



Delegation to the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee

D-MX_PV(2021)-12-02

MINUTES

of the meeting of 2 December 2021, 14:30-16:30

Brussels

The meeting opened at 14:38 on Thursday, 2 December 2021, with Massimiliano Smeriglio (Chair) presiding.

1. Adoption of draft agenda

OJ – PE611.586v01-00

The agenda was approved.

2. Chair's announcements

This is a complicated period due to new measures in relation to COVID-19. Nonetheless, a delegation went to Mexico and met the Mexican delegation and relevant actors, hopefully leading to a ratification of the agreement.

3. Conclusions of the visit to Mexico City on 28-30 October 2021

The Delegation travelling to Mexico City from 28 to 30 October was composed of five members. The aim of the visit was to boost parliamentary diplomacy after the 27th meeting of the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) in February 2020, and after the election of the new EU-Mexico JPC co-president on the Mexican side, Senator Ricardo Velázquez Mesa. It was also an opportunity to meet new MPs elected to the Mexican Congress in July 2021 and the government formed in December 2018. Fundamental issues at the centre of political bilateral dialogue include the controversial proposal for reform of the Mexican electricity sector and the human rights situation.

Mr Smeriglio stated that the Delegation met with Ambassadors from EU Member States in Mexico, and with some civil society organisations to discuss delicate issues i.e., enforced disappearances, the situation around human rights defenders and journalists, women and indigenous rights, and corruption. From the Mexican government, it met: the President of the Senate, Olga Sánchez Cordero and the Co-president Velázquez Mesa; the President of the Committee with Relations with Europe, Gabriela Benavides; the President of the committee for health, Américo Villareal; the Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Maximiliano Reyes; Martin Borrego Llorente and Fernando Aguilar who are staff from the Ministry of Energy; and Vice Minister for Foreign Trade, Luz María de la Mora.

The delegation also visited the Chamber of Deputies, which was recently renewed. It heard the testimony of the Eurochambers and six business chambers represented by different member states. It also heard testimonies from the UNICEF, UNHCR and the IOM on human rights, and discussed the huge flux of people that crosses Mexico from the South and increasingly stays in the country in dramatic conditions. The delegation met with university professors that study the EU-Mexico relations, looking into best practices and the possibilities for academic and cultural exchanges. The mission concluded with a trip to a project funded by the EU: Red Nacional de Refugios, which is a national network of refuges for women victim of violence, most often domestic. He stressed that it is necessary to keep dialogue open with Mexico.

Mr. Jordi Cañas added some comments about the visit. He stated that there is a degree of uncertainty surrounding the legal certainty of investments in the electricity sector, which in turn affects businesses and investors. He mentioned that he felt that Mexican authorities were somewhat reactive and that there had been some tough meetings. He emphasised the need to bring relations closer, but to bear the context this happens in.

Mr. Javi López stated that the blocking of the overall agreement is firstly chilling relations between the EU and Mexico, and secondly, it is undermining the agreement itself. Both sides need to invest political capital to find a solution, as this is undermining the bilateral relations. He found that the visit was a great opportunity to put forward the message that Parliament wants to find an agreement. Mr. López said that an explicit comment made by the Mexican government was that bilateral relations would not be activated at their apogee until the standstill is resolved. Mr. López also felt that there had been difficult conversations around the electricity market reform. Both Mr. Cañas and Mr. López stated how impactful the visit to the National Refuge was.

Mr. Leopoldo López Gil stated that if the EU leaves a gap, others might squeeze in who do not have the same interests, namely China. Thus, there is a need to make efforts to speed up agreements and formalize them.

Ms. Inma Rodríguez-Piñero, the rapporteur on relations with Mexico, mentioned that the Monitoring Group had a meeting the previous week, chaired by herself, and that Mr. Hansen (who was a part of the delegation to Mexico) had made a comment on how the level of government representation was not as high as he had expected. During the Monitoring Group meeting, the energy sector reform was also discussed. Ms. Rodríguez-Piñero requested a more detailed assessment as to how the energy reform is expected to evolve.

Speakers: Jordi Cañas (Renew, Spain), Javi López (S&D, Spain), Leopoldo López Gil (EPP, Spain), Inma Rodríguez-Piñero (S&D, Spain)

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

- Ms Eva CARBALLEIRA FERNÁNDEZ, Deputy Head of Unit, The Americas, DG Trade
- Mr Johnathan HATWELL, Head of Division, Mexico, Central America and Caribbean, and Ms Ela HOROSZKO, co-desk officer for Mexico, EEAS

Mr. Massimiliano Smeriglio summarised the state of play on the ratification of the Global Agreement. On the 28th of April 2020, the negotiations were concluded. After the legal scrubbing and the translations, the agreement should be signed and sent to Parliament and Council for approval. It is a mixed agreement, which includes areas that are exclusive competence of the EU, such as the trade part; the EU does not have exclusive competence over the political part. It will also have to be ratified by Member States. The agreement has been divided into three parts, subdivided into the political part, the trade section, and protection of investments. The Mexican side has insisted on the need to ratify all three parts together.

Ms Eva Carballeira Fernández highlighted that this is the right time to start engaging with authorities in Mexico, especially in the run-up to discussions around the energy reform. The reform raises a number of questions on the EU side; it affects investments. These concerns were discussed in the last monitoring group. This reform is the flagship project of President López Obrador. His views on energy were known even before he took office. Now, the project is in the hands of democratic institutions in Mexico. It is timely for the EU institutions to send a message of concern. At the Commission level, letters have been sent, and the Commission has been coordinating with industries and Member States; it is a sensitive issue. Recently, concerns were raised with the Ministry of Economy.

Ms Carballeira Fernández believes that the reform will probably be put forward and then it will be necessary to see what happens in Congress and the Senate. It would be necessary to have the votes of the opposition, the PRI - which passed the reform back in 2013. It remains to be seen if the reform will go forward, become law, and change the constitution.

Ms Carballeira Fernández stated that the issues surrounding the reform are: investments and jobs that these companies have created on the ground, prices for the consumer, and environmental implications for Mexico. Under the new conditions in the new agreement, Mexico can decide to renationalise the energy sector, but they need to do this in respect of bilateral investment treaties with EU Member States. They need to compensate adequately if renationalisation leads to violation of agreements.

On the modernised agreement and why it is taking so long, Ms Carballeira Fernández mentioned that the Commission has been scrubbing the agreement since the negotiations concluded in 2020 as part of the legal provision is to decide on the legal architecture. She also mentioned that no recent agreement in the region has actually been ratified. She emphasised how debate around trade policy is difficult.

Ms. Carballeira Fernández highlighted that the Global Agreement is a comprehensive agreement; however, it is divided into three parts. The Global Agreement was concluded

through an instrument, and was subsequently implemented through two parallel decisions through different instruments - one concluded via EU-only procedures, which was a trade agreement on goods. A different instrument, also independent, concluded via a mixed procedure because at the time, services was considered shared competence. At the time, this could be concluded through Joint Council decisions. The legal framework has changed and is no longer possible.

She stated that the Commission wants to have three instruments that are part of a package to be sent for signature at the same time and to be signed at the same time, with Mexico ratifying them at the same time, although this is up to them to decide. In the EU they will have three different ratification procedures. That does not mean that the trade part goes first. In terms of application, the trade part will eventually enter into force, and that will ensure that the political part is proposed for provisional application almost in its entirety, although it is up to Council to decide.

The investment part will not be proposed for provisional application. It has been about a month now since scrubbing with the Ministry of Economy has stopped. On the issue of empty spaces, Ms Carballeira Fernández affirmed that the EU is losing space to China, including in Mexico. She stressed that if this agreement is not concluded, the EU loses credibility, which enhances that emptiness.

Mr Jonathan Hatwell highlighted that it was high time to resume parliamentary diplomacy with Mexico and was appreciative of the Mission's work in expressing EU positions and conveying concerns regarding the relationship, the modernisation of the agreement, and the ongoing energy reform.

He reiterated the commitment to the process of modernising the Global Agreement, as he argued that it is important to further fulfil the potential of the relationship and to equip the EU with all tools needed to unlock this potential. He stated that the modernised agreement would equip the EU with new and important instruments, notably by expanding political dialogue to include international peace and security; it introduces a new article on democratic principles, human rights, and the rule of law. The new agreement would also address gender equality and women's empowerment, sustainable development, countering proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and small arms and light weapons. A whole chapter is devoted to international and regional organisations, and the new agreement covers justice, freedom, and security by addressing judicial cooperation, law enforcement and the prevention and fight against corruption, and transnational organised crime. In addition, it is much more ambitious on migration, asylum, and border management. There is added value brought about by the modernisation process.

For these reasons, Mr Hatwell concluded, the EEAS is strongly committed to advancing work on this modernisation in order to finalise it as soon as possible. He emphasised how this would also allow the EU to reenergise the overall relationship with Mexico. There has been no summit with Mexico since 2015.

Speakers: Inma Rodríguez-Piñero (S&D, Spain), Javi López (S&D, Spain), Jordi Cañas (Renew, Spain)

5. Any other business

If authorised, the 28th Joint Committee with Mexico will possibly be in May 2022. However, it is necessary to see how the pandemic evolves.

6. Date and place of next meetings

To be provided later.

The meeting closed at 16.00.

**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 SĄRAŠAS/
JELENLÉTI ÍV/REGISTRU TA' ATTENDENZA/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA OBECNOŠCI/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/
LISTĂ DE PREZENȚĂ/PREZENČNÁ LISTINA/SEZNAM NAVZOČIH/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/NÄRVAROLISTA**

Бюро/Mesa/Předsednictvo/Formandskabet/Vorstand/Juhatus/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Predsjedništvo/Ufficio di presidenza/Prezidijs/ Biuras/Elnökség/Prezydium/Birou/Předsednictvo/Predsedstvo/Puheenjohtajisto/Presidiet (*)
Massimiliano SMERIGLIO, S&D
Членове/Diputados/Poslanci/Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Parlamendiliikmed/Βουλευτές/Members/Députés/Zastupnici/Deputati/Deputăți/ Nariai/Képviselők/Membri/Leden/Posłowie/Deputados/Deputați/Jäsenet/Ledamöter
Present: Javi LOPEZ (S&D); Jordi CAÑAS (Renew); Remote: Jessica POLFJARD (EPP), Eugenia RODRIGUEZ PALOP (The Left);
Заместници/Suplentes/Náhradníci/Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/Asendusliikmed/Αναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suppléants/Zamjenici/ Supplenti/Aizstājēji/Pavaduojantysnariai/Póttagok/Sostituti/Plaatsvervangers/Zastępcy/Membros suplentes/Supleanți/Náhradníci/ Namestniki/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter
Present: Leopoldo LOPEZ GILL (EPP); RODRÍGUEZ-PIÑERO Inma (S&D) - INTA Standing Rapporteur;

209 (7)
216 (3)
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/Τοčka dnevnoĝ reda/Punto all'ordine del giorno/Darba kārtības punkts/Darbotvarkēs punktā/Napirendi pont/Punt Agenda/Agendapunt/Punkt porządku dziennego/Ponto OD/Punct de pe ordinea de zi/Bod programu schůdce/Τοčka UL/Esityslistan kohta/Punkt på föredragningslistan)

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

По покана на председателя/Por invitación del presidente/Na pozvání předsedy/Efter indbydelse fra formanden/Auf Einladung des Vorsitzenden/Εσίμεηε kutsel/Με 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 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 (*)
Комисия/Comisión/Komise/Kommissionen/Kommission/Komisjon/Επιτροπή/Commission/Komisija/Commissione/Bizottság/Kummissjoni/Commissie/Komisja/Comissão/Comisie/Komisja/Komissio/Kommissionen (*)
Ms Eva CARBALLEIRA FERNÁNDEZ, Deputy Head of Unit, The Americas, DG Trade
Европейска служба за външна дейност/Servicio Europeo de Acción Exterior/Evropská služba pro vnější činnost/EU-Udenrigstjenesten/Europäischer Auswärtiger Dienst/Euroopa välissteenistus/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 għall-Azzjoni Esterna/Europese dienst voor extern optreden/Europejska Służba Działañ Zewnętrznych/Serviço Europeu para a Acção Externa/Serviciul european pentru acțiune externă/Europska služba pre vonkajšiu činnost/Evropska služba za zunanje delovanje/Euroopan ulkosuhdehallinto/Europeiska avdelningen för yttre åtgärd (*)
Mr Johnathan HATWELL, Head of Division, Mexico, Central America and Caribbean, EEAS; Ms Ela HOROSZKO, co-desk officer for Mexico, EEAS
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 iestādes un struktūras/Kitos institucijos ir įstaigos/Más intézmények és szervek/Istituzzjonijiet u korpi ohra/Andere instellingen en organen/Inne instytucje i organy/Outras instituições e outros órgãos/Alte instituții și organe/Iné inštitúcie a orgány/Muut toimielimet ja elimet/Andra institutioner och organ

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/Ini 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/Sekretariat gruppi politici/Fractiesecretariaten/Sekretariat Grup Politycznych/Secretariado dos grupos políticos/Secretariate grupuri politice/Sekretariát politických skupin/Sekretariat političnih skupin/Poliittisten ryhmien sihteeristö/De politiska gruppernas sekretariat
PPE S&D Renew ID Verts/ALE ECR The Left NI

Кабинет на председателя/Gabinete del Presidente/Kancelář předsedy/Formandens Kabinet/Kabinett des Präsidenten/Presidendi kantslei/Γραφείο του 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/Talmannens kansli
Кабинет на генералния секретар/Gabinete del Secretario General/Kancelář generálního tajemníka/Generalsekretærens Kabinet/Kabinett des Generalsekretärs/Peasekretäri büroo/Γραφείο του Γενικού Γραμματέα/Secretary-General's Office/Cabinet du Secrétaire général/Ured glavnog tajnika/Gabinetto del Segretario generale/Generālsekretāra kabinets/Generalinio sekretoriaus kabinetas/Főtitkári hivatal/Kabinett tas-Segretarju Ġenerali/Kabinet van de secretaris-generaal/Gabinet Sekretarza Generalnego/Gabinete do Secretário-Geral/Cabinet Secretar General/Kancelária generálneho tajomníka/Urad generalnega sekretarja/Pääsihteerin kabinetti/Generalsekreterarens kansli

Генерална дирекция/Dirección General/Generální ředitelství/Generaldirektorat/Generaldirektion/Peadirektoraat/Γενική Διεύθυνση/Directorate-General/Direction générale/Glavna uprava/Direzione generale/Ģenerāldirektorāts/Generalinis direktoratas/Főigazgatóság/Direttorat Ġenerali/Direktoraten-generaal/Dyrekcja Generalna/Direcção-Geral/Direcții Generale/Generálne riaditeľstvo/Generalni direktorat/Pääosasto/Generaldirektorat	
DG PRES DG IPOL DG EXPO DG EPRS 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/Öigusteenistus/Νομική Υπηρεσία/Legal Service/Service juridique/Pravna služba/Servizio giuridico/Juridiskais dienests/Teisės tarnyba/Jogi szolgálat/Servizz legali/Juridische Dienst/Wydział prawny/Serviço Jurídico/Serviciu Juridic/Právny servis/Oikeudellinen yksikkö/Rättstjänsten	
Секретариат на комисията/Secretaría de la comisión/Sekretariat výboru/Udvalgssekretariatet/Ausschusssekretariat/Komisjoni sekretariaat/Γραμματεία της επιτροπής/Committee secretariat/Secrétariat de la commission/Tajništvo odbora/Segreteria della commissione/ Komitejas sekretariāts/Komiteto sekretoriatas/A bizottság titkársága/Segretariat tal-kumitat/Commissiesecretariaat/Sekretariat komisji/Sekretariado da comissão/Sekretariat comisie/Sekretariat odbora/Valiokunnan sihteeristö/Utskottssekretariatet	
KOSTIDOU Myrofora, AD	
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TURANOVA Beata, AST	

- * (P) = Председател/Presidente/Předseda/Formand/Vorsitzender/Esimees/Πρόεδρος/Chairman/Président/Predsjednik/Priekšsēdētājs/Pirmininkas/Elnök/Chairman/Voorzitter/Przewodniczący/Preşedinte/Predseda/Predsednik/Puheenjohtaja/Ordförande
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- (M) = Член/Miembro/Člen/Medlem/Mitglied/Parlamendiliige/Βουλευτής/Member/Membre/Član/Membro/Deputāts/Narys/Képviselő/Membru/Lid/Członek/Membro/Membru/Člen/Poslanec/Jäsen/Ledamot
- (F) = Длъжностно лице/Funcionario/Úředník/Tjenestemand/Beamter/Ametnik/Υπάλληλος/Official/Fonctionnaire/Dužnosnik/Funzionario/Ierēdnis/Pareigūnas/Tisztviselő/Ufficial/Ambtenaar/Urzędnik/Funcionário/Funcionar/Úradník/Uradnik/Virkamies/Tjänsteman