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*Delegation to the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee*

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**D-MX\_PV(2021)0318\_01**

# **MINUTES**

**of the meeting of 18 March 2021, 16.45-18.45**

**Brussels**

The meeting opened at 16.49 on Thursday, 18 March 2021, with Massimiliano Smeriglio (Chair) presiding.

**1. Adoption of draft agenda** OJ – PE611.583v01-00

The draft agenda was approved.

**2. Approval of minutes of meetings**

- Meeting of D-MX of 27 January 2020 PV – PE611.552v01-00

The minutes were approved.

**3. Chair's announcements**

**4. Exchange of views on the finalisation of the modernisation of the EU-Mexico Global Agreement, with the participation of:**

- H. E. Mauricio Escanero Figueroa, Head of the Mission of Mexico to the European Union and Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
- Ana Pires, Latin America and Caribbean attaché, Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union
- Paolo Garzotti, Head of the Latin America unit, DG Trade, European Commission

- Katja Afheldt, Head of Division for Mexico, Central America and Caribbean, European External Action Service (EEAS)

Chair **Massimiliano Smeriglio** opened the meeting by highlighting the strategic importance of the partnership between the European Union and Mexico. While remarking that the current crisis of COVID-19 had slowed down the strengthening of the bilateral relations, Mr Smeriglio hoped that the signing of this agreement would serve to re-establish a close relation between Mexico and the EU. In this vein, Mr Smeriglio sustained that the new agreement would further boost bilateral trade and investment flows, increase technical and scientific cooperation, and strengthen the political dialogue between the two parts. Furthermore, Mr Smeriglio remarked that the new global agreement included the defence of human rights, in particular those of women, youth, children, the LGBTQI+ community and the indigenous populations. Finally, Mr Smeriglio concluded by asserting that the global agreement represented an extraordinary opportunity to strengthen the relations between the EU and Mexico, while ensuring an ecological and sustainable development, urging both the European Council and the European Commission to sign the new agreement as soon as possible, as a way of sending a positive signal to Mexico, in this difficult time.

**Ana Pires**, Latin America and Caribbean attaché, Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union, remarked the importance of this agreement as a tool towards achieving a green economic transition, social cohesion, and boosting digital industries in Mexico, all these being aligned with the priorities for Latin America set by the Portuguese presidency of the Council. In this sense, Ms Pires remarked that Latin America has been one of the regions most affected by the pandemic, with acute socio-economic consequences, and that recovery would only be possible if the EU looked beyond the borders of Europe and fostered a green transition in other regions, and particularly in those with strong cultural, linguistic, and political links with Europe, such as Latin America. In this sense, Ms Pires stressed that the new EU-Mexico agreement represented a milestone that would enable greater cooperation to defend human rights and democracy and achieve greater prosperity levels in both regions. Ms Pires concluded by urging the concerned parties to ratify the agreement with no further delays.

**H. E. Mauricio Escanero Figueroa**, Head of the Mission of Mexico to the European Union and Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, began by recalling that, while there had not been a bilateral meeting between the EU and Mexican delegations since February 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the fundamental priorities shared by both parties kept on becoming sharper and more important. Furthermore, he recalled that these priorities were reflected in the JPC joint declaration of 2020, and encompassed human rights, achieving equality between men and women, combatting violence against women and girls, and fighting climate change, among several others. Later on, Mr Escanero Figueroa stressed the dynamism of the strategic association between Mexico and the EU, observing the existence of a high-level dialogue on numerous bilateral issues, as well as that of a dynamic economic cooperation. Additionally, the Ambassador expressed that the current pandemic poses a clear example of how Mexico and the EU can work together to strengthen multilateralism and provide global access to vaccines, particularly within the COVAX mechanism. On this regard, he mentioned Mexico's efforts, alongside with Argentina's, to produce vaccines for the entire region of Latin America, as well as the country's close collaboration with the European Centre for Disease Prevention. Then, he emphasised the current Mexican presidency of CELAC as an opportunity to strengthen the dialogue between

CELAC and the EU. Finally, Mr Escanero Figueroa concluded by reassuring that Mexico was ready to sign the new global agreement, highlighting its potential for promoting political dialogue between Mexico and the EU, reinforcing cooperation on regional and triangular matters, boosting bilateral economic and business ties, and allowing both parties to move towards social inclusion and sustainable development.

**Paolo Garzotti**, Head of the Latin America unit, DG Trade, European Commission, reminded members that Mexico had been a strategic partner of the EU since 2008, and that said partnership is based on a closed history of cultural and political ties between the two sides. Moreover, he stressed that the strategic partnership between Mexico and the EU extended to the multilateral arena, where Mexico shared EU ambitions for a rules-based trade system. Furthermore, he recalled that this partnership had brought extensive benefits to the parties, including the 62 billion euros in goods that are traded in both directions. He continued by pointing out the importance of a renewed agreement between Mexico and the EU amidst a much more interlinked global economy, a growing influence of China in Latin America, and the shared challenges posed by the current pandemic, climate change and the need for a sustainable economic transition. In this vein, he highlighted that the current agreement represented a significant improvement from the 2008 partnership as it grants greater transparency, security and stability to businesses, as well as involving higher environmental and social standards, and offering better opportunities for EU exporters. On this latter issue, he recalled Mexico's relevance as a net importer from agricultural products from the EU, and that the Latin American country had agreed to over 500 European regional specifications. Additionally, Mr Garzotti mentioned that the agreement also offered better opportunities for industrial good imports, and removed barriers for services exports, by strengthening investments protection, and increasing the transparency of transactions. Additionally, he claimed that small and medium enterprises (SMEs) would also benefit from this agreement as a result of the improved transparency and simplification procedures. To conclude, Mr Garzotti pointed out that the agreement promoted common values, such as fighting climate change and corruption, and that the civil society would play a key role in its implementation.

**Katja Afheldt**, Head of Division for Mexico, Central America and Caribbean, European External Action Service (EEAS), stressed the non-trade part of the agreement, dealing with political cooperation. In this regard, Ms Afheldt stressed the high-level of the political dialogue between Mexico and the EU, including sectoral dialogues on security, climate change, and human rights. Ms Afheldt also reminded members that Mexico was an important partner of the EU at the multilateral level, including the UNSC -where Mexico currently holds a non-permanent seat-, the Paris Agreement, the upcoming COP26, and CELAC – for which Mexico is the current pro-tempore president. Ms Afheldt defined Mexico as a key player in the Latin American region, and a crucial partner for the EU in fostering peaceful and democratic ways of dealing with the crisis in Venezuela and Nicaragua. Additionally, Ms Afheldt stressed the EU-Mexico cooperation within COVAX in ensuring the global distribution of vaccines. Afterwards, she affirmed that both parties were facing new challenges that made it imperative to modernise the 1997 bilateral agreement in order to include key new elements. Amongst these elements, she recalled the need to expand political dialogue in order to address problematic such as international peace and security, human rights, rule of law, women empowerment and gender equality, sustainable development, countering the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, migrations and asylum, fighting against corruption and money laundering, and cybercrime. Lastly, Ms Afheldt recalled members that the new agreement expanded the focus on small and

medium enterprises (SMEs), and that it would actively engage with civil society via the new figure of ‘domestic advisory groups’.

The MEPs focused their interventions on stressing the current political momentum to sign the agreement, highlighting the opportunity that the Portuguese presidency of the Council represented. Additionally, the acceptance of the geographical indication model and the framework for investments protection were recognised as landmarks of the agreement. Nonetheless, there were some concerns raised over a new law in the field of energy passed in Mexico that could potentially jeopardise the country’s commitment to fight climate change, to develop more renewable and clean energies, and negatively impact the sustainability criteria contained in the agreement. Furthermore, concerns were raised about the lack of a specific chapter addressing gender equality and women’s rights in the agreement. Some Members also raised concerns about lack of public access to the political and development pillars of the agreement’s text.

Responding to the Members, **Ms Ana Pires**, expressed her intention that the agreement would be signed as soon as possible in the Council. **H. E. Mauricio Escanero Figueroa** ensured that gender quality was one of the crucial pillars of the agreement, being included in numerous parts of the agreement, as well as constituting one of the strategic points of Mexico’s foreign policy. In turn, **Mr Paolo Garzotti** assured Members that both the Council and the European Parliament were willing to move ahead with the internal process of ratification of the agreement. Mr Garzotti further ensured the importance of the gender element in the agreement, stating that the agreement included numerous binding provisions concerning gender equality. With regards to the new energy law in Mexico, he stated that was fully aware of the issue and that it had already been raised in the joint trade committee. Concerning agriculture, Mr Garzotti affirmed that this agreement had struck a right balance of positive impacts for the agricultural sectors on both sides, also mentioning that a recent study produced by the Commission on the impact of trade agreements on agriculture showed an overall positive impact of these agreements. Finally, Mr. Garzotti stressed that the trade part of the agreement had been made public from day one. Lastly, **Ms Katja Afheldt**, stressed once again the political and cooperation aspects of the agreement, which made it a global agreement instead of a trade agreement.

*The following Members spoke: Inma Rodríguez-Piñero, Javi López, Maria-Manuel Leitão-Marques, Jordi Cañas, Eugenia Rodríguez Palop, Diana Riba i Giner, Leila Chaibi.*

## **5. Any other business**

Nothing to report

## **6. Date and place of next meetings**

The date and the place of next meeting will be communicated at a later stage.

The meeting closed at 18.25.



**ПРИСЪСТВЕН ЛИСТ/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/PREZENČNÍ LISTINA/DELTAGERLISTE/  
 ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KOHALOLIJATE NIMEKIRI/KATASTAΣH ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/RECORD OF ATTENDANCE/  
 LISTE DE PRÉSENCE/POPIS NAZOČNIH/ELENCO DI PRESENZA/APMEKLĒJUMU REĢISTRS/DALVIŲ SĀRAŠAS/  
 JELENLÉTI ÍV/REĢISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŚCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/  
 LISTĀ DE PREZENTĀ/PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/NÄRVAROLISTA**

Бюро/Mesa/Předsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Predsjedništvo/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/Biuras/Elnökség/Prezydium/Birou/Předsedníctvo/Předsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
Massimiliano Smeriglio (P), Jessica Polfjärd (VP)
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Bouλευτές/Members/Députés/Zastupnici/Deputati/Deputāti/Nariai/Képviselők/Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputati/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Jordi Cañas, Javi López, Diana Riba i Giner, Eugenia Rodríguez Palop, Hermann Tertsch
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Zamjenici/Supplenti/Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantysnariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/Namestniki/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
Leila Chaibi, Ska Keller, Maria-Manuel Leitão-Marques

209 (7)	
216 (3)	
Inma Rodríguez-Piñero	
56 (8) (Точка от дневния ред/Punto del orden del día/Bod pořadu jednání (OJ)/Punkt på dagsordenen/Tagesordnungspunkt/Päevakorra punkt/Σημείο της ημερήσιας διάταξης/Agenda item/Point OJ/Točka dnevnog reda/Punto all'ordine del giorno/Darba kārtības punkts/Darbotvarkēs punktas/Napirendi pont/Punt Ağenda/Agendapunt/Punkt porządku dziennego/Ponto OD/Punct de pe ordinea de zi/Bod programu schôdze/Točka UL/Esityslistan kohta/Punkt på föredragningslistan)	

Наблюдатели/Observadores/Pozorovatelé/Observatører/Beobachter/Vaatilejad/Παρατηρητές/Observers/Observateurs/Promatrači/Osservatori/Nověrotáji/Stebétojai/Megfigyelők/Osservaturi/Waarnemers/Obserwatorzy/Observadores/Observatori/Pozorovatelia/Opozovalci/Tarkkailijat/Observatörer

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

H. E. Mauricio Escanero Figueroa, Head of the Mission of Mexico to the European Union and Ambassador to the Kingdom of Belgium and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

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

Ana Pires, Latin America and Caribbean attaché, Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the European Union

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

Paolo Garzotti, Brita Hemme

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

Katja Afheldt

Други институции и органи/Otras instituciones y organismos/Ostatní orgány a instituce/Andre institutioner og organer/Andere Organe und Einrichtungen/Muud institutsioonid ja organid/Λοιπά θεσμικά όργανα και οργανισμοί/Other institutions and bodies/Autres institutions et organes/Druge institucije i tijela/Altre istituzioni e altri organi/Citas ieshades un struktūras/Kitos institucijos ir įstaigos/Más intézmények és szervek/Istituzzjonijiet u korpi oħra/Andere instellingen en organen/Inne instytucje i organy/Outras instituições e outros órgãos/Alte instituições și organe/Iné inštitúcie a orgány/Muut toimielimet ja elimet/Andra institutioner och organ

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Други участници/Otros participantes/Ostatní účastníci/Endvidere deltog/Andere Teilnehmer/Muud osalejad/Επίσης παρόντες/Other participants/Autres participants/Drugi sudionici/Altri partecipanti/Citi klátesošie/Kiti dalyviai/Más résztvevők/Parteicipanti ohra/Andere aanwezigen/Inni uczestnicy/Outros participantes/Altı participantı/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/Secrétaire des groupes politiques/Tajništvo klubova zastupnika/Segreteria gruppi politici/Politiske gruppe sekretariáts/Frakcijų sekretoriai/Képviselőcsoportok titkársága/Segretariat gruppi političi/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secretariado dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupín/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristöt/De politiska gruppernas sekretariat

PPE	Juan Salafranca, Kathryn Stack, Amelie Giesemann, Hugo van der Werff
S&D	Silvia Gonzalez del Pino
Renew	Itziar Munoa Salaverria, Sandra El Mir
ID	
Verts/ALE	
ECR	
The Left	Francisco Orozco
NI	

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

Кабинет на генералния секретар/Gabinete del Secretario General/Kancelár generálního tajemníka/Generalsekretærens Kabinet/Kabinett des Generalsekretärs/Peasekretäribüro/Γραφείο του Γενικού Γραμματέα/Secretary-General's Office/Cabinet du Secrétaire général/Ured glavnog tajnika/Gabinetto del Segretario generale/Generalsekretära kabinets/Generalinio sekretoriaus kabinetas/Főtitkári hivatal/Kabinet tas-Segretarju Ĝenerali/Kabinet van de secretaris-generaal/Gabinet Sekretarza Generalnego/Gabinete do Secretário-Geral/Cabinet Secretar General/Kancelária generálneho tajomníka/Urad generalného sekretarja/Pääsihteerin kabinetti/Generalsekretærerens kansli

Генерална дирекция/Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/ Directorate-General/Direction générale/Glavna uprava/Direzione generale/Generaldirektorāts/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/ Direttorato Generali/Directoraten-generaal/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direcții Generale/Generálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni direktorat/Pääsasto/Generaldirektorat	
DG PRES	
DG IPOL	
DG EXPO	Marc Jütten, Tobias Voget
DG EPRS	Gisela Grieger
DG COMM	
DG PERS	
DG INLO	
DG TRAD	
DG LINC	
DG FINS	
DG ITEC	
DG SAFE	
Правна служба/Servicio Jurídico/Právní služba/Juridisk Tjeneste/Juristischer Dienst/Õigusteenistus/Νομική Υπηρεσία/Legal Service/ Service juridique/Pravna služba/Servizio giuridico/Juridiskais dienests/Teisés tárnyba/Jogi szolgálat/Servizz legali/Juridische Dienst/ Wydział prawny/Serviço Jurídico/Serviciu Juridic/Právny servis/Oikeudellinen yksikkö/Rättsstjänsten	
Секретариат на комисията/Secretaría de la comisión/Sekretariát výboru/Udvalgssekretariatet/Ausschusssekretariat/Komisjoni sekretariaat/Γραμματεία της επιτροπής/Committee secretariat/Secrétaireat de la commission/Tajništvo odbora/Segreteria della commissione/ Komitejas sekretariäts/Komiteo sekretoriatas/A bizottság titkársága/Segretarjat tal-kumitat/Commissiesecretariaat/ Sekretariat komisji/Secretariado da comissão/Secretariat comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottsssekretariatet	
Javier Fernandez Fernandez, Stefania Boschetto, Myrofora Kostidou, Carolina Zaccato, Laura Kühn, Francisco Cabral, Rocio Rodrigo	
Сътрудник/Asistente/Asistent/Assistent/Assistenz/Βοηθός/Assistant/Assistente/Palīgs/Padējējas/Asszisztens/Asystent/Pomočník/ Avustaja/Assistenter	
Rebecca Alrutz	

- \* (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chairman/Président/Predsjednik/Priekšsēdētājs/  
Pirmininkas/Elnök/'Chairman'/Voorzitter/Przewodniczący/Președinte/Predsednik/Puheenjohtaja/Ordförande  
(VP) = Заместник-председател/Vicepresidente/Místopředseda/Næstformand/Stellvertretender Vorsitzender/Aseesimees/Αντιπρόεδρος/  
Vice-Chair/Potpredsjednik/Vice-Präsident/Potpředsednik/Priekšsēdētāja vietnieks/Pirmininko pavaduotojas/Alelnök/ Viči  
'Chairman'/Ondervoorzitter/Wiceprzewodniczący/Vice-Presidente/Vicepreședinte/Podpredseda/Podpredsednik/  
Varapuheenjohtaja/Vice ordförande  
(M) = Член/Miembro/Clen/Medlem/Mitglied/Parlamentiliige/Bouλευτής/Member/Membre/Član/Membro/Deputāts/Narys/Képviselő/  
Membru/Lid/Czlonek/Membro/Člen/Poslanec/Jäsen/Ledamot  
(F) = Должностно лице/Funcionario/Úředník/Tjenestemand/Beamter/Ametnik/Υπάλληλος/Official/Fonctionnaire/Dužnosnik/  
Funzionario/Ierēdnis/Pareigūnas/Tisztviselő/Ufficjal/Ambtenaar/Urzéndnik/Funcionário/Funcționar/Úradník/Uradnik/Virkamies/  
Tjänsteman