



EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee

D-MX_PV (2015)0220-18

DRAFT MINUTES

18th Meeting of the EU-Mexico JPC

18-20 February 2015

Mexico City (Mexico)

1. Working breakfast with the EU Ambassador to Mexico, Andrew Standley, and the Member State ambassadors to Mexico

Early in the morning, the delegation met the EU Ambassador to Mexico, HE Andrew Standley, and the Member State ambassadors to Mexico to exchange views on the priorities for EU-Mexico relations and on other current political, social and economic issues.

The topics discussed included Mexico's geostrategic importance; its involvement in regional forums such as the Pacific Alliance and the Trans-Pacific Strategic Economic Partnership (TPP); its internal socio-economic divisions; the impact of the Iguala tragedy on Mexico's image; governance and domestic perceptions of institutions; the elections to be held in June/July 2015; the implementation of the Pact for Mexico (*Pacto por México*) and other reforms; the human rights situation; Mexico's passenger name records (PNR); and the updating of the Economic Partnership, Political Coordination and Cooperation Agreement (Global Agreement), which is a priority in EU-Mexico relations.

The pitfalls being encountered with implementation of some of the reforms adopted in the fields of security, justice and human rights were highlighted, as was the potential of other economic reforms (telecommunications, taxation and energy). There was broad agreement that updating the EU-Mexico Global Agreement had to be a priority for EU-Mexico relations, and that a possible trade and investment agreement between the EU and the US or Canada could have an impact on Mexico.

Other subjects of discussion included cooperation between the state governments and the federal government, new possibilities for cooperation with Mexico, and the protection of journalists and human-rights activists.

2. Meeting and exchange of views with Carlos de Icaza, Deputy Foreign Minister

The EU Delegation was received at Mexico's Ministry for Foreign Affairs by the Deputy Foreign Minister, **Carlos de Icaza**, the Deputy Foreign Minister with responsibility for Multilateral Relations, **Juan Manuel Gómez Robledo**, **Rosaura Castañeda**, from the Ministry for Economic Affairs, and the Ambassador of the United Mexican States to the EU, **Juan José Gómez Camacho**.

This meeting with members of the government highlighted the importance Mexico attaches to strengthening existing ties with the EU by updating the legal framework governing bilateral relations; Mexico's geostrategic importance; its role in regional trade-integration processes (in particular the TPP and the Pacific Alliance); and its involvement in international forums such as the UN, OECD, G-20 and COP.

Discussion focused, in particular, on the possibility of updating the Global Agreement, as its trade pillar has been rendered obsolete by changes in the international situation and in the WTO and by recent agreements between Mexico and the EU (on e-commerce, regulatory convergence, energy, investment, geographical indications, sustainable development, etc.).

On the subject of human rights, the parties expressed their regret at the tragic events in Iguala (the EU Delegation was informed that assistance had been sought from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights) and the problems that Mexico still faces (drug trafficking, organised crime). The reforms implemented to foster the necessary change in these areas were also covered, along with EU-Mexico cooperation in specific policy areas, and bilateral dialogue on human rights, security and justice.

3. Meeting and exchange of views in the Ministry of the Interior with Felipe Solíz Acero, Deputy Minister with responsibility for Legislative Liaison and Political Agreements and Lía Limón García, Deputy Minister with responsibility for Human Rights, Ardelio Vargas Fosado, Commissioner for the National Migration Institute, Monte Alejandro Rubido García, National Security Commissioner, and Omar de la Torre de la Mora, Head of the Office for Migration Policy.

The meeting at the **Ministry of the Interior** provided an opportunity for an in-depth discussion of drug trafficking, migratory flows, human trafficking, organised crime and the links between them; the Iguala tragedy and the investigation into it; and the reforms undertaken in the area of justice and security (changes to the military justice system and the structure of the police force, victim compensation and the concept of restorative justice, constitutional reforms in the area of human rights, anti-corruption measures and drug strategy), which have highlighted the need to tackle the complex social phenomena that are undermining the rule of law. In this regard, the forthcoming High-Level Dialogue on Human Rights and High-Level Dialogue on Security and Justice would be very important.

4. Meeting with human-rights organisations and representatives of the Mexican Committee for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (CMDPPDH) and presentation of projects co-financed by the EU (EIDHR)

A meeting was held at the offices of the EU Delegation to Mexico with a range of NGOs representing Mexican civil society (CMDPPDH, Mexican Human Rights Institute, IDHEA, Freedom House, Tlachinollan, Centro PRO DH, Prodesc, I(dh) eas, Poder, Artículo 19, JASS and Brigadas internacionales de Pax-PBI México). The activists gave a critical appraisal of the human-rights problems that persist in Mexico and, more specifically, those affecting journalists, human-rights and environmental activists, and vulnerable groups, both in the capital and in rural areas of the country; many of these problems were intractable (curtailment of freedom of expression, forced disappearances, extrajudicial executions). The activists highlighted short-term problems (failed strategies) and entrenched ones (perception of impunity); the lack of trade-union solidarity among journalists; problems concerning access to justice and empowerment; the polarisation of society; and conflicts of interest between businesses and, for example, indigenous peoples, etc. They also spoke about EU-funded projects, such as ‘The protection of human-rights activists by empowering them and raising their profile’ and ‘Strengthening the ability of journalists to promote human rights and democratic reforms in Mexico’. The activists stated that the political messages of the European Parliament and JPC, as well as international pressure, had a real impact and could help to raise the elites’ more aware of the vital need to improve the situation.

5. Meeting with parents and relatives of the student teachers missing in Iguala

An emotional meeting was held – also at the offices of the EU Delegation to Mexico – with a delegation representing the parents of the 43 student teachers ‘missing’ in Iguala (State of Guerrero). Some relatives recounted the events; they were unanimous in their vehement condemnation of the events, and in calling for those responsible to be identified and brought to justice.

6. Presentation of the Unesco Programme for Culture and Development in Mexico by Nuria Sanz, Director and Representative of Unesco in Mexico

To conclude the programme leading up to the JPC meeting, the Unesco representative in Mexico presented the ‘Culture and Development’ project and spoke about the country’s extraordinary historical, cultural, natural and intangible heritage, and the steps being taken to preserve them.

On the first day of work (18 February 2015), Items 1-5 in the minutes, the following Members of the European Parliament Delegation are recorded as having taken part:

Speeches: Teresa Jiménez-Becerril (EPP, ES), Pina Picierno (S&D, IT), Verónica Lope Fonatgné (EPP, ES), Thomas Mann (PPE, DE), Agustín Díaz de Mera (PPE, ES), Franziska Keller (Verdes/ALE, DE), Gesine Meissner (ALDE, DE), Danuta Jazłowiecka (PPE, PO), Giulia Moi (EFDD, IT), Kosma Tadeusz Złotowski (PPE, PO), Sorin Moisă (S&D, RO).

18th MEETING OF THE EU-MEXICO JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

WORKING SESSION I

7. Opening of the 18th Meeting of the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee

First to speak was **Senator José Rojas Aizpuru Torres**, Vice-Chair of the Mexican Senate's Executive Bureau. The senator reviewed the history of relations between both parties, based on mutual respect and tolerance; the increased volume of trade resulting from the existing Global Agreement coming into force; the importance of the dialogue channels established gradually; and the harmony between both societies, illustrated by tourism or academic exchanges. He stressed that the EU-Mexico partnership in international forums was becoming closer, which made it possible to tackle challenges jointly on the basis of cooperation. This was all the more necessary the more technology development and individual empowerment translated to improvements in quality of life, but also to the diffuse threats that make our societies more vulnerable to transnational terrorism and organised crime. He also underscored the convergence of positions as regards climate change and the post-2015 development agenda, and reiterated Mexico's commitment to enhancing relations with the EU through respect for human rights.

The second speaker was the European Co-Chair of the JPC, **Teresa Jiménez-Becerril**, who also stressed the existing ties between both societies and the importance of the diplomatic aspect of the JPC. She praised the results of the Strategic Partnership and the Global Agreement, advocating the updating of the latter. She expressed her regret at the tragic events in Iguala, and emphasised the need to tackle challenges jointly at bilateral level and by strengthening multilateral forums.

Third to speak was the Mexican Co-Chair of the JPC, **Senator Rabindranath Salazar Solorio**. He praised the JPC as a pluralist forum and highlighted the progress made with joint working methods. He pointed out the close relations of friendship and cooperation that unite the partners. He urged the revision and updating of the Global Agreement signed 15 years previously, modernisation of which he considered a priority. He ascribed particular importance to security and combating antisocial behaviour, such as transnational organised crime, terrorism, drug trafficking, arms trafficking, human trafficking and forced disappearances. He encouraged action and participation, tolerance of others' opinions and receptiveness, in order to respond to existing problems through constant scrutiny and analysis of existing laws and their implementation. He underscored Mexico's participation in multilateral forums, stressing the role of the COP and the importance of tackling climate change. Serving humanity was a duty just as important as loyalty to the nation, so both parties would aim to seek what brings nations together.

Next, **Senator José Rojas Aizpuru Torres** declared the JPC session open.

8. Adoption of the agenda of the 18th meeting and the minutes of the 17th meeting of the EU-Mexico JPC

The agenda for the meeting – with slight amendments – was adopted, along with the draft minutes of the 17th meeting of the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee.

9. Topic 1: Political and economic situation in the EU and Mexico, and updating the three pillars of the Global Agreement (political dialogue, cooperation and trade)

- *European rapporteur: Teresa Jiménez-Becerril MEP*
- *Mexican rapporteur: Senator Rabindranath Salazar Solorio*

It was emphasised that the 1997 Global Agreement – which came into force in 2000 in relation to goods and in 2001 in relation to services – had been a landmark and had played a decisive role in forging closer EU-Mexico relations. As many of the Mexican speakers and members of the European Delegation pointed out, it was an opportune time to work together on updating and renewing the existing ties and legal framework. There was also support for the progress with the necessary preparatory work for starting negotiations, set out in the Joint Vision Report. The view was that the Global Agreement could contribute to reinforcing and modernising the three pillars that support the relationship between the two strategic partners, in response to current needs and challenges.

WORKING SESSION II

10. Topic 2: Human rights situation in Mexico and the EU

- *European rapporteur: Franziska Keller MEP*
- *Mexican rapporteur: Senator Blanca Alcalá Ruiz*

The speeches tackled the pressing issues derived from human-rights violations; the scourge of terrorism; corruption; social inclusion; immigration and the difficulties encountered in both Mexico and the EU in responding to the challenges it poses; and lack of trust in institutions with the resulting political disaffection, and their social implications. There was also mention of the economic crisis and the sovereign debt crisis in Greece; the problems derived from money laundering and tax evasion; the conflicts in Ukraine and Syria; the challenges posed by security and crime in Mexico; and the workings and implementation of the Global Agreement as regards human rights, which should also encourage the setting out of effective mechanisms as regards human rights during the process of updating the Agreement.

Emphasis was given to the work of the parliaments and the JPC on debating the current complex situation as regards protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The situation of victims was tackled; whether in cases of human-rights violations or cases of terrorism, they deserved protection, access to the truth, the administration of justice and redress. In this regard, the most flagrant cases – such as the Iguala tragedy – were mentioned; the various direct and indirect implications were denounced; the committed and determined implementation of reports was urged; and the work of human rights-activist organisations was praised.

The Mexican contingent described in detail the intensive legislative activity undertaken at international and national level to stem the existing problems and achieve appropriate institutional change. They mentioned constitutional and legislative reforms and their implementation (in relation to the powers of the ombudsman; the independence of the courts; the reform of the Military Justice Code; the withdrawal of objections to the Inter-American Convention on Forced Disappearance of Persons; the new provisions on writs of *amparo* in relation to human-rights violations; the armed forces' manual on the use of force; regulations on the Victims Act; and the Rights of Children and Adolescents Act), as well as the additional steps taken to enhance the rule of law in Mexico (unification of the police command; measures in the case of organised crime infiltrating state structures; independence of the Attorney General; and reforms of the Criminal Code).

Consideration was given to the freedom/security balance; to the dynamic and non-static nature of the human-rights catalogue; and to the problems derived from abuse of rights, lack of transparency, insecurity and impunity.

11. Topic 3: Security and transnational organised crime: Terrorism, drug trafficking, arms trafficking and human trafficking

- *European rapporteur: Pina Picierno MEP*
- *Mexican rapporteur: Senator Laura Angélica Rojas Hernández*

In this debate intrinsically linked to the previous one, the debate was about very similar subjects (denouncing the tragic disappearance of the student teachers in Iguala and the uncertainty relating to the investigations; justice was demanded in this and other cases), to which were added organised crime's penetration and infiltration of state institutions at all levels and in all sectors, and the complex but urgent need to combat it by tackling its causes and alleviating its consequences. Analogies were established between the situation created by the activities of organised crime in Mexico and the Italian Mafia, and the links between arms trafficking, armed conflicts and money laundering were highlighted. The Mexican rapporteur urged the ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty, the reviewing of the UN drugs strategy and reflection on nuclear weapons. There was also mention of the Palermo Convention and the need for an integrated focus that marries more information, coordination, cooperation, the adoption of preventative measures, and determined combating of transnational crimes that are interconnected at global level. A constructive and cooperative approach was urged.

Senator Omar Fayad's speech to the preceding panel and the presentation of a video on the events in Iguala aroused heated and intensive debate.

WORKING SESSION III

12. Topic 4: State of play as regards meeting the UN Millennium Development Goals and challenges to be met

- *European rapporteur: Teresa Jiménez-Becerril MEP*
- *Mexican rapporteur: Congressman Martín De J. Vásquez Villanueva*

The level of achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, the post-2015 agenda and the 17 new sustainable development goals proposed by the UN were reviewed. There was discussion of the progress made on poverty reduction in recent years, and of the distance still to go before poverty can be eradicated throughout the world. There was mention of the efforts in some areas to facilitate access to basic infrastructure, drinking water, education and health-care measures; of attempts to reduce the mother/infant mortality rate; and of participation in and recognition of women's rights. The level of official development aid granted by the EU and its Member States was acknowledged; the level of commitment to this was seen as affected, to an extent, by the economic crisis the EU has been experiencing in recent years.

Mexico's progress with some important indicators of achievement of the Millennium Development Goals was also acknowledged.

13. Topic 5: Climate change: Analysis of the outcome of COP 20 (December 2014, Lima) and prospects for COP 21 (December 2014, Paris)

- *European rapporteur: Gesine Meissner MEP*
- *Mexican rapporteur: Senator Gabriela Cuevas Barrón*

The reports focused on evaluating the results of the Lima Summit and expectations about the upcoming Paris Conference in December 2015 (the measures proposed and reaction to them, analysis of the existing figures, and the various parties' positions and commitments). There was mention of the potentially devastating environmental and social consequences of climate change for Mexico and the rest of the world; the importance of verification and information processes; the issue of distribution of national contributions; the possible legal form of the agreement; whether or not any commitments made are binding; and the link to the post-2015 agenda. The various legislative measures taken in the EU and Mexico were described, and an exchange of best practices was urged. Both rapporteurs underscored parliamentary commitment to combating climate change, and to supporting the commitments made at the Lima Summit in December 2014, which would be consolidated at the Paris Summit.

The existing information in this field was analysed, and support was given to sustainable and inclusive development.

14. Final considerations, adoption of the Joint Declaration of the 19th Meeting of the JPC

After the debates, there was a debate on the **Joint Declaration** that would close the 18th meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Committee. The text had been agreed in advance between Parliament's political groups and their Mexican counterparts. However, the most controversial subjects – those relating to mention of the events in Iguala and references to European PNR – were debated, and

ended up being amended and drafted in such a way that a consensus could be reached, designed for the unanimous adoption of the Joint Declaration (Declaration attached).

It was proposed that the 19th EU-Mexico JPC meeting be held in the EU, in the second half of 2015.

A **press conference** hosted jointly by the European Co-Chair, **Teresa Jiménez-Becerril** MEP, and the Mexican Co-Chair, Senator **Rabindranath Salazar**, brought proceedings to a close.

During the JPC sessions (19 and 20 February 2015), the following Members of the European Parliament Delegation are recorded as having taken part in the debates:

Speeches by the European contingent: Teresa Jiménez-Becerril (EPP, ES), Pina Picierno (S&D, IT), Verónica Lope Fonatgné (EPP, ES), Thomas Mann (PPE, DE), Agustín Díaz de Mera (PPE, ES), Franziska Keller (Verdes/ALE, DE), Gesine Meissner (ALDE, DE), Danuta Jazłowiecka (PPE, PO), Giulia Moi (EFDD, IT), Kosma Tadeusz Złotowski (PPE, PO), Sorin Moisă (S&D, RO).

Speeches by the Mexican contingent: José Rojas Aizpuru Torres, Rabindranath Salazar Solorio, Blanca Alcalá Ruiz, Omar Fayad, Laura Angélica Rojas Hernández, Tomas Torres, Martín De J. Vásquez Villanueva.



PARLAMENTO EUROPEO EVROPSKÝ PARLAMENT EUROPA-PARLAMENTET
EUROPÄISCHES PARLAMENT EUROOPA PARLAMENT ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΟ ΚΟΙΝΟΒΟΥΛΙΟ EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT
PARLEMENT EUROPÉEN PARLAMENTO EUROPEO EIROPAS PARLAMENTAS
EUROPOS PARLAMENTAS EURÓPAI PARLAMENT IL-PARLAMENT EWROPEW EUROPEES PARLEMENT
PARLAMENT EUROPEJSKI PARLAMENTO EUROPEU EUROPSKY PARLAMENT
EVROPSKI PARLAMENT EUROOPAN PARLAMENTTI EUROOPAPARLAMENTET



**18TH MEETING OF THE
EU-MEXICO
JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE**

18 to 20 February 2015

MEXICO CITY

Programme

(Version 20.02.2015)

Tuesday 17 February 2015

Mexico City

	Members of the European Parliament Delegation arrived individually at Mexico City International Airport
	Transfer to Hotel Marquis Reforma <i>Venue: Paseo de la Reforma 465 Col. Cuauhtemoc, México, D.F. 06500</i>

DV/1047301ES

EP/503.036

	<i>Telephone: (52) 55 5229 1200, Fax: (52) 55 5229 1212</i>

08.00-09.30	<p>EU Delegation working breakfast with Ambassador Andrew Standley, Head of the European Union Delegation to Mexico, and the Member State ambassadors to Mexico <i>Venue: Hotel Marquis Reforma – Salón Emperatriz II and III</i></p>
09.30-10.00	<p>Transfer of delegation to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p>
10.00-10.45	<p>Meeting and exchange of views with Carlos de Icaza, Deputy Foreign Minister <i>Venue: First floor, Plaza Juárez 20, Cuauhtémoc, Colonia Centro.</i></p>
11.00-11.30	<p>Meeting and exchange of views with Felipe Solíz Acero, Deputy Minister with responsibility for Legislative Liaison and Political Agreements, Ministry of the Interior <i>Venue: Calle Abraham González 48, Colonia Juarez, México DF</i></p>
11.30-12.00	<p>Transfer to the EU Delegation offices</p>
12.00-13.00	<p>Meeting with human rights organisations</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meeting opened by Teresa Jiménez-Becerril MEP, Chair of the Delegation; 2. Overview of the human rights situation by IDHEA; 3. Freedom of expression – Freedom House; 4. Forced disappearances (Iguala) – Tlachinollan; 5. Extrajudicial executions (Tlatlaya) – Centro PRO DR; 6. Human rights organisations – Prodesc and Poder; <p><i>Venue: EU Delegation offices – (room to be confirmed) Paseo de la Reforma No 1675, Col. Lomas de Chapultepec, C.P 11000 México D.F. Telephone: (52) 55.40.33.45/46/47, Fax: (52) 55.40.65.64</i></p>
13.00-13.30	<p>Buffet lunch (sandwiches and baguettes) <i>Venue: EU Delegation offices</i></p>
13.30-14.15	<p>Meeting with representatives of the Mexican Commission for the Defence and Promotion of Human Rights (CMPDH). <u>Presentation of projects co-financed by the EU (EIDHR):</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ‘The protection of human rights activists by empowering them and raising their profile.’ - • ‘Strengthening the ability of journalists to promote human rights

	<p><i>and democratic reforms in Mexico' and exchange of views involving the Mexican Institute of Human Rights and Journalists.</i></p> <p><i><u>Venue:</u> EU Delegation offices – (room to be confirmed)</i></p> <p><i>Paseo de la Reforma No. 1675, Col. Lomas de Chapultepec, C.P 11000 México D.F.</i></p> <p><i>Telephone: (52) 55.40.33.45/46/47, Fax: (52) 55.40.65.64</i></p>
14.15-15.00	Meeting with the parents and relatives of the 43 student teachers missing in Iguala
15.00-15.30	Transfer to hotel
15.30-16.30	Free time
16.30-18.00	<p>Presentation of the Unesco Programme for Culture and Development in Mexico by Nuria Sanz, Director and Representative of Unesco in Mexico</p> <p><i><u>Venue:</u> Hotel Marquis Reforma – Salón Emperatriz II and III</i></p>
18.00-19.00	Free time
19.00-19.30	Transfer of European Delegation to Castillo de Chapultepec
19.30-20.30	Guided tour of the Castillo de Chapultepec
20.30-22.30	<p>Dinner hosted by the Senate in the Palace of the Castillo de Chapultepec</p> <p><i>attended by the Deputy Foreign Minister, Carlos de Icaza, the Head of the EU Delegation to Mexico, the Head of Mexico's Delegation to the EU, and the EU Member State ambassadors to Mexico</i></p> <p><i>- Speech by Senator Rabindranath Salazar Solorio, Co-Chair of the EU-Mexico JPC.</i></p> <p><i><u>Venue:</u> Castillo Chapultepec</i></p>

08.00-08.30	Transfer of European Delegation to the new Senate building <i>Venue: Paseo de la Reforma 135, Col. Tabacalera, Delegación Cuauhtémoc, Mexico City.</i>
08.30-09.30	Breakfast for both delegations of the Mexico-EU Joint Parliamentary Committee with members of the Executive Bureau and of the Mexican Senate's Political Coordination Bureau <i>Venue: Rooms 5 and 6. Ground floor of the Chamber</i>
09.30-10.30	Official opening of the 18th Meeting of the Mexico-EU JPC <i>Speeches by Silvano Aureoles, Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies; Miguel Barbosa Huerta, Speaker of the Senate; and the Co-Chairs of the Mexico-EU Joint Parliamentary Committee, Senator Rabindranath Salazar and Teresa Jiménez-Becerril MEP.</i> <i>Venue: Standing Committee room, Senate building</i>
10.30-10.40	Official photo
10.40-10.50	Adoption of agenda
10.50-11.00	Approval of minutes of 17th Meeting of the Mexico-EU JPC (16-17 April 2014, Strasbourg, France)
11.00-12.30	Topic 1: Political and economic situation in the EU and Mexico, and updating the three pillars of the Global Agreement (political dialogue, cooperation and trade) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>European rapporteur: Teresa Jiménez-Becerril MEP</i> • <i>Mexican rapporteur: Senator Rabindranath Salazar Solorio</i> Discussion time <i>Venue:</i>
12.30-13.00	Welcome – Senate plenary sitting Venue: Stage 1
13.00-13.30	Transfer to Club de Banqueros
13.30-15.30	Lunch hosted by the Chamber of Deputies at the Club de Banqueros - <i>Speech by Congresswoman Adriana González Carrillo,</i>

	<i>Co-Vice-Chair of the Mexico-EU JPC</i> <i>Venue:</i>
15.30-16.00	Transfer to Senate building
16.00-17.30	Topic 2: Human rights situation in Mexico and the EU <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>European rapporteur: Franziska Keller MEP</i> • <i>Mexican rapporteur: Senator Blanca Alcalá Ruiz</i> Discussion time <i>Venue: Standing Committee room</i>
17.30-19.00	Topic 3: Security and transnational organised crime: Terrorism, drug trafficking, arms trafficking and human trafficking <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>European rapporteur: Pina Picierno MEP</i> • <i>Mexican rapporteur: Senator Laura Angélica Rojas Hernández</i> Discussion time <i>Venue: Standing Committee room</i>
19.00-19.30	Transfer to Ministry of Foreign Affairs <i>Venue: Plaza Juárez #20, Col. Centro, Mexico City</i>
19.30-21.30	Dinner hosted by Carlos Pérez Verdía, Coordinator of the advisers to the Foreign Minister, José Antonio Meade <i>Venue: Plaza Juárez #20, Col. Centro, Mexico City</i>
21.30	Transfer of European Delegation to Hotel Marquis Reforma

Friday 20 February 2015

Mexico City

09.30-10.00	<i>Leave hotel and transfer to the Senate building</i> <i>Venue:</i>
10.00-11.30	Topic 4: State of play as regards meeting the UN Millennium Development Goals and challenges to be met <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>European rapporteur: Teresa Jiménez-Becerril MEP</i> • <i>Mexican rapporteur: Congressman Martín De J.</i>

	<i>Vásquez Villanueva</i>
	Discussion time <i>Venue: Standing Committee room</i>
11.30-13.00	<u>Topic 5:</u> Climate change: Analysis of the outcome of COP 20 (December 2014, Lima) and prospects for COP 21 (December 2014, Paris) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>European rapporteur: Gesine Meissner MEP</i> • <i>Mexican rapporteur: Senator Gabriela Cuevas Barrón</i> Discussion time <i>Venue: Standing Committee room</i>
13.00-13.30	- Adoption of the Joint Declaration of the 18th Meeting of the Mexico-EU JPC - Setting a date and place for the 19th Meeting of the Mexico-EU JPC
13.30-14.00	Transfer of the members of the EU-Mexico JPC to the National Arts Museum (MUNAL) Press conference with Mexico-EU JPC Co-Chairs Senator Rabindranath Salazar and Teresa Jiménez-Becerril MEP <i>Venue: Patio del Federalismo. Senate building</i>
14.00-16.00	Lunch hosted by the Senate of the Republic in the National Arts Museum (MUNAL) <i>Venue: Calle Tacuba 8, Cuauhtémoc, Centro Histórico, 06010 Ciudad de México</i>
16.00	Guided tour of the Anthropology Museum (optional) Transfer of European Delegation to hotel
End of programme	



EU-MEXICO JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

Joint Declaration

18th Meeting of the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee

EU-Mexico

19 - 20 February 2015

Mexico City

The Delegations of the Honourable Congress of the United Mexican States and of the European Parliament to the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee (hereinafter the 'JPC'), headed by their Co-Chairs, Senator Rabindranath Salazar and Teresa Jiménez-Becerril MEP, in accordance with the Statutes of the JPC, at the conclusion of the 18th meeting held in Mexico City, agree as follows:

Joint Declaration

1. The Mexican and European Delegations congratulate each other on holding of the 18th Meeting of the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) and its outcome. Further, they are encouraged that, despite the change to the European Parliament Delegation, the existing relationship between the two parties and the soundness of the work undertaken have been maintained. They restate their desire to revise the Statutes of the JPC with a view to holding two joint meetings each year, as has been the case since the creation of the JPC, with the aim of strengthening the mechanism for dialogue, contributing effectively to the implementation of existing agreements and achieving the objectives of the Strategic Partnership.

2. Both delegations point out that 2015 sees the 55th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral relations between Mexico and the European Union and the 15th anniversary of the entry into force of the Association Agreement and Free Trade Agreement, hereinafter the ‘Global Agreement’. They also emphasise that the relationship was further developed by establishing a Strategic Partnership and Joint Executive Plan, which fleshes out that Partnership.
3. The JPC declares its confidence that the European Union and Mexico are doing what is necessary to overcome current challenges, such as the economic crisis; unemployment; insecurity; terrorism; organised crime; money laundering; energy and food insecurity; and climate change, among others. It also states that, as far as possible, both parties will enhance their bilateral and multilateral cooperation to this end.
4. The Mexican Delegation repeats the cordial invitation it made to the President of the European Parliament in the Joint Declaration of the 17th Meeting of the JPC (April 2014) to pay another visit to Mexico.
5. The members of the JPC re-affirm their commitment to democracy; the rule of law; human rights; peaceful resolution of disputes; cooperation in the development of low-income countries; solidarity; and social justice. All of these are values that cement relations between Mexico and the European Union.
6. The delegations welcome the theme chosen for the 2nd EU-CELAC Summit to be held in Brussels on 10 and 11 June 2015 – ‘Shaping our common future: working for prosperous, cohesive and sustainable societies for our citizens’ – and are firmly committed to contributing to its preparation and development, which will shape the work programme for the next two years. They invite all the parties involved to draw up an ambitious but realistic agenda, which will make it possible to draw on knowledge and experience based on shared principles, values, priorities and aspirations, in order to achieve the ultimate goal of building more prosperous, equal and fair societies.

Political and economic situation in the EU and Mexico, and updating the three pillars of the Global Agreement (political dialogue, cooperation and trade)

7. Both delegations re-affirm their conviction that, through mechanisms such as dialogue and cooperation, parliamentarians can make a substantive contribution to achieving societies that are more prosperous and fairer.
8. They re-affirm that elections are a mechanism for renewing the public authorities of a country, and that they are the legitimate expression of citizens' needs and desires for their future. They re-affirm that parliamentarians have a particular role in restoring citizens' confidence in politics and democracy.
9. The Mexican Delegation welcomes the election of European Union authorities, and the new impetus they are seeking to give to political, economic and social integration. They also welcome the elections of 22-25 May 2014, which resulted in the current composition of the European Parliament. Both delegations express their desire for the forthcoming Mexican elections in June-July 2015 to take place in a peaceful environment of democratic normality, and will help to strengthen democracy through the election of authorities at various levels of government.
10. They emphasise the importance of enhancing relations between Mexico and the European Union, potentially through a process of updating the three pillars of the Global Agreement – political dialogue, cooperation and trade – and of incorporating them into Joint Executive Plan. They encourage the working sub-groups to continue their analysis and identify the key points to be updated.
11. They emphasise the importance of effectively involving the JPC in the process of considering how to update the Global Agreement, as well as seeing a better flow of information between parliamentarians and executive authorities, both in Mexico and the European Union.
12. They re-affirm the importance of diversifying bilateral trade and not having it concentrated in a few European countries, a few federal states in Mexico, and a small number of sectors and products. A dynamic international environment demands a more integrated and consolidated bilateral framework, with instruments that elevate economic and trade relations between both partners, and increase interaction in priority areas.
13. The Mexican Delegation expresses its appreciation that, after a number of years of economic and financial crisis, we are seeing the stabilisation of the economies of EU countries; the consolidation of public finances; and the preservation of the internal market and integrity of the euro zone. This is thanks to the work of the European institutions and the respective national governments. The JPC wants Europe to continue along the path of economic recovery and to increase the existing attraction of the continent as a destination for foreign investment. The European Delegation expresses its desire for consolidation of the reforms announced by the Mexican

Government to create a better environment for foreign investment, to tackle the informal economy and tax fraud, and to achieve greater economic prosperity, which will benefit all citizens equally.

14. The JPC emphasises that sustainable economic development requires investment and growth policies with greater social and environmental focus, as well as investment in infrastructure, education, new technology, research and development.
15. The Joint Parliamentary Committee highlights the inestimable value, wealth and variety of the cultural, intangible, linguistic, ethnic, natural and environmental heritage of Mexico. It repeats its support for the work undertaken by the national and international bodies responsible for the protection and conservation of that heritage, and highlights the work of the Unesco office in Mexico, in particular through its Culture and Development in Mexico programme.
16. It welcomes the EU and Mexico continuing to look into new areas of cooperation, particularly in science, technology and innovation. These impact positively in fields such as energy, information and communication technology, the environment, climate change and food security, among others, and highlight the value of sectoral dialogue in this regard.

Human rights situation in Mexico and the EU

17. The Mexican and European members of the JPC recognise that EU-Mexico cooperation on human rights is essential and increasingly close; both are obliged to observe and apply all international agreements in this area.

18. They express their conviction that updating the Global Agreement will mean greater cooperation on all aspects of bilateral relations, in particular dialogue on human rights, security and justice.
19. They reiterate their support for protecting and promoting respect for human rights and bilateral cooperation programmes in this area, as well as for providing the political, financial and technical resources necessary to guarantee such cooperation.
20. They are aware of the next High Level Dialogue on Human Rights between Mexico and the European Union, to be held in the month of April 2015; of the dialogue on Security and Justice, the date of which is expected to be confirmed very shortly; and of other institutional meetings, in particular the EU-Mexico summit that it is expected to be held in the coming months.
21. They support strengthening multilateral mechanisms, such as the United Nations Human Rights Council, in which Mexico will act as a member until 2016. They take the view that there is no room for attacks on human rights or discrimination on grounds of social status; gender; membership of an ethnic minority; political or religious affiliation; disability; age; or sexual orientation and identity. They also support the efforts of both the Mexican and European governments to combat any form of violence, intolerance, racism, xenophobia, discrimination and violence against women, including femicide, in both regions. To this end, it calls on both parties, as far as possible and within their area of competence, to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence; and to ratify or, in the case of European Member States, sign up to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence Against Women.
22. They condemn any form of violence that breaches human rights, including freedom of expression and public demonstration, rights which must always be fully enjoyed. They take the view that tolerance and respect for the dignity of all persons are fundamental values for democratic and pluralist societies, for which reason they reject all fundamentalism and incitement to hatred in any situation.
23. They refer to the European Parliament Resolution of 23 October 2014, concerning the disappearance of the Ayotzinapa students. On this subject, the JPC condemns in the strongest possible terms the unacceptable disappearances of the students of the Ayotzinapa Normal School in Iguala, expresses its condolences and support to the family and friends of the victims, and requests protection for both them and their lawyers. It urges the Mexican Government to carry out a full and exhaustive investigation into the case, and to pursue and actually convict the parties responsible at all levels, in accordance with Mexican legislation and international law.

24. They acknowledge the Mexican Government's decision to receive the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, with the aim of having the case of the Iguala students observed, investigated and examined by independent experts. For their part, they thank the Mexican Government and Congress for the information provided in relation to the disappearance of the Iguala student teachers; they explicitly recognise the efforts of human-rights activists and encourage them to continue their work; above all, they express their unbounded solidarity with the victims and their families, and support their legitimate demands for truth, justice, dignity and punishment of the perpetrators to prevail, and for the investigation not to be shut down until there is absolute certainty over the fate of the victims and the responsibility of the material and intellectual culprits.
25. They extend their solidarity to all other victims of violence and human-rights abuses, express their condemnation of all other cases of unsolved disappearances, and stress the need for justice to be done in each and every one of them.

Security and transnational organised crime: terrorism, drug trafficking, arms trafficking and human trafficking

26. The members of the JPC recognise that the challenges of combating transnational organised crime, terrorism, drug trafficking, arms trafficking and human trafficking require closer cooperation between both partners.
27. The Mexican Delegation expresses its deepest condolences for the terrorist attacks that have affected some EU Member States, such as France and Denmark, and asks the European members of the JPC to convey the solidarity of this delegation to the authorities of those countries and the families of the victims. The JPC jointly condemns all forms and/or acts of terrorism carried out in any part of the world and urges countries affected by terrorism to combat this scourge by tackling radicalisation and promoting tolerance.
28. Both delegations express their vehement condemnation and rejection of all types of fundamentalism, and restate their unity and solidarity in the face of these phenomena. Such phenomena constitute an attack on peaceful coexistence between nations and freedom, and they seek to erode democratic and secular values.

29. They declare that cooperation and the exchanging of information are essential in the fight against transnational organised crime, terrorism, drug trafficking, arms trafficking and human trafficking. However, these must always take place within the framework of the rule of law, and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.
30. The European Delegation gives notice of the adoption of resolution 2015/2530(RSP) of the European Parliament of 11 February 2015; the JPC notes the challenge posed by the legislative differences between the European Union and Mexico with regard to PNR and the parties therefore undertake to look for an agreed solution as quickly as possible and seek to avoid measures that might damage trade and tourist numbers.
31. They stress the importance of security measures being accompanied by a prevention policy, including activities in prisons, on social media, in schools and in underprivileged areas, in order to prevent crimes such as terrorism, transnational organised crime, drug trafficking, arms trafficking and human trafficking. To this end, legal instruments and coercive measures must be complemented by mechanisms to improve education and generate decent employment opportunities, as well as achieving the social and economic integration of young people.
32. They express their concern over anti-Islamic demonstrations that have taken place in Germany through the Pegida – an acronym for European Patriots Against the Islamisation of the West – movement, which may lead to unnecessary intolerance and violence towards certain religious groups.
33. They call on states that have not ratified the UN Arms Trade Treaty to do so. They welcome the adoption and signing of this international instrument by Mexico and the countries of the European Union, respectively. They advocate international coordination as a way of effectively combating the illegal manufacture and trafficking of firearms and ammunition.
34. They condemn human trafficking as an abominable modern form of slavery and as a breach of human rights. They also recognise the need to promote international cooperation, in order to combat human trafficking effectively, and the universality of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, of the Palermo Convention.
35. They indicate that international law and national legislation must be applied and strictly observed in the struggle against human trafficking. They take the view that human trafficking is a global problem demanding concerted responses from all members of the international community; they call for national legislation to be harmonised within the existing international framework in this area.

State of play with regard to achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals and other challenges to be overcome

36. The Mexican and European parliamentarians restate their commitment to push for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), as well as their support for the 17 new goals for sustainable development proposed by the UN for the post-2015 period.
37. They recognise the overall progress, albeit insufficient, towards achieving a reduction in extreme poverty: in 1990, almost half the world's population was living on less than USD 1.25 per day, whereas, that proportion had fallen to 22 % in 2010, meaning that 700 million fewer people are living in conditions of extreme poverty.
38. They welcome the achievement of the goal of halving the percentage of people without access to an improved source of drinking water in 2010, five years ahead of schedule.
39. They consider the fact that 90 % of children in developing countries attend primary school positive, although truancy rates remain high. They see it as positive that, in all developing regions, gender parity in enrolment in primary education was achieved or almost achieved in 2012.
40. They highlight that, at global level, mortality of children under the age of five years fell by almost 50 %, from 90 deaths per 1 000 live births in 1990 to 48 in 2012. While these figures are encouraging, it must also be pointed out that the main cause of death among children aged under five years is preventable disease, for which appropriate measures must be taken.
41. They are pleased to see that women's participation in politics has continued to increase, with women making up over 30 % of at least one house of parliament in 46 countries in January 2014. The European Delegation welcomes the fact that the Mexican electoral law includes the parity principle, with 50 % of candidates for publicly elected posts being women.
42. They emphasise that USD 134.8 billion was earmarked as official development assistance (ODA) in 2013, the highest amount ever awarded for this purpose,

following two years of decline. They point out that the European Union, along with the Member States, is the leading ODA donor, and that its MDG initiative is an instrument that has contributed to supporting the developing countries are furthest from achieving the Goals, such as those relating to hunger, maternal health, child mortality and drinking water supply. However, they are concerned about the reduction in aid to the poorest countries, and call on developed and emerging countries to increase or at least maintain this aid. They call for compliance with the international commitments on ODA, such as the objective of allocating 0.7 % of GDP to ODA, and on the Agenda for Aid Effectiveness; they also call for enhanced tax justice and the mobilisation of domestic resources as a key element of sustainable development. They call for funding for climate-change prevention and adaptation to be in addition to and separate from ODA.

43. They recognise that there are still major trends that threaten environmental sustainability, since global carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions are continuing their upward trend, with emissions in 2011 almost 50 % higher than those recorded in 1990. Furthermore, millions of hectares of woodland are being lost every year, with many species being pushed even closer to extinction and renewable water sources becoming ever scarcer.
44. They express their satisfaction at the progress achieved within the EU and the advances made in Mexico with regard to MDG achievement; Mexico reports that, of the 51 mandatory compliance indicators, 37 have been fully achieved (74.5 %), with good progress being made on the remainder.
45. They stress that the indicators where progress is inadequate – in fields such as education, combating poverty and improving health – require greater cooperation, encompassing exchanges of experiences and best practice, both in Mexico and in the Member States of the European Union.
46. They call on the international community to work with the Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), based on the 17 sustainable development goals proposed for the post-2015 era, and express their desire for the UN General Assembly to adopt the new development agenda in September this year.

Climate change: Analysis of the outcome of COP 20 (December 2014, Lima) and prospects for COP 21 (December 2015, Paris)

47. The JPC re-affirms its commitment to combating climate change from the parliamentary angle, and expresses its readiness to support the measures and actions

taken by the relevant governments to confront this phenomenon, which represents a threat to all living beings.

48. It re-affirms that the goal of restricting global warming to less than 2° C is absolutely indispensable.
49. It welcomes the progress made at COP20 (held in Lima, Peru, in 2014). It reaffirms the need for COP21 (Paris, 2015) to come up with an ambitious and transparent Agreement reflecting the principle of common but distinct responsibilities. At the same time, it expresses its desire for the negotiations on the draft Agreement to be finalised within the agreed timescale (May 2015), and to display a balance between factors such as mitigation, adaptation, funding, development and transfer of technology, capacity building and transparency. It reiterates that this Agreement must be seen as an opportunity to create employment and wealth through developing new models of production and consumption.
50. It expresses its approval of the subject of gender being incorporated in the decisions of COP20 by means of adoption of the Lima Work Programme on Gender, 2014-2016.
51. It emphasises that implementation methods – particularly funding – are a key element of negotiations on combating climate change. It hopes that countries will contribute to the Green Climate Fund as part of their responsibility and the commitment to take global action on combating climate change.
52. It urges the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to submit their Nationally Determined Contributions during the first quarter of 2015, as agreed at COP20.
53. It takes the view that development cooperation is an important tool in assisting developing countries to make the transition to low-carbon economies.
54. It expresses its approval of the European Council Agreement of October 2014 on a minimum of a 40 % cut in greenhouse-gas emissions by 2030.
55. It recognises that, although fossil fuels remain significant at global level, it is imperative that we continue moving towards new, renewable energy sources, especially as world energy demand may increase significantly by 2040.

56. It points out that Mexico and the European Union are making efforts to combat climate change. Mexico has cut its greenhouse gases by 4.5 % since 2010, while the European Union has managed to reduce its emissions by 1.8 % in 2013 compared to 2012, achieving its lowest level since 1990.
57. It encourages Mexico and the European Union to achieve their projections of 30 % and 21 % cuts by 2020, respectively, and for Mexico to seek a 50 % emissions cut and the EU an 80 % cut by 2050.
58. It is concerned that climate change may cause an increase in the displacement of persons, which may then lead to violent internal and inter-state conflicts.
59. It declares that actions and policies to combat climate change must go hand-in-hand with following the Rio Conference, the MDG and the post-2015 Development Agenda.
60. It calls for continued development of other policies to combat climate change, such as energy efficiency, energy saving, development of renewable energy sources, efficient use of resources, innovation and investment.

Future meetings of the JPC and enhanced inter-institutional relations between the Mexican Congress and the European Parliament.

61. The delegations of the Mexican Congress and European Parliament welcome the results achieved at this 18th meeting of the Mexico-EU JPC. They state the need for the JPC to remain the vehicle for dialogue, monitoring and control of relations between the partners. They re-affirm their wish for continuous interaction with the Joint Council, for that Council and the Joint Committee to monitor the agreements of the JPC, and for it to be called on state its position in the context of discussions on the updating of the Agreement.
62. The delegations of the Mexican Congress and the European Parliament call on their respective competent political and administrative authorities to develop and implement a Memorandum of Understanding and Institutional Cooperation covering forms and models of political, administrative and technical cooperation; a joint research and exchange programme; and programmes of visits on themes of mutual interest and/or related to strengthening relations between the EU and Mexico, and between the Mexican Congress and the European Parliament.

63. The delegations agree to hold their next meeting in Europe, preferably during the second half of 2015.

Senator Rabindranath Salazar Solorio

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Parliamentary Committee

Teresa Jiménez-Becerril MEP

Co-Chair of the EU-Mexico Joint
Parliamentary Committee