



MEXICO-EU JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

**15th Meeting of the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary
Committee**

2-4 May 2013, Mexico City, State of Morelos

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 15th meeting held in Mexico City and in the State of Morelos, Mexico, have agreed on the following:

Joint Declaration

1. The Mexican and European delegations congratulate each other on the holding and the outcome of the 15th Meeting of the Mexico-European Union Joint Parliamentary Committee and believe it is promising that, despite the fact that, in September and December 2012 respectively, a new parliamentary term began in Mexico and there was a change of government, the existing relationship between the two parties and the soundness of the work undertaken have been maintained. They therefore consider it vital to maintain the system of biannual meetings, held alternately in Mexico and Europe.
2. The international economic crisis – now in its fifth year – has made it very clear that many challenges lie ahead and that, in particular, there is a need for

global economic governance, for better and more supervision of the financial system and for tools that provide coordination and internal discipline, including balanced budgets, and that prevent, to the greatest possible extent, new economic imbalances and, in particular, address the high and unjustified price currently being paid by society. The Parliamentary Committee is committed to promoting measures to boost growth, jobs and the best trade and entrepreneurial practices which contribute to these.

3. The Parliamentary Committee is confident that the new Mexican Government and the legislative reforms which have been implemented thus far are making a positive contribution for Mexico. Similarly, it is confident that the 'Pact for Mexico' represents a tool to facilitate agreement between the country's main political powers which, it is hoped, will play a role in confronting the more serious problems faced by Mexico such as latent insecurity and the profound economic inequality as a result of which over 50 million Mexicans are living in poverty. Both delegations urge the signatories of the 'Pact for Mexico' to continue working to boost the involvement of the Mexican Senate and Congress in the Pact's implementation.

4. The Parliamentary Committee is pleased to note that the Mexican economy has stood firm in the face of the global crisis and recognise how important it is that Mexico is currently acting as a magnet for investment projects which simultaneously help to boost Mexico's political position on the world stage and, in particular, its capacity as a strategic partner for the European Union, which, it is hoped, will result in a better standard of living for Mexican citizens.

5. The 15th political dialogue meeting at parliamentary level was held not long after the 15th anniversary of the signing of the Economic Partnership and Political Coordination and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and its Member States and the United Mexican States. This instrument, also known as the Global Agreement, was the most ambitious agreement signed up to that point between the European Union and a third country, and meant that Mexico became the first country to have free trade relations with the world's two most important economic blocs. The European Union has encouraged the implementation of association agreements with other Latin American countries and is currently negotiating trade agreements with Japan and Canada. Trade between the European Union and Mexico has grown steadily since the Global Agreement came into force.

6. Consequently, and bearing in mind recent developments in trade sectors not included in the Global Agreement, such as telecommunications, energy and transport, significant changes to the Global Agreement are required in order to optimise it and to increase the potential of the Strategic Partnership, to the benefit of both parties. Both delegations agree that, after 15 years of the Global Agreement, the relationship and notably those areas which have not seen the expected results in the fields of the economy, cooperation and political dialogue, need to be reassessed.

7. The Parliamentary Committee would like to see the Global Agreement updated in parallel and in a manner consistent with future negotiations on a trade and investment agreement between the EU and the United States, to ensure that such an agreement does not create significant distortions in the trade relationship between the EU and Mexico.

8. The Parliamentary Committee undertakes to promote measures which foster diversity in the economy and which probe those sectors and areas which the bilateral relations have not exploited. Currently, according to Organisation of American States data, approximately 96 % of trade between Mexico and the European Union takes place in just 7 of the 27 EU Member States and over 93 % of investment from the EU is limited to just 6 of Mexico's 32 federal entities.

9. In terms of cooperation, both parties regret that as a result of new differentiation criteria, Mexico is no longer a beneficiary of development cooperation aid from the European Union as it is now considered an upper middle income country. In this context, however, both parties are in favour of reviewing the outcome of bilateral cooperation projects and agree that the inequitable distribution of income in Mexico means that a comprehensive review of Mexico's needs and potential must take place. Similarly, both parties approve of the recently created Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation and call for it to become a tool that ensures that development resources are used efficiently. The delegations undertake to keep a close eye on new opportunities which lead to new cooperation criteria, with the main aim of putting paid to inequality and poverty.

10. The Joint Parliamentary Committee takes the view that the planned cutting-back on cooperation with Latin American countries in general and Mexico in particular requires further, more detailed analysis that takes account of the

social reality in the countries in this region and is not based solely on the criterion of those countries' gross domestic product.

11. The Parliamentary Committee is keen to step up parliamentary analysis of progress made and outcomes in the area of social cohesion under the 2007-2013 bilateral cooperation programme, which serves as a testing ground with a view to promoting social cohesion in Mexico by improving access to basic services and public programmes in the social sector. The first part of this programme has made a visible impact and it is hoped that the second part will help create even more conclusive results which will enable further encouragement of social cohesion in Mexico.

12. In terms of political dialogue in EU-Mexico relations, three years have passed since the Mexico-European Union Strategic Partnership Joint Executive Plan was presented and the parties welcome in particular the progress made in and the continuation of high-level specialised dialogues in areas such as human rights, justice and security and the environment. Both parties undertake to monitor and push for action to make this dialogue more effective. Likewise, the Mexican and European delegations agree that significant changes must be made in order to unlock the full potential of the Strategic Partnership and the Global Agreement for the benefit of both parties.

13. The Parliamentary Committee reaffirms the need to deepen political and parliamentary dialogue as an essential instrument to strengthen and expand bilateral relations, confirming the mutual commitment at parliamentary level to broaden relations in areas including the economy and bilateral political cooperation and coordination, in view of the importance of parliamentary dialogue in improving the effectiveness of policy in many sectors.

14. Given that defending, promoting and upholding human rights is one of the foundations of EU-Mexico bilateral relations, both parties undertake to keep up efforts to protect and foster respect for human rights as well as preventing, resolving and pursuing human rights violations and addressing impunity, by exchanging experience and best practice in this area in view, in particular, of the 'European Year of Citizens'.

15. The Parliamentary Committee welcomes the Mexican constitutional reform in the field of human rights, which entered into force in 2011 and enshrined the protection of human rights in the Constitution, in line with international treaties.

16. The Parliamentary Committee reaffirms its recognition of the important role played by civil society in forming more democratic, inclusive governments and takes the view that the agreements made, particularly those made at the five dialogue forums held thus far on dialogue between civil society and government institutions in Mexico and the EU, should be maintained and complied with. Similarly, they respect the way in which Mexican and European civil society is represented, as demonstrated by the conclusions of the third and fourth dialogue forums. Likewise, the delegations of the Mexican Congress and the European Parliament agree to act as discussion partners with Mexican and European civil society organisations as proposed by the organisations themselves at the fifth European Union-Mexico civil society dialogue forum held in Brussels on 25 and 26 October 2012.

17. The Joint Parliamentary Committee calls for the Joint Advisory Committee for dialogue between civil society and government institutions in Mexico and the European Union to be brought into operation, in line with the dialogue held with representatives of civil society from both parties and as underlined in three of its previous joint declarations (10, 12 and 13).

18. Similarly, the Committee calls for cooperation to be stepped up in relation to action to combat violence against women and eradicate gender inequality.

19. The Parliamentary Committee is in favour of exploring and promoting new trends in the generation of clean energy in the various energy-producing sectors.

20. Similarly, the delegations are in favour of promoting the Green Economy from a holistic economic point of view, based on European Union experience in innovation and the management of new, alternative forms of energy. The Mexican and European delegations undertake to encourage dialogue focused specifically on Green Economy projects, and thus promote clean energy projects geared to each energy sector.

21. Both parties express their greatest interest in using international instruments such as the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and its Conferences of the Parties (COP) as well as the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, Rio+20, in order to deal with global issues such as climate change, environmental degradation, renewable energy, etc.

22. Similarly, the Parliamentary Committee undertakes to boost compliance with the Millennium Development Goals and play an active part in building the post-2015 development agenda.

23. The Parliamentary Committee also proposes developing possibilities for cooperation on security and law enforcement matters within the framework of the Strategic Partnership, as provided for in section 3.3 of the Mexico-European Union Strategic Partnership Joint Executive Plan.

24. The Parliamentary Committee presses for bilateral relations between the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean to be strengthened, specifically within the framework of the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly (EUROLAT), trusting that the negotiations held and the agreements made in Santiago, Chile, in January will be followed through and that the commitment to strengthen bi-regional cooperation as a main instrument for peace and international balance within a vital partnership will be upheld.

25. The delegations of the Mexican Congress and of the European Parliament believe that one of the most important commitments made during this 15th meeting is to ensure that parliamentary meetings drive the resolution of bilateral challenges. In particular, the parties believe that it is essential that these forums implicitly require the exercise of effective parliamentary scrutiny which allows for greater monitoring of EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee agreements so that these are taken into account to the greatest possible extent by the Joint Council and so that they are followed up in meetings of the Joint Committee, thus also helping to ensure continuous interaction with bodies that monitor and assess bilateral relations.

26. The Parliamentary Committee welcomes the outcome of the meeting and the special interaction with diverse sectors of politics and society in Mexico and agrees to give greater impetus to bilateral parliamentary relations in the run-up to the next meeting scheduled for the second half of 2013 in Europe.

27. Finally, the Parliamentary Committee calls on the Mexican Congress and the European Parliament to boost and intensify their activities in relation to assessing the impact and added value of the legislation they adopt, including legislation relating to the implementation of the EU-Mexico Global Agreement and Strategic Partnership, and it consequently proposes that a joint pilot project be carried out to assess the impact and added value, which could then be

submitted to and considered at a forthcoming meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Committee.

Sen. Rabindranath Salazar Solorio

Chair

EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee

Ricardo Cortés Lastra, MEP

Chair

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