



EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee

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19th meeting of the EU-Mexico's Joint Parliamentary Committee

MINUTES

of the meeting of 7 July 2015, from 9.00 to 12.30 and from 14.30 to 18.00,
of 8 July 2015, from 14.30 to 18.00,
and of 9 July 2015, from 9.00 to 12.30

Strasbourg

1. Opening Session:

The opening session began at 9.00 on 7 July 2015. It was chaired by the Co-Chairs of the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC): **Teresa Jiménez Becerril** (PPE, ES) representing the European Parliament (EP) and **Rabindranath Salazar Solorio** (PRD), representing the Congress of the Republic of the United States of Mexico.

Teresa Jiménez Becerril, EP Co-Chair, speaking on behalf of the EP delegation, thanked the Mexican delegation for the work it had done to hold the JPC meeting. She stressed Mexico's unquestionable importance to the EU as a trade partner and as a political one, recalling that the Global Agreement, in force since 2000, had helped increase bilateral trade, turning Mexico into the EU's foremost trade partner in Latin America. It had sealed an alliance between the EU and Mexico that defended human rights, the rule of law and basic principles in their domestic and external policies. She recalled that the political and economic situation of both parties at the time the Agreement was signed had been very different from that found nowadays, and agreed that work was needed urgently on updating the Agreement and making it more appropriate for current circumstances. Mexico's economy was now the biggest in Spanish-speaking Latin America, the second largest in Latin America and the third largest in the whole of the American continent, with an enviable degree of macroeconomic stability. The EU had recognised Mexico's importance and had signed the Strategic Partnership (2008), turning Mexico into one of the EU's strategic partners. However, it was still the only country which had both a global agreement and a strategic partnership with the EU. The Co-Chair said that the EU, for its part, was currently at a crucial point in time, confronted with four major political

problems: the Greek issue, terrorist threats, the situation of illegal migrants in the Mediterranean and the crisis in Ukraine. Speaking of the recent EU-Mexico Summit she said it had confirmed how important Mexico was to the whole of the EU, as well as the genuine interest both parties had in continuing to deepen this exceptional bilateral relationship. She reminded them that the JPC was still the one and only component of the Strategic Partnership that represented directly citizens on both sides of the Atlantic and extended her best wishes for their joint work to benefit both the EU and Mexican public. She then gave the floor to her Co-Chair.

Rabindranath Salazar Solorio started by saying that in addition to sharing its vision of building a new world order that was fairer, more democratic and tolerant, Mexico also had a solid relationship with the EU of friendship and cooperation. He believed that the establishment of the Global Agreement signed in 1997 had helped to strengthen this bilateral relationship. He agreed with his Co-Chair that updating this Agreement and its three pillars was now a matter of necessity and a constant item on the agenda. He was pleased that the Mexican Government and the EU had agreed at the Brussels Summit in June of that year to start negotiations on updating the Global Agreement. This would renew the three pillars of the bilateral relationship: political coordination, cooperation, and trade and investment, not forgetting the commitment by both parties to continue working on the protection and defence of human rights. He said that progress had been made, fortunately, since the last time the JPC had met, acknowledging the work done by his country's federal and state authorities in capturing at the beginning of 2015, four years after the event, the alleged perpetrators of the paramilitary attack in Oaxaca in which human rights defenders had lost their lives. There were still other challenges to be resolved, such as the case of the 43 students who had disappeared in Guerrero, the murder of many others at the hands of organised crime syndicates, and corruption, all of which damaged the foundations of Mexican democracy. Although the challenges faced by the EU and Mexico at home were different, this should not, he said, drive them away from the path of political dialogue and integration. Concerning a matter of common interest – climate change – Mexico was actively involved in multilateral negotiations on the new agreement under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, with the aim of promoting a sustainable global development model. In concluding, he quoted Robert Schuman to remind them of the importance of parliamentary diplomacy: 'world peace cannot be safeguarded without the making of creative efforts proportionate to the dangers which threaten it'.

2. Adoption of the agenda of the 19th meeting and approval of the minutes of the 18th meeting of the EU-Mexico JPC

The agenda for the meeting was adopted as shown in these minutes and the minutes of the 18th meeting of the EU-Mexico JPC (Mexico City, 17-19 February 2015) were approved as set out in the meeting file, without any changes.

WORKING SESSION I

The first working session began at 9.30 on 7 July 2015.

3. Climate change/renewable energy

The Co-Chair explained that climate change was on the agenda once again as it was an issue of great interest to both Mexico and the EU on account of the COP21 in Paris at the end of 2015.

The Mexican delegation's rapporteur, Adriana **González Carrillo** (PAN), said that while there were various causes behind climate change, since the 20th century human activities had been the main cause of change in global climate patterns. As global warming and the rise in temperatures predicted by scientists could have overwhelming effects, this process had to be curbed and even reversed now. Changes to the climate caused by human actions affected activities such as food production, which in turn affected countries' food and economic situation. She spoke of the UN's efforts at multilateral level to reduce CO₂ gases and the greenhouse effect, citing the World Summit in 1992, and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. In Mexico, the legislative power had worked hard on adapting regulations to meet international protocols such as the Kyoto Protocol. Mexico had passed an Energy Transition Law in order to have much cleaner energy from renewable sources. Between April and May 2014, the diagnosis of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which published the risks faced by each region in the world, had not been at all encouraging. The rise in temperature by the end of this century was the most worrying aspect. Mexico had taken action and passed laws to contend with and face up to the risks stemming from this 21st century challenge. When Mexico had passed its Climate Change Law in 2012, it had been only the second country in the world to establish a legal framework in this regard. One of the main objectives was to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 30 % by 2020. Many other legal instruments in Mexico also had a sustainable development component. The rapporteur reminded them that climate change could not be fought on a national, or even regional, front as climate change did not recognise national borders, and emphasised that the international community had to take concentrated action immediately. This was the spirit in which, at the end of the year, the Climate Conference would be held in Paris at which the parties had to sign a genuinely binding instrument.

Unfortunately it had not been possible to present the EP report on climate change owing to the absence of **Franziska Keller** (Verts, DE), who had sent her apologies.

Speakers: Thomas **Mann** (PPE, DE), Blanca **Alcalá** (PRI), Teresa **Jiménez Becerril** (PPE, ES) and Adriana **González Carrillo** (PAN).

4. EU-Mexico cooperation on social cohesion

The EP rapporteur, **Verónica Lope** (PPE, ES), began by welcoming the Mexican delegation and thanking them for having travelled to Strasbourg so that the 19th meeting of the EU-Mexico JPC could be held.

She referred to the fact that all fields of relations between the EU and Mexico had started many years ago and that the EU had always demonstrated a high-level of commitment to Mexico, as shown by the signature of the Global Agreement in 1997, the first ever EU partnership agreement with a Latin American country, which was subsequently boosted by the agreement on the Strategic Partnership. With regard to updating the Global

Agreement, she pointed out that this was more than a free trade agreement and its aim was political dialogue and cooperation between the two regions.

With regard to social cohesion, the EU had included the ‘democratic clause’ as a formula to encourage good governance practices. While the repercussions of the global economic and financial crisis of recent years had differed greatly around the world, the general trend in many of the world’s regions had been towards increased poverty, social exclusion and greater inequality. Mexico, for its part, had enjoyed positive results in the economic sphere over the past 15 years, generating favourable financial conditions which had enabled it to grow steadily and withstand the 2008 economic crisis. In spite of this growth and the efforts it had made to improve the economy, democracy and social issues, Mexico had not been able to reduce its levels of inequality and lessen the threat to public safety linked to the violence generated by drug trafficking and organised crime syndicates. The EU, meanwhile, had shown that it did not have sufficient mechanisms to respond effectively to a crisis of this magnitude, and the consequences were rising unemployment, greater levels of poverty and social exclusion and increased inequalities. The EP rapporteur said that they had a common goal: to reduce poverty levels, social exclusion and inequalities in society. For this to happen, promoting social cohesion was not just fundamental to combating poverty and inequality; it was also linked to consolidating democracy and having a functioning economy with decent jobs. She reminded them that the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) stated that economic, territorial and social cohesion was a basic objective of the EU, as it was also for the Europe 2020 Strategy, with employment the sole way of reducing inequalities. She believed the education system had to be modernised to bring it more closely into line with labour market needs, and in spite of the differences between the EU and Mexico, education had to be the cornerstone for their policies. She welcomed the implementation of the National Development Plan 2013-2018, which required the Mexican State to provide pre-school, primary, secondary and tertiary education, contributing to higher levels of schooling. She also referred to the 5th High Level Bilateral Dialogue on Human Rights between Mexico and the EU, in April 2015, which pointed to both regions wanting to move forward in the same direction. She congratulated Mexico on the work it was doing to end discrimination, citing as an example the ‘Programme for Equality and Non-Discrimination 2014-2018’, which was the first programme on equality and non-discrimination. In concluding, she referred to the 2007-2013 bilateral cooperation programme between the EU and Mexico, and in particular the field of social cohesion, stating that the Social Cohesion Laboratory had helped shape political strategies on social cohesion, improving access to public services.

The rapporteur for the Mexican delegation, **Blanca María de Socorro Alcalá** (PRI) started by saying how important the Mexican delegation considered taking part in the meeting to be. She congratulated the rapporteur Verónica Lope on her report. She felt that an objective analysis of what was happening in Mexico was necessary in order to be able to address current weaknesses. She said that one of the great ambitions shared by all countries was being able to aspire to democracy, pursuing values of justice and freedom in order to be able to achieve a state of well-being. One of the major challenges facing Mexico, in her view, and to a lesser extent the EU, was inequality, as they had managed to leave poverty behind but inequality remained. Latin America was the region that had worked the hardest to eradicate poverty but it was still the region with the greatest inequality in the world. Taking Europe as a comparison, and using the Gini coefficient, the Scandinavian countries had the best income distribution while countries like Mexico had the worst income distribution. She reiterated that education was a key factor in social

cohesion and gave some figures on the rise in levels of schooling around the world and the rise in student numbers since the 1950s. However, this had not gone hand in hand with class mobility. She considered that violence-related issues were among the most difficult problems in discussing social cohesion, and especially the violence people suffered day in, day out (domestic violence, intra-family violence, etc.). With regard to criminal acts of violence, in Mexico's case some of the most important issues they had had to deal with were connected to the illegal trade in metals, people trafficking and slavery, and drug trafficking. The violence here had created forced migration, leading Mexico to take tangible measures. She gave as an example the implementation of the state policy of 'Culture for Harmony', to re-establish tolerance and coexistence in a number of communities. The current legislature had also taken on the task of pushing forward structural reforms linked to health, the economy and transport, which would act as a starting point for the National Development Plan. In all cases, the aim was to contribute to global policies and continue work on closing the inequality gap. She mentioned specific programmes Mexico had implemented to tackle the challenges of inequality, including gender inequality, such as the 'Prospera' programme and 'México nos mueve por la Paz', and said that a cross-cutting strategy was needed to enable consideration of a social policy with a large number of measures to empower poorer communities. With regard to gender equality, one of the gains from the recently concluded electoral process had been the introduction of reforms giving parity democracy. To conclude, she reiterated that carrying out an assessment of EU-Mexico cooperation was a matter of supreme importance for the parliamentarians present there, and that exercises of that nature had to be strengthened so that public policies were updated. She finished by referring to the fact that social cohesion was a means as well as an end, a means that enabled progress and that long-term development would not be possible without social cohesion. As global problems affected everyone they were problems that both Mexico and the EU shared and for that reason collaboration was necessary.

Speakers: Adriana **González Carrillo** (PAN), Cesar **Pedrosa Gaitán** (PAN), Omar **Fayad Meneses** (PRI), Teresa **Jiménez Becerril** (PPE, ES), Blanca **Alcalá** (PRI), Verónica **Lope** (PPE, ES) and Mr Philip **Gross**, representing the **EEAS**.

WORKING SESSION II

The second working session began at 14.30 on 7 July 2015.

5. State of EU-LAC bi-regional relations

The EP rapporteur, **Gesine Meissner** (ALDE, DE), began her report by emphasising the importance of the EU-CELAC Summits for cooperation between the two regions. She recalled that as the 2013-2015 Action Plan had shown, cooperation in sectors such as science and innovation, technology, regional integration, education and training, and sustainable development was important, as was the important role played by business. She mentioned various cooperation programmes which both the EU and Latin America were currently involved in: Euroclima – on climate change; Copolad – on enhanced cooperation to stop drug trafficking; EUROsociAL – a very important programme in the social sector

to bring about political dialogue on social cohesion; Euronet and the EU-CELAC migration programme. The EU wanted to step up political dialogue and to improve, round off and update its economic relations with Latin America, as well as find other opportunities for cooperation. Cooperation had to be on an equal footing and based on international law, safeguarding human rights. With regard to economic relations, she said the EU continued to be the biggest investor in the region and its second biggest trade partner after the United States (trade between the EU and CELAC had doubled in the past 10 years). Trade agreements with 26 of the 33 LAC countries showed the strength of EU-LAC relations. She referred to the recent negotiations on the free trade agreement with Chile, and to the negotiations on an agreement with Ecuador and the successful negotiations with Central America. She recalled that in 2013, in Santiago de Chile, the EU and Mercosur had decided to weigh up new opportunities for further cooperation and to conclude the negotiations on signing a partnership agreement. She said that updating the Global Agreement with Mexico was one of the foremost objectives at present. With regard to development cooperation, she mentioned that the EU was one of the biggest development aid donors. She referred to the goal of economic development as such, now rolling out new opportunities for cooperation, including a public-private partnership. She mentioned important topical bi-regional issues: drug trafficking, climate change, etc. The next EU-Mexico summit would be held in June 2016 and she spoke of the enormous potential the EU and Mexico had together to promote greater prosperity on both sides of the Atlantic. She said that the EU was negotiating the TTIP with the US but that it had not lost sight of partners like Mexico, which showed how important Mexico was as a trade partner. She urged closer political cooperation as a necessary step towards renewing the Global Agreement between the EU and Mexico, enhancing cooperation. She called on the EU and the LAC countries to stand together on climate change, and for increased cooperation on science and technology. She said it was important to take full advantage of student and scientist exchange programmes and that universal education was also a field in which they could cooperate. She finished by referring to the importance of EuroLat for cooperation with Latin American partners and welcomed the positive state of EU-CELAC relations.

The Mexican rapporteur, **Gabriela Cuevas** (PAN), stressed that it was important to focus on knowing precisely what were the challenges of the bi-regional agenda and the situation at present. She considered that the Agenda on Security and the Agenda on Human Rights, specifically in regard to migration, formed a very important part of this. Human rights were a cross-cutting issue and had to be present in each of the policies and decisions taken regarding the bi-regional agenda. She considered too that the regional integration processes on both sides of the Atlantic were important. She spoke of the importance of updating the EU's agreements with Mexico and Chile, and about the EU-Mercosur negotiations. She said that the Global Agreement with Mexico had not had any real effect on Mexicans' daily life, that finding ways by which these big agreements between the EU and the LAC could have a real impact on the lives of citizens was a big challenge for legislators. With regard to security, the rapporteur said this was an important issue but the EU and Latin America took very different approaches to it. While the EU focused on the Middle East and North Africa, the LAC area was faced daily with the problems of drug trafficking and organised crime. What united both regions was their approach focusing on people's security, regardless of the nature of the conflict. With regard to immigration, Europe's problems in the Mediterranean were on a par with Mexico's situation in regard to Central American migrants. The consequences of lack of security and violence ended up by being similar therefore. She also referred to work to stop violence against women

and achieve gender equality; the challenge of making progress towards a form of sustainable development that always took account of social and environmental awareness. She considered that better quality education had a fundamental role to play and that a society in which there was far greater exchange of students between the two regions was needed. Democratic participation had to be more transparent and the general population had to be more involved in this. On climate change, she had said that both the LAC and the EU were committed to the same thing, pointing out that neither region was one of the worst polluters in the world, but that there was a great deal of potential for creating a forum for the sharing of knowledge, technology and public policies. She referred to major areas in the Post-2015 Development Agenda where the two regions were in agreement, recommending that they should work together more to promote them. With regard to updating the Global Agreement with Mexico, she said that Mexico wanted the flow of trade and investment to be two-way and for agricultural products, which were excluded from the agreement, to be included. She mentioned the great potential of Mexican cereals, meat and dairy products. She reminded them that Mexico had free trade agreements with 43 countries in the world, but that in the EU's case the agreement had not yet been updated to make productive integration possible. Finally she referred to intellectual property and liberalisation of the services sector, which, with the updating of the Global Agreement, would become more commercially dynamic, but always with a cooperative approach. She then ended her report by saying that the involvement of parliamentarians in these negotiations was crucially important; playing an active part in the negotiations was mandatory in view of the many opportunities they offered to become involved.

Speakers: Teresa **Jiménez Becerril** (PPE, ES), Omar **Fayad Meneses** (PRI), Bogdan **Wenta** (PPE, PL), Giulia **Moi** (EFDD, IT), Josep **Terricabras** (Verts/ALE), Gabriela **Cuevas** (PAN), Gesine **Meissner** (ALDE, DE) and Mr Philip **Gross**, representing the **EEAS**.

WORKING SESSION III

The third working session began at 15.30 on 8 July 2015.

6. Civil society participation in the EU-Mexico Strategic Association

The rapporteur for the EP delegation, **José Blanco López** (S&D, ES), welcomed the opportunity to take part in the JPC meeting as rapporteur on an issue he considered to be of vital importance, especially at that time, when citizens were constantly demanding greater power and involvement in the process of drawing up and approving public policies. He described this demand as a global phenomenon and said that the technological revolution our societies were living through encouraged dialogue, transparency and accountancy. He spoke of how the role played by civil society had developed since the Global Agreement between the EU and Mexico had been signed and how too the policy of institutionalising civil society participation had been exported to bilateral trade agreements concluded by the EU recently, for instance the agreements with Colombia and Peru or with Central America. Acknowledging that similar clauses had not been included in the Global Agreement at the time it was concluded, he pointed out

however that safeguards had been stipulated for civil society participation in two specific fields: cooperation on social affairs and in overcoming poverty, and cooperation on human rights and democracy. Nevertheless, these provisions focused more on cooperation with civil society and not so much on encouraging the active role the latter had to have in the development and monitoring of agreements, as was stipulated in the new agreements the EU was concluding which recognised the need for a participative approach. All in all, it had to be remembered that the Global Agreement and actions undertaken under the plans that had developed it, had helped generate a climate favourable to development of a dialogue between civil society organisations, the Mexican Government and the EU. In that respect, he emphasised the special importance of the High-Level Dialogue on Human Rights, in which civil society from both regions had taken part. He called for the Mexican and EU authorities to continue supporting initiatives of this kind and referred too to the setting up of the EU-Mexico Civil Society Forum. There had to be an increasingly strong dialogue with and by civil society and one route to this was the formation of a joint consultative committee as a formula to boost civil society's participation in drawing up and monitoring agreements. Finally he ended by acknowledging that while progress had undeniably been made in past years, advantage would have to be taken of updating the Global Agreement in order to strengthen civil society's important role, which would help achieve better results, especially in fields such as local economic development, social protection and sustainability. He concluded by saying how important cooperation on human rights and democracy was and repeating that the greater power and activism of civil society would help strengthen the links uniting citizens and institutions, and contribute to improving the quality and credibility of democracy.

Víctor Manuel Díaz Palacios (PRI), rapporteur for the Mexican delegation, stressed the important role parliamentarians, but also civil society, had. He said that the EU's role as regards social cohesion lay in the vanguard, and that unless civil society were included, all bi-regional projects would have only a limited chance of succeeding. Civil society had a basic responsibility in the context of the EU-Mexico Strategic Partnership and although the Global Agreement did not stipulate specific mechanisms for dialogue with civil society, both parties had worked on formulating constructive proposals to incorporate parties of this kind which acted as guarantors for the democratic aspect of the bilateral relationship. He referred to the first EU-Mexico Civil Society Forum in 2012 and said that five such Forums had been held since then at which the different main themes of the Strategic Partnership had been discussed from a societal point of view. He said that the support the EU had offered various Mexican civil society organisations was recognised in Mexico and that social organisation was the pillar of participative democracy. He welcomed the efforts the EU-Mexico JPC had made to connect with civil society and stressed that the exchanges of views were particularly fruitful. In concluding he described the commitment by both parties to respect democracy and human rights as one of the most important aspects of the Global Agreement.

The Co-Chair then gave the floor to **José Rodríguez García-Caro**, Member of the EESC.

The EESC's representative agreed fully with the views expressed by both rapporteurs. He said that citizens were now at the heart of action by society and were no longer just passive bystanders. He also stressed how people were now constantly connected to technology, which enabled them to know what was happening at any point in time, and made it possible for citizens to be involved at the lower levels of modern mature democracies. He considered that a dynamic civil society needed three qualities: to be

independent, representative and transparent. He said the Global Agreement had become obsolete but reminded them that Article 49 thereof made provision for the establishment of bodies through which civil society could participate. He advised setting up the joint consultative committee quickly, so as to give civil society the powers it was demanding. He said that a variety of sectors were represented in the EESC, which was part of the EU, and that updating the Agreement provided an excellent opportunity for conveying the demands of civil society, while not forgetting that even under the current Agreement application of Article 49 offered an excellent opportunity to set up the joint consultative committee.

Speakers: Teresa **Jiménez Becerril** (PPE, ES), Rabindranath **Salazar** (PRD), Josep **Terricabras** (Verdes/ALE), Thomas **Mann** (PPE, DE), José **Blanco López** (S&S, ES), Víctor **Díaz Palacios** (PRI) and Mr José **Rodríguez García-Caro**, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC).

7. EU-Mexico cooperation on higher education

The EP rapporteur, **Josep María Terricabras** (Verts, ES), divided his report into three parts focusing on three main themes: the current situation concerning cooperation, basic principles for collaboration on higher education and a conclusion on said cooperation. He started by saying that higher education had to be one of the main areas for cooperation between the EU and Mexico, in the context of the Global Agreement and the Strategic Partnership, and that since 2014, EU cooperation with partner countries on higher education had been supported by the new Erasmus Plus programme. The higher education sector in Mexico was expanding rapidly and taking in a high number of international students. He spoke next of his concerns over how higher education was understood and the standards applied in selecting teaching staff, funding for centres of learning, and curricula and syllabuses, among other matters. He agreed that a sectoral agreement between the EU and Mexico on higher education would be advisable and should be built on solid foundations stemming from self-awareness, shared goals and the means available. He also referred to how the academic relationship between Mexico and the EU was making higher education international and said that this should not be restricted to just the EU and Mexico but should be broadened to take in other prestigious academic establishments. Joint study and research programmes should be promoted, covering fields of mutual interest and social significance, and for this to happen, better schemes enabling student, lecturer and researcher mobility would have to be devised. Promotion of student and lecturer exchanges should also continue and he suggested planning some specific master's courses which would study in depth the realities in Europe, Mexico, Latin America and the Caribbean. To be able to best achieve their goals such initiatives would need to be backed with sufficient resources, for which the parties concerned would be jointly responsible, and a joint monitoring and assessment board. To conclude, he said that good practices had to be established on the basis of respect for human rights and described the case of the 43 Mexican students murdered by drug traffickers as a serious case of breach of duty of care. He stressed that Mexico and the EU had to guarantee students' safety and take active measures to protect their work in academic and civic spheres. He reminded them that non-formal education had to be a key point in EU-Mexico cooperation and that social concern, an essential element of any form or reform of higher education, entailed taking account of the problems students who were at risk of being marginalised

for geographical, socioeconomic or personal reasons, had in accessing higher education, referring to the introduction or improvement of good quality distance learning.

The rapporteur for the Mexican side, Omar **Fayad Meneses** (PRI), said that the EU and Mexico had a great deal of shared experience in bilateral and multilateral relations in the field of higher education. He explained that for historical reasons, Mexican students looked first to North American universities and only afterwards to universities in Spain and other EU countries. He believed it was essential that education be included in the debate, as progress would only be possible through education (from primary education to higher education), and if the EU and Mexico hoped to be good partners in the future, knowledge was an essential starting point. He pointed out that mutual ignorance led people to hold opinions which were simply the result of a lack of knowledge, especially in relation to human rights, indigenous issues, university students, etc. He was in favour of student exchanges but not of distance learning, as it was only through personal experience that the idiosyncracies of a people could come to be known. He referred to the concept of rural education in Mexico; to normal rural schools which were located in rural and indigenous areas of the country but which finished up by becoming focal points for problems. They were on the point of dying out and many of them had been converted into universities, which was a positive point. He said the exercise of legislative work had to be made into an opportunity to strengthen what had been said at the EU-CELAC Summit. Opportunities for student exchanges should be increased but the Erasmus Mundus programme had not, in his opinion, worked as it should have. However, several lessons could be drawn from that programme and it had opened up various areas of opportunity for the future. He said that Mexican and EU students had to be sent to meet one another, in order to understand the reasons for EU-Mexico relations. There were at present six Mexican universities operating under the Erasmus Mundus programme but their budget needed to be increased so that they could receive more students.

Speakers: Víctor **Díaz Palacios** (PRI), Verónica **Lope** (PPE, ES), Rabindranath **Salazar** (PRD), Thomas **Mann** (PPE, DE), Adriana **González Carrillo** (PAN), Teresa **Jiménez Becerril** (PPE, ES), Blanca **Alcalá** (PRI), Josep **Terricabras** (Verdes/ALE) and Omar **Fayad Meneses** (PRI).

WORKING SESSION IV

The fourth working session began at 9.30 on 9 July 2015.

8. Political and economic situation in the EU and Mexico, and updating the Global Agreement

The EP rapporteur, Co-Chair Teresa **Jiménez Becerril** (PPE, ES), said that in discussing the political situation in the EU at present four main topics demonstrated the issues and challenges facing the EU at that time: terrorist threats, the crisis in Ukraine, the Greek issue and the situation of illegal migrants in the Mediterranean. She began by referring to the fight against terrorism which, while still ongoing at national level, had also become more important at EU level. She explained that the most recent jihadist attack in Isère (Lyon) was the second to have occurred in France in six months, confirming the gravity of the threat hanging over the EU, as well as the danger posed by radicalised Europeans who had returned from conflict areas in the Middle East. The EU Ministers for Justice and Home Affairs had therefore insisted on border controls being stepped up, air passenger

information being shared and cooperation with Internet companies to identify extremist activities. Turning to the conflict in Ukraine, she said that the EU had introduced restrictive sanctions against Russia on various occasions since the Russian annexation of the Crimean peninsula and the start of the conflict in the Donbass region. These sanctions had been regularly updated, even if the Russian Federation had in its turn imposed its own sanctions on food imports from the EU. She said that this crisis had raised tensions between Russia and the West, and concluded therefore by saying it was important to continue talks and cooperate on matters that were in both parties' interests.

Concerning Greece, she said the current crisis situation was an emergency as the country did not have enough money and had failed to meet the 30 June 2015 deadline for payment of its debt. She provided information on the recent Greek elections and the debts contracted with the International Monetary Fund and the European Central Bank, referring to the referendum called by the Prime Minister, Alexis Tsipras. She said Athens had proposed restructuring the debt and more liquidity in tackling payments, but the European partners had rejected this.

She concluded by speaking about the political situation in the EU with the illegal immigration in the Mediterranean. She said that political instability in Libya, together with the worsening political situation in various parts of the Middle East and Africa had led to a large wave of illegal immigrants rushing to the EU's southern countries, after a dangerous journey across the Mediterranean. She explained that the Commission had drawn up proposals in May 2015 in the European Agenda on Migration, which proposed specific actions to tackle this situation, reduce illegal immigration, save lives and secure control of borders. The European Parliament had supported this Commission proposal.

Turning to the economic situation, she said economic activity in the EU and the euro area had gained momentum recently. Recovery was spreading to all the Member States and the form growth was taking, namely household consumption and increased investment, was also better. She mentioned various ECB programmes, such as the Investment Plan for Europe, announcing figures which showed that inflation was no longer negative and would probably continue to rise in the medium term. Nonetheless, she said recovery continued to be fragile.

Finally she referred to the updating of the EU-Mexico Global Agreement, mentioning the recent signature of the Joint Vision Report. She ended with a specific reference to the role of the EU-Mexico JPC in the context of updating the Agreement, saying that the JPC represented EU and Mexican citizens in bi-regional relations and enabled democratic scrutiny of said relations, and should therefore be consulted on these matters and incorporated into the institutional framework of the Global Agreement.

For his part, Rabindranath **Salazar Solorio** (PRD), rapporteur for the Mexican Delegation, speaking on the political situation, mentioned the recent elections in the EU and the processes of renewal they had brought about, but also innovations that had occurred in Mexico. He referred to the new National Electoral Institute, the new voting laws, the fact of candidates standing as independents (governors who did not belong to any party and had won a seat in the Mexican Congress). He also referred to the fact that, for the first time in Mexico, a system of re-election would be possible from 2018 allowing local and federal parliamentarians and town mayors to be re-elected. Progress had also been made on equality: 50 % of all candidates on party lists now had to be women. Concerning human rights, he mentioned particularly the 5th EU-Mexico Human Rights Dialogue, which had been held in April 2015 and was proof of the close collaboration between the EU and Mexico in this field.

He said that there had been some very deplorable events, such as the case of the 43 murdered students, but that some progress had been made in the investigations and he thanked the EU specifically for its support.

Regarding the economy, the fall in oil prices had meant that forecasts had not been met, resulting in heavy losses. The World Bank forecasts put growth in Mexico at around 3 %. He said that Mexico had a wide network of free trade treaties and that trade relations with the EU needed to be stepped up, making the country less dependent on the US, since Mexico was still very vulnerable to changes in its neighbour. He also said that continued investment in the EU was greatly in the interest of Mexican businessmen and women, and that 85 % of trade between Mexico and the EU was concentrated on six EU countries and vice-versa with six Mexican states monopolising trade with Europe.

Speakers: Teresa **Jiménez Becerril** (PPE, ES), Rabindranath **Salazar** (PRD), Danuta **Jazłowiecka** (PPE, PL), Adriana **González Carrillo** (PAN), Beatriz **Becerra** (ALDE, ES) and Mr José **Rodríguez García-Caro**, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC).

9. Final considerations and adoption of the Joint Declaration

The JPC members made their final comments and changes to the Joint Declaration, which was unanimously approved.

10. Date and place of the 20th Meeting of the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee

The 20th meeting of the JPC would be held in Mexico, during the week of 8-12 February 2016 (date to be confirmed).

The session closed and the 19th meeting of the EU-Mexico JPC was concluded at 11.00 on 9 July 2015.

**ПРИСЪСТВЕН ЛИСТ/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/
ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/KATAΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/
LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/POPIS NAZOČNIH/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU REĢISTRŠ/DALYVIŲ SAŖAŠAS/
JELENĹĒTI ÍV/REGĪSTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŠCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/
LISTĂ DE PREZENȚĂ/PREZENČNĂ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LĂSNĂOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA**

Бюро/Mesa/Předsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Predsjedništvo/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/ Biuras/Elnökség/Prezydium/Birou/Predsedníctvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
Teresa Jiménez-Becerril Barrio; José Blanco López, Parlamentarios mexicanos: Rabindranath Salazar Solorio, Adriana González
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Μέλη/Members/Députés/Zastupnici/Deputati/Deputāti/Na riai/Kérviseelők/Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Beatriz Becerra Basterrechea, Joëlle Bergeron, Verónica Lope Fontagné, Thomas Mann, Gesine Meissner, Josep-Maria Terricabras Parlamentarios mexicanos: Blanca María d'Alcalá, Gabriela Cuevas Barrón, César Octavio Pedroza Gaitan, Omar Fayad Meneses, Jorge Aréchiga Ávila, Martín de Jesús Vasquez Villanueva, Tomás Torres Mercado, Víctor Emanuel Díaz Palacios, Heriberto Neblina Vega
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Zamjenici/ Supplenti/Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantysnariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/ Namestniki/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
Danuta Jazłowiecka, Giulia Moi,,Bogdan Brunon Wenta

200 (2)	
/	
206 (3)	
/	
53 (6) (Точка от дневния ред/Punto del orden del día/Bod pořadu jednání (OJ)/Punkt på dagsordenen/Tagesordnungspunkt/ Päevakorra punkt/Ημερήσια Διάταξη Σημείο/Agenda item/Point OJ/Točka dnevnog reda/Punto all'ordine del giorno/Darba kārtības punkts/Darbotvarkēs punktas/Napirendi pont/Punt Agenda/Agendapunt/Punkt porządku dziennego/Ponto OD/Punct de pe ordinea de zi/Bod programu schôdze/Točka UL/Esityslistan kohta/Föredragningslista punkt)	
Philipp Gross (EEAS)	3
José Isaías Rodríguez García-Caro (Consejero CESE)	6

Присъствал на/Presente el/Přítomný dne/Til stede den/Anwesend am/Viibis(id) kohal/Παρών στις/Present on/Présent le/Nazočni
dana/Presente il/Piedalījās/ Dalyvauja/Jelen volt/Prezenti fi/Aanwezig op/Obecny dnia/Presente em/Prezent/Přítomný dňa/Navzoči
dne/Läsnä/Närvarande den:

- (1) 7.7.2015
- (2) 8.7.2015
- (3) 9.7.2015

Наблюдатели/Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaatlejad/Παρατηρητές/Observers/Observateurs/Promatrači/Osservatori/Novērotāji/Stebėtojai/Megfigyelők/Osservatori/Waarnemers/Obszerwatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelia/Opazovalci/Tarkkailijat/Observatörer

Orlando Rossi (Parlatino), Mayra Barbara, Alejandro Enciso , Karina Romero Alcala, Veronica Delgado

По покана на председателя/Por invitación del presidente/Na pozvání předsedy/Efter indbydelse fra formanden/Auf Einladung des Vorsitzenden/Esimehe kutsel/Με πρόσκληση του Προέδρου/At the invitation of the Chair(wo)man/Sur l'invitation du président/Na poziv predsjednika/Su invito del presidente/Pēc priekšsēdētāja uzaicinājuma/Pirmininkui pakvietus/Az elnök meghívására/Fuq stedina tač-'Chairman'/Op uitnodiging van de voorzitter/Na zaproszenie Przewodniczącego/A convite do Presidente/La invitația președintelui/Na pozvanie predsedu/Na povabilo predsednika/Puheenjohtajan kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan

Съвет/Consejo/Rada/Rådet/Rat/Nöukogu/Συμβούλιο/Council/Conseil/Vijeće/Consiglio/Padome/Taryba/Tanács/Kunsill/Raad/Conselho/Consiliu/Svet/Neuvosto/Rådet (*)

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Комисия/Comisión/Komise/Kommissionen/Kommission/Euroopa Komisjon/Επιτροπή/Commission/Komisija/Commissione/Bizottság/Kummissjoni/Commissie/Komisja/Comissão/Comisie/Komisija/Komissio/Kommissionen (*)

/

Европейска служба за външна дейност/Servicio Europeo de Acción Exterior/Evropská služba pro vnější činnost/EU-Udenrigstjenesten/Europäischer Auswärtiger Dienst/Euroopa välisteenistus/Ευρωπαϊκή Υπηρεσία Εξωτερικής Δράσης/European External Action service/Service européen pour l'action extérieure/Euroopska služba za vanjsko djelovanje/Servizio europeo per l'azione esterna/Eiropas Ārējās darbības dienests/Europos išorės veiksmy tarnyba/Európai Külügyi Szolgálat/Servizz Ewropew għall-Azzjoni Esterna/Europese dienst voor extern optreden/Europejska Służba Działañ Zewnętrznych/Serviço Europeu para a Acção Externa/Serviciul european pentru acțiune externă/Európska služba pre vonkajšiu činnosť/Evropska služba za zunanje delovanje/Euroopan ulkosuhdehallinto/Europeiska avdelningen för yttre åtgärd (*)

Philipp Gross

Други институции/Otras instituciones/Ostatní orgány a instituce/Andre institutioner/Andere Organe/Muud institutsioonid/Άλλα θεσμικά όργανα/Other institutions/Autres institutions/Druge institucije/Altre istituzioni/Citas iestādes/Kitos institucijos/Más intézmények/Istituzjonijiet oħra/Andere instellingen/Inne instytucje/Outras Instituições/Alte instituții/Iné inštitúcie/Muut toimielimet/Andra institutioner/organ

CESE

José Isaiás Rodríguez García Caro

Други учасници/Otros participantes/Ostatní účastníci/Endvidere deltog/Andere Teilnehmer/Muud osalejad/Επίσης Παρόντες/Other participants/Autres participants/Drugi sudionici/Altri partecipanti/Citi klātesošie/Kiti dalyviai/Más résztvevők/Partecipanti ohra/Andere aanwezigen/Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Alți participanți/Iní účastníci/Drugi udeleženci/Muut osallistujat/Övriga deltagare

Секретариат на политическите групи/Secretaría de los Grupos políticos/Sekretariát politických skupin/Gruppernes sekretariat/Sekretariat der Fraktionen/Fraktsioonide sekretariaat/Γραμματεία των Πολιτικών Ομάδων/Secretariats of political groups/Secrétariat des groupes politiques/Tajništva klubova zastupnika/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politisko grupu sekretariāts/Frakciju sekretoriai/Képviseletcsoportok titkársága/Sekretarjat gruppi politici/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secr. dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupín/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristöt/Gruppernas sekretariat

PPE	Juan Salafranca, Piero Rizza, Analia Glogowski, Ana Maria Millan
S&D	Silvia González del Pino
ALDE	Itziar Muñoa Salaverria
ECR	Lindsay Gilbert
Verts/ALE	Gaby Koppers
GUE/NGL	/
EFDD	Antonio Anselmi, Fernando Sanchez
ENF	/
NI	/

Кабинет на председателя/Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelář předsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinett des Präsidenten/Presidendi kantselei/Γραφείο Προέδρου/President's Office/Cabinet du Président/Ured predsednika/Gabinetto del Presidente/Priekšsēdētāja kabinets/Pirmininko kabinetas/Elnöki hivatal/Kabinett tal-President/Kabinet van de Voorzitter/Gabinet Przewodniczącego/Gabinete do Presidente/Cabinet Președinte/Kancelária predsedu/Urad predsednika/Puhemiehen kabinetti/Talmanens kansli

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Генерална дирекция/Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/ Directorate-General/Direction générale/Glavna uprava/Direzione generale/Ġeneraldirektorāt/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/ Direttorat Ġenerali/Direktoraten-generaal/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direcții Generale/Ġenerálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni direktorat/Pääosasto/Generaldirektorat	
DG PRES	/
DG IPOL	/
DG EXPO	Jesper Tvevad, Gabriel Alvarez Recarte
DG EPRS	Naja Bentzen,
DG COMM	/
DG PERS	/
DG INLO	/
DG TRAD	/
DG INTE	/
DG FINS	/
DG ITEC	/
DG SAFE	/
Правна служба/Servicio Jurídico/Právní služba/Juridisk Tjeneste/Juristischer Dienst/Őigusteenistus/Νομική Υπηρεσία/Legal Service/ Service juridique/Pravna služba/Servizio giuridico/Juridiskais dienests/Teisės tarnyba/Ĵogi szolgálat/Servizz legali/Juridische Dienst/ Wydział prawny/Serviço Jurídico/Serviciu Juridic/Právny servis/Oikeudellinen yksikkö/Rättstjänsten	
/	
Секретариат на комисията/Secretaría de la comisión/Sekretariát výboru/Udvalgssekretariatet/Ausschusseksretariat/Komisjoni sekretariaat/Γραμματεία επιτροπής/Committee secretariat/Secrétariat de la commission/Tajništvo odbora/Segreteria della commissione/ Komitejas sekretariāts/Komiteto sekretoriatas/A bizottság titkársága/Sekretarjat tal- kumitat/Commissiesecretariaat/Sekretariat komisji/ Secretariado da comissão/Sekretariat comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottssekretariatet	
Pedro Neves	
Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Assisztens/Asystent/Pomočnik/ Avustaja/Assistenten	
Rosa-Maria Licop Cabo, Frederique Albert	

- * (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Fonmand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chair(wo)man/Président/Predsjednik/Priekšsēdētājs/
Pirmininkas/Elnök/Chairman/Voorzitter/Przewodniczący/Preşedinte/Predsedna/Predsednik/Puheenjohtaja/Ordförande
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Vice-Chair(wo)man/Potpredsjednik/Vice-Président/Potpredsjednik/Priekšsēdētāja vietnieks/Pirmininko pavaduotojas/Alelnök/
Vīci 'Chairman'/Ondervoorzitter/Wiceprzewodniczący/Vice-Présidente/Vicepreşedinte/Podpredsedna/Podpredsednik/
Varapuheenjohtaja/Vice ordförande
- (M) = Член/Miembro/Člen/Medlem./Mitglied/Parlamendiliige/Μέλος/Member/Membre/Član/Membro/Deputāts/Narys/Képvisező/
Membro/Lid/Członek/Membro/Membro/Člen/Poslanec/Jäsen/Ledamot
- (F) = Длъжностно лице/Funcionario/Úředník/Tjenestemand/Beamter/Ametnik/Υπάλληλος/Official/Fonctionnaire/Dužnosnik/
Funzionario/Ierēdnis/Pareigūnas/Tisztviselő/Ufficial/Ambtenaar/Urządник/Funcionário/Funçōonar/Úradník/Uradnik/Virkamies/
Tjänsteman

**19th MEETING OF THE
EU-MEXICO JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE**

Strasbourg, 7-9 July 2015

Final Programme

Monday, 6 July 2015

Strasbourg

p.m. **Arrival of the Mexican Delegation at the TGV railway station/airport**

Transfer to hotels

- Sofitel Strasbourg Grande Ile (*4 place St Pierre Le Jeune, 67000 Strasbourg
Tel.: +33 3.88.15.49.15 - Fax +33 3.88.15.49.95*)
- Hotel Hilton (*1 Avenue Herrenschmidt, 67000 Strasbourg - Tel: +33 3 88 37 10 10*)
- Hotel Citadines Kléber (*54 Rue du Jeu des Enfants, 67000 Strasbourg, France
Tel+33 3 90 22 47 00*)

Tuesday, 7 July 2015

Strasbourg

08.30 **Members of the Mexican Congress to be collected from their hotels and taken to the European Parliament – Departure point: Hotels**

08.45 **Accreditation of the Members of the Mexican Congress
Venue: Main entrance of Winston Churchill (WIC) Building**

09.00-09.30 **Opening of the 19th Meeting of the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee
Venue: Salvador de Madariaga – Room SDM-S.5**

09.30-09.45 **Adoption of the draft agenda and approval of the Minutes of the 18th Meeting of the EU-Mexico JPC (Mexico, 17-20 February 2015)**

09.45-11.00 **Presentation of studies – Report 4
'Climate change/Renewable energy' (preparation for COP21 in Paris)**

EP rapporteur: /

Mexican Delegation rapporteur: Adriana González Carrillo, MP

Venue: Salvador de Madariaga – Room SDM S-5

- 11.00-11.15** *Coffee break – Timing adjustments*
- 11.15-12.30** **Presentation of studies – Report 2**
‘EU-Mexico cooperation on social cohesion’
- EP rapporteur: Verónica Lope Fontagné, MEP
Mexican Delegation rapporteur: Senator Blanca María del Socorro Alcalá
Venue: *Sala Salvador de Madariaga - SDM S-5*
- 12.30** *Transfer of Members of the Mexican Congress to the Council of Europe*
Departure point: *Main entrance of Winston Churchill (WIC) Building*
- 12.45-14.15** **Individual lunch arrangements**
(Private event for the Mexican component - Address: Main entrance of the Council of Europe / Avenue de l'Europe, F-67075 Strasbourg Cedex (Strasbourg))
Departure point: *Entrance of Winston Churchill (WIC) Building*
- 14.15** *Transfer of Members of the Mexican Congress to the European Parliament*
Venue: *Main entrance of Winston Churchill (WIC) Building*
- 14.30-16.15** **Presentation of studies – Report 3**
‘State of EU-LAC bi-regional relations’ (including recent key events: the Summit of EU-CELAC Heads of State, the EU-Mexico Summit, the Academic, Business and Civil Society Summits, and the Eurolat Assembly)
- EP rapporteur: Gesine Meissner, MEP
Mexican Delegation rapporteur: Senator Gabriela Cuevas Barrón
Venue: *Sala Salvador de Madariaga - SDM S-5*
- 16.30-17.45** **Presentation of studies – Report 1**
‘Political and economic situation in the EU and Mexico, and the Global Agreement’
- EP rapporteur: Teresa Jiménez-Becerril, MEP (Co-Chair)
Venue: *Salvador de Madariaga – Room SDM-S.5*
- 18.30** *Transfer of Members of the Mexican Congress to their hotels*
Departure point: *Main entrance of Winston Churchill (WIC) Building*
- 20.00** *Members of the Mexican Congress to be collected from their hotels and taken to the restaurant – Departure point: Hotels*
- 20.30-22.00** **Dinner hosted by Teresa Jiménez-Becerril, Chair of Parliament’s Delegation to the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee in honour of the Members of the Delegation of the United Mexican States**
Venue: *L’Alsace à Table restaurant, 8 rue des Francs Bourgeois – 67000 Strasbourg (Tel. 03-88.32.67.67)*

22.00 *Transfer of Members of the Mexican Congress to their hotels*

Wednesday, 8 July 2015

Strasbourg

- 09.00** *Members of the Mexican Congress to be collected from their hotels and taken to the European Parliament*
Departure point: Hotels - Main entrance of Louise Weiss (LOW) Building
- 09.30-11.30** **Members of the Mexican Congress admitted to the official visitors' gallery - 'Conclusions of the European Council (25 and 26 June 2015) and of the Euro Summit (7 July 2015) and the current situation in Greece'**
Venue: Chamber - official visitors' gallery Louise Weiss Building
- 11.30-12.30** *Free time*
- 13.00-14.30** **Lunch in honour of the Members of the Delegation of the United Mexican States, given by the President of the European Parliament and presided over by Vice-President Antonio Tajani**
Venue: Private lounge Nos 3 & 4 – Members' Restaurant – Louise Weiss (LOW) Building
- 14.45-16.00** **Presentation of studies – Report 6**
'Civil society participation in the EU-Mexico Strategic Association'
EP rapporteur: José Blanco López, MEP
Mexican Delegation rapporteur: Víctor Emanuel Díaz Palacios, MP
- Involving Mr José Isaías Rodríguez García-Caro, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) and rapporteur of the Opinion 'Revision of the EU-Mexico Association Agreement'**
Venue: Sala Salvador de Madariaga - SDM S-5
- 16.00-17.30** **Presentation of studies – Report 5**
'EU-Mexico cooperation on higher education'
- EP rapporteur: Josep-María Terricabras, MEP**
Mexican Delegation rapporteur: /
Venue: Sala Salvador de Madariaga - SDM S-5
- 17.45-17.50** **Group photo**
Venue: At the foot of the ceremonial staircase, next to the Chamber – LOW building

18.00-18.30 **Members of the Mexican Congress admitted to the official visitors' gallery -**
'Declaration by the VP of the European Commission and by Ms Federica Mogherini, High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on future EU-Cuba relations'

Venue: Chamber - official visitors' gallery Louise Weiss Building

18.30 **Transfer of Members of the Mexican Congress to their hotels**

Departure point: Main entrance of Louise Weiss (LOW) Building

Thursday 9 July 2015

Strasbourg

8.30 **Members of the Mexican Congress to be collected from their hotels and taken to the European Parliament – Venue: Hotels**

8.45 **Accreditation of the Members of the Mexican Congress**

Venue: Main entrance of Winston Churchill (WIC) Building

09.00-11.00 **Presentation of studies – Report 1**

'Political and economic situation in the EU and Mexico, and the Global Agreement'

EP rapporteur: Teresa Jiménez-Becerril, MEP (Co-Chair)

Mexican Delegation rapporteur: Senator Rabindranath Salazar Solorio (Co-Chair)

Venue: Winston Churchill Building – Room WIC 200

11.00-12.30 **Final considerations and adoption of the Joint Declaration**

**Decision on the date and place of the 20th Meeting of the EU-Mexico JPC -
Closure of proceedings**

Venue: Winston Churchill Building – Room WIC 200

12.30 **Departure of the Mexican Delegation to the TGV railway station and airport**