilateral challenges and guarantee effective parliamentary scrutiny to improve the monitoring of JPC agreements and ensure that they are taken into consideration by both the Joint Council and the Joint Committee, and thereby provide continual interaction with bilateral relations monitoring and evaluation bodies. With a view to strengthening parliamentary scrutiny, both delegations renew their call for their respective chairs to be invited to future summits and to future Council and Committee meetings. They also agree to explore innovative ways to strengthen the role of the JPC and its work in the framework of EU-Mexico relations.
30. The delegations agree to meet again in Brussels in the first half of 2014.

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