



# EU-Mexico Global Agreement

31.3.2021



On 18 March, the Delegation to the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee (D-MX) held an exchange of views on the finalisation of the modernisation of the EU-Mexico Global Agreement.

D-MX Chair, Massimiliano Smeriglio presided the meeting setting a milestone to enable greater cooperation between the two sides of the Atlantic and welcomed:

- Head of the Mission of Mexico to the EU and Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, H. E. Mauricio Escanero Figueroa;
- Latin America and Caribbean attaché, Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU, Ana Pires;
- Head of the Latin America unit, DG Trade, European Commission, Paolo Garzotti;
- Head of Division for Mexico, Central America and Caribbean, European External Action Service (EEAS), Katja Afheldt.

## Political momentum

MEPs underlined that the Portuguese presidency of the Council represents a unique political momentum to sign the agreement.

Some members expressed concerns about the lack of a specific chapter in the Agreement on gender equality and the rights of women, while others referred to the lack of public access to its political and cooperation chapters.

Generally, there were also concerns about the new energy law in Mexico, which could potentially jeopardise the country's commitment to renewable and clean energies and affect negatively the agreement's provisions on sustainable development.

## Dynamic EU-Mexico relations

Mexico's Ambassador to the EU, Mauricio Escanero, underlined the dynamism of the strategic association between Mexico and the EU, referring to the high-level dialogues on numerous bilateral issues and the economic cooperation between the parties.

The Ambassador referred to the current Mexican presidency of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) as an opportunity to strengthen the dialogue between CELAC and the EU and underlined that Mexico is ready to sign the new Global Agreement.

Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic enabled more cooperation between the EU and Mexico, especially in terms of providing global access to vaccines through the COVAX mechanism.

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The Latin America and Caribbean attaché of the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU, Ana Pires, stressed the importance of the Agreement as a tool to achieve a green economic transition, social cohesion and to boost digitalisation in Mexico.

She highlighted that the new agreement could be an important tool to enable greater cooperation to defend human rights and democracy and create more prosperity in Mexico and the EU, urging both parties to ratify it as soon as possible.

## Modernising the existing agreement

Head of the Latin America unit, DG Trade, European Commission, Paolo Garzotti, argued that there is a need to modernise the existing EU-Mexico agreement in the context of a much more interlinked global economy.

The new agreement shows significant improvements:

- granting greater transparency, security and stability to businesses (including SMEs);
- strengthening investment protection and removing barriers to trade in services;
- establishing higher environmental and social standards and offering better opportunities for EU exporters;
- setting an important precedent with Mexico's decision to recognise more than 500 European geographical indications.

## EU-Mexico political dialogue

Head of Division for Mexico, Central America and Caribbean at the EEAS, Katja Afheldt, recalled that Mexico is a key partner of the EU at the multilateral level and a crucial ally in working for peaceful and democratic solutions to the crises in Venezuela and Nicaragua.

The EEAS representative observed that the new Global Agreement provided a 'state of the art' legal framework for EU-Mexico relations and expanded political dialogue to issues such as:

- international peace and security;
- •human rights;
- the rule of law;
- gender equality and the empowerment of women;
- sustainable development;
- migration and asylum issues;
- the fight against corruption;
- money laundering;

- cybercrime.

**Unit in charge:** *Delegation to the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee*

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**More information:**

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