



28th Meeting of the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)

JOINT DECLARATION

Mexico City and Quintana Roo – 3-5 November 2022

The Delegations of the Honourable Congress of the Union of the United Mexican States and of the European Parliament to the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee (hereinafter JPC), led by their Co-Chairs, Senator Gabriela López Gómez and Massimiliano Smeriglio MEP, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the JPC and following the conclusion of their 28th Meeting held in Mexico City and the state of Quintana Roo from 3 to 5 November 2022, hereby agree the following:

1. The delegations welcome the convening of the 28th Meeting of the JPC and its outcome, and are encouraged by the continuing excellent relationship between the two parties, revitalised through mutual visits by parliamentary delegations in October 2021 and June 2022, as well as the strength of their joint work; they welcome the new members of the JPC.
2. They reaffirm their commitment to the shared values of our democratic and plural societies which respect and safeguard basic freedoms and human rights and advocate environmental protection and sustainable development as well as the gradual liberalisation of trade that is equally just and respectful of human, social, employment and environmental rights, with legal security for investments, respect for and strengthening of the rule of law and the principle of equity and the eradication of poverty in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.
3. The JPC is encouraging the revitalisation of political dialogue and bi-regional cooperation between the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the European Union, particularly in the field of the promotion, protection and safeguarding of human rights and fundamental freedoms, the areas of health, development cooperation, science and technology, the fight against inequality, and the common challenges of the 2030 Agenda, and they welcome, in this regard, the meeting of Foreign Ministers held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 27 October 2022 and the prospect of a CELAC-EU summit in the second half of 2023.
4. They further stress the importance of the agenda for the bi-regional strategic partnership that both Mexico and the European Union are party to in the framework of the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly (EuroLat);

1. Political, economic and social situation in Mexico and the European Union

5. They strongly condemn the illegal, unprovoked and unjustified Russian war of aggression against Ukraine. They call for the immediate withdrawal of Russian troops and their proxies from the country, on the basis of respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine, as well as for full respect of international law, in particular international humanitarian law, in line with the discussions and resolutions of relevant international bodies, including the 11th Special Emergency Session of the General Assembly on the situation in Ukraine, held at the request of France and Mexico on 22 March 2022, and Resolution A/ES-11/L.2, promoted by Mexico and France, which was co-sponsored by 90 countries and adopted by a very large majority of UN members. They also condemn the illegal annexation by Russia of Crimea and four Ukrainian regions by means of unlawful and illegitimate referendums. They urge for a rapid solution, involving dialogue and diplomacy, to be found.
6. They also stress that Mexico and the EU should continue to work closely together to resolutely address in a sustainable manner the social and economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. They welcome, in this connection, the progress in cooperation on health, particularly as regards vaccine manufacture and distribution, made at both bilateral and bi-regional level. They welcome, in this regard, the establishment of the EU-Mexico Joint Fund, which aims to strengthen strategic cooperation between the two parties to address the challenges of Development in Transition and the implementation of Agenda 2030, including responses to the COVID-19 crisis;
7. They note the efforts of the Mexican Government in building the National System for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and Journalists in Mexico and express concern at the serious threats, murders, harassment, tracking, persecution and attacks against journalists and human rights defenders; they call on the relevant authorities to take all necessary measures to prevent impunity, and to guarantee the physical and psychological integrity of journalists and human rights defenders and to ensure immediate, thorough and impartial investigations that bring those responsible to justice in accordance with applicable laws. They also call for the eradication of malicious litigation, which affects journalists' ability to fulfil their reporting duties and the right to publish information. They call for it to work in conjunction with civil society organisations to frame a public prevention and protection policy for human rights defenders and journalists, as well as to strengthen the Protection Mechanism for human rights defenders and journalists, advocating its development, implementation and monitoring at all levels of government. They welcome the European Parliament's initiative to tackle malicious and unfounded litigation against journalists and activists and hail the European Media Freedom Act initiative as well as the third iteration of the Daphne Caruana Galizia Journalism Prize.
8. They recall with satisfaction that Mexico is the European Union's second largest trading partner in Latin America and the Caribbean, and that the EU is Mexico's third largest trading partner with trade in goods totalling USD 71.8 billion in 2021, which represents a 23% increase on the figure recorded in 2020 (USD 58.2 billion), and is slightly higher than that recorded prior to the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. They recall also that investments from the 27 EU Member States in the period 1999-March 2022 totalled USD 184.8 billion, representing 28% of foreign investment in Mexico, making the EU the

second largest investor in the country. They underline the effective functioning of the EU-Mexico Global Agreement thus far.

2. Modernised EU-Mexico Global Agreement

9. They welcome the significant progress made with regard to the modernisation of the Global Agreement between Mexico and the European Union, which should make for a broader political, trade and cooperation association based on dialogue and mutual respect, underpinned by the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms and the combating of climate change, as well as trade relations based on rules, commitments and universal values that are respectful of investment and abjure protectionism and restrictive practices. They also trust that, once ratified, the Modernised Global Agreement will boost a brand of trade relations between the two parties that ensures the applicability of human rights and sustainable development clauses, offer new opportunities for market access and for the exchange of cultural goods and services and of best practices in the fight against climate change, and reinforce the mechanisms and instruments for cooperation and political dialogue, including the combating of corruption. They welcome, in this regard, the EU's participation as a guest of honour at the 2023 Guadalajara International Book Fair (FIL), which seeks to help relaunch bi-regional relations between Mexico and the EU as well as human and cultural exchanges.
10. They stress, in the light of the above and bearing in mind the global economic crisis, the need for Mexico and the EU to do their utmost to ensure that the updated agreement can be ratified as soon as possible.
11. They recognise the importance of the high-level political dialogues that take place regularly between Mexico and the EU and call for intensified contacts in all areas of the bilateral relationship which abide by a rules-based multilateralism inclusive of civil society organisations.
12. They recall that cooperation is one of the three pillars of the EU-Mexico Global Agreement. Specifically, as part of the cooperation on governance and human rights, one example of this is support for the National Commission for the Search for Missing Persons, which has in several states facilitated the implementation of the strategy adopted by the Mexican Federal Government and the local authorities to identify human remains.
13. They stress the relevance of parliamentary diplomacy in relations between the two parties, and recognise the establishment of the JPC as the institutional body of the Modernised Global Agreement and as a forum to meet and exchange views to foster closer relations, with the capacity to monitor implementation of the Agreement. They call for the JPC to be kept informed on the progress made and challenges faced in ratifying the updated Global Agreement.

3. Cooperation on migration from the perspective of transit and destination countries

14. They declare their commitment to the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (the Marrakesh Compact) and reaffirm their commitment to respecting and protecting the human rights of all migrants in the light of the international rules on asylum-seeking and asylum.
15. They welcome EU-Mexico cooperation in the framework of ECLAC's Comprehensive Development Plan for El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and South-Southeast Mexico, to address the root causes of migration from Central America and other countries in the region and the world.
16. They welcome the results of the cooperation the EU is conducting through its Delegation in Mexico, in close coordination with the National Migration Institute and the Mexican Commission for Refugee Assistance (COMAR), in terms of administrative strengthening and streamlining of bureaucratic procedures, protection of human rights, and the social and economic integration of migrants through decent employment.
17. They pledge to work together and within their respective areas of competence to seek to eliminate all forms of discrimination and to combat hate, hate speech and hate crimes and xenophobia;

4. Sharing best practices on gender equality and tackling violence against women

18. They declare that tackling and ending gender violence is a priority both for the two parties and for their bilateral cooperation agenda, and recognise that it is necessary to work in a coordinated manner to strengthen institutions, public policies and civil society organisations by adopting a gender-based and human rights-based approach and ensuring the elimination of stereotypes and discriminatory practices.
19. They deplore that violence against women and girls, as well as femicides, are still on the rise in both regions and increased during the pandemic. They call for better prevention and support mechanisms for victims of gender violence as well as effective access to justice and a strengthening of public policies against femicide. They stress the need for women to participate to a greater extent in all political, social and economic spheres of society and to enjoy equal rights, conditions and opportunities.
20. They take note of Mexico's efforts in terms of promoting its feminist foreign policy, its support for parity in the Congress of the Union, as well as the advancement in the area of women's health and sexual and reproductive rights in the country. They also take note of the EU's efforts to combat violence against women, including through the forthcoming directive on this matter, and to promote equal pay for men and women;

5. Bilateral cooperation on security and justice

21. They recognise that the smuggling and illicit trade of small arms and light weapons has devastating consequences for security, and also devastating humanitarian and socio-

economic consequences, and that this phenomenon needs to be addressed in a comprehensive manner, including through the enactment of appropriate laws and regulations to prevent and combat this scourge.

22. They express concern at the final destination of legal EU arms exports and condemn their subsequent sale/diversion for illegal uses and for organised crime.
23. They welcome the achievements made in the framework of the Assistance Programme against Transnational Organised Crime in Latin America (EL PAcCTO), which addresses the entire penal chain from a holistic perspective through a three-pronged approach involving the law enforcement, judicial and penitentiary components. They welcome, in particular, the recent drafting of a model law on international legal cooperation, which takes into account the most modern techniques in this field, in line with the increasing complexity of investigations and the increase in requests for international assistance in criminal matters; They also express their desire for Mexico to accede to the Buenos Aires Convention on Ameripol and to forge closer ties with Eurojust, the EU agency responsible for strengthening judicial cooperation between Member States in order to facilitate coordination of investigations and prosecutions covering more than one territory.
24. They recall at the same time the need to build an ad hoc bilateral agenda. They welcome, in this regard, the signing in 2020 of the working arrangement between the Mexican Government and the European Police Office (Europol) to work together on security issues, including the fight against organised crime and arms trafficking. They trust that the exchange of information and capabilities, as well as operational cooperation, will prove an effective tool in the redevelopment of a sound and coherent strategy. They reiterate that the Strategic Partnership between Mexico and the EU represents an opportunity to consolidate their cooperation on law enforcement, regulation and the transmission of good practices. They invite the competent authorities to make use of multilateral fora, such as the G20, to present joint positions and to pool support for the harmonisation of international legislation in this area.

SIGNED

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EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary
Committee

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Committee