



30th Meeting of the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC)

JOINT DECLARATION

Mexico City, 28 and 29 November 2023

The delegations of the Honourable Congress of the Union of the United Mexican States and the European Parliament to the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee ('JPC'), led by their Co-Chairs, Senator Marybel Villegas Canché and Massimiliano Smeriglio MEP, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure of the JPC and following the conclusion of the 30th meeting held in Mexico City on 28 and 29 November 2023, hereby agree the following:

1. The delegations welcome the convening and outcomes of the 30th meeting of the JPC and are pleased with the continuation of regular dialogue between both parties on topics of mutual interest, as well as the strength of the parliamentary dimension of EU-Mexico relations. Both delegations also welcome the new members of the JPC.
2. They declare their solidarity with the victims of Hurricane Otis, which devastated the municipality of Acapulco in the federal state of Guerrero on 26 October, and express their horror at the loss of human life and material damage caused by this devastating meteorological event. They welcome the EUR 1.3 million in humanitarian aid provided by the EU and its Member States to help see to the most urgent needs of those affected. They also highlight the EU's support for Mexico during the emergency stage – for example, the rapid mapping team of the Emergency Management Service at Copernicus has produced more than 14 maps to date to support the Mexican authorities. In this context, they also call for the establishment of greater bilateral cooperation in terms of preventing and recovering from natural disasters. They reiterate the need to better coordinate civil protection activities at international level, which could help affected areas to react more quickly and effectively, reducing both the number of victims and material damage.
3. They welcome the success of the higher-level leaders' summit held in Brussels on 17 and 18 July 2023 between the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) and the EU. A meeting of this kind had not been held since 2015. This meeting served to revitalise and strengthen the bi-regional partnership between both parties, particularly in relation to shared priorities such as defending democratic values and principles, strengthening the rule of law, striving for multilateral mechanisms to achieve inclusive international cooperation, promoting and protecting human rights,



managing migration crises, fighting organised crime, the digital and green transition, fighting climate change and biodiversity loss, and health and food security, among other topics. They highlight the commitments that were made in the EU-CELAC Joint Declaration, which includes a joint roadmap for 2023-2025 – as well as the commitment to hold the next summit in 2025 – and establishes a ‘bi-regional consultative coordination body’ to ensure continuity and follow-up between high-level meetings in order to prepare and organise EU-CELAC’s foreign affairs ministerial meetings.

4. They reassert their commitment to the shared values of our democratic and plural societies that uphold and defend the rule of law, fundamental freedoms, human rights, the environment, biodiversity, sustainable development and the fight against poverty and inequality.
5. They recognise the importance of the regular high-level political dialogue taking place between Mexico and the EU and call for closer connections in all areas of the bilateral relationship, including dialogue with civil society, in order to defend rules-based multilateralism.
6. They consider organised crime to be a serious threat to individual liberties and to the security of the states themselves and recognise that these are cross-border crimes that must be jointly combated with the greatest possible collaboration between all states.
7. They also highlight the outcomes of the meetings of the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly (EuroLat), which both Mexico and the EU were part of and which took place in Madrid from 24 to 27 July and in Santo Domingo from 30 October to 2 November 2023. The meetings helped revitalise the parliamentary dimension of relations between the EU and Latin America and the Caribbean.

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

8. The delegations welcome the excellent state of political relations between Mexico and the EU that are based on respect and cooperation and were strengthened by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen’s successful visit to Mexico City on 15 June 2023 – the first time a President of the European Commission had visited Mexico in 11 years. They highlight the commitment made by President von der Leyen and President Andrés Manuel López Obrador to conclude negotiations on modernising the Global Agreement before the end of the year and to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the Global Gateway initiative.
9. They also welcome the visit of Margaritis Schinas, the Vice-President of the European Commission responsible for promoting the European way of life,



to Mexico on 31 October 2023, the aim of which was to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the areas of education, youth, respect for human dignity, access to welfare, skills development for living and working with dignity, social inclusion, cultural diversity, mobility and security.

10. They welcome the signing of a joint declaration of intent by the Government of the United Mexican States and the European Investment Bank on the strategy for sustainable funding to Mexico.
11. They re-emphasise their solidarity with the people of Ukraine following the illegal, unjustified and unprovoked Russian attack on the country, and their support for its independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity inside its internationally recognised borders as established in the relevant UN resolutions, with the aim of achieving a fair, comprehensive and lasting peace in accordance with the principles of the UN Charter.
12. They condemn in the strongest terms the terrible terrorist attacks carried out by Hamas on the people of Israel on 7 October.-They call for the immediate and lasting cessation of hostilities in the Palestinian territories by all sides of the conflict, especially the attacks on civilians, as well as on medical and humanitarian workers, private property and essential infrastructure. They reiterate the call to establish a humanitarian corridor, declare their support for the UN's humanitarian efforts and call for a comprehensive and definitive political solution to the conflict in accordance with the relevant resolutions.
13. They express their commitment to an international community based on rules, shared principles, cooperation and peaceful conflict resolution, as well as multilateralism. They highlight the contributions and efforts of international and regional organisations in maintaining peace and international security in this regard, and their unconditional support with respect to international law and international humanitarian law.
14. They emphasise that Mexico and the EU should continue to cooperate closely to address geopolitical and economic challenges and ensure sustainable, resilient, fair and equitable economic growth and development.
15. They welcome the EU's participation as a guest of honour in the 37th Guadalajara International Book Fair, which is to be held from 25 November to 3 December 2023. The theme of the fair will be 'Constructing a union of cultures' and more than 70 authors from 27 EU Member States are expected to take part.
16. In view of the elections that are due to take place in both the EU and Mexico in June 2024, we reaffirm our commitment to adhering to the rule of law and to running fully free and fair electoral processes.



2. Modernised EU-Mexico Global Agreement

17. The delegations welcome the fact that Mexico is the European Union's second largest trading partner in Latin America and the Caribbean and that the European Union is, in turn, Mexico's third largest trading partner, with a total trade in goods of USD 81.8 billion in 2022. This figure represents the most significant commercial exchange in the history of the EU and Mexico's bilateral relationship, exceeding the previous highest value by 10 % (2018, USD 73.7 billion). They also emphasise that investments by the 27 EU Member States – totalling USD 185.2 billion – accounted for 27.4 % of all foreign investment in Mexico from 1999 to 2022, making the EU the second largest investor in the country. They underline the success of the EU-Mexico Global Agreement.
18. They emphasise that modernising the Global Agreement between Mexico and the EU will help maintain a political, economic and commercial partnership and ensure more extensive cooperation. It will also help bolster trade and investment relations between them, providing new opportunities to access markets and exchange goods, services and culture and strengthen cooperation mechanisms and instruments and political dialogue, including in relation to the fight against impunity and corruption. They underline the relevance the modernised agreement will have for generating new and well-paid jobs and its contribution to combating poverty and improving the well-being of populations in both regions.
19. They recognise the importance of the regular high-level political dialogue between Mexico and the EU and call for closer connections in all areas of the bilateral relationship to defend universally applied rules-based multilateralism with the aim of correcting international asymmetries.
20. They highlight the fundamental role of parliamentary diplomacy in relations between both parties and welcome the inclusion of the JPC as an institutional body of the modernised Global Agreement, as well as a forum for meeting and exchanging opinions to foster closer relations. They call for the JPC to be kept informed promptly and regularly of the progress made and challenges that arise in ratifying the modernised Global Agreement.
21. They call for the parties involved in the negotiations on the modernised Global Agreement to do everything possible to overcome the outstanding issues and complete the legal revision stage of the Agreement with a view to it being signed before the end of 2023.

3. Economic, trade and sustainability partnerships between the EU and Mexico, including the Global Gateway and scientific cooperation



22. The delegations acknowledge Mexico's participation in the Global Gateway Forum that took place in Brussels on 25 and 26 October, during which an important package of projects was presented on topics such as conductors and semiconductors, clean technologies, the environment, infrastructure, industrial sectors and electromobility. They also underline the opportunities offered by the Isthmus of Tehuantepec Interoceanic Corridor.
23. They welcome the announcement of the creation of a maritime corridor between the ports of Coatzacoalcos in the Gulf of Mexico and Sines in Portugal. This will be a privileged maritime route that will strengthen production chains between both countries, as well as between North America and the EU. Equally, it will allow energy to be exported, stored and transported, thereby improving the EU and Mexico's energy security.
24. They highlight Mexico and the EU's combined work on the new Mexican model of sustainable industrial and regional development set out in the Sonora Plan, particularly their work on developing sustainable industrial parks, as well as the support provided by the European Investment Bank for sustainable energy and/or integrated water management for this megaproject.
25. They emphasise that the Global Gateway initiative makes it clear that the EU and Mexico are both committed to a sustainable and healthy future, and also to strengthening democratic societies that work for people and the planet.
26. They acknowledge Mexico's leadership in implementing the health plan for Latin America and the Caribbean and support the EU's role in strengthening Mexico's regulatory system for medicines and vaccines through the Federal Committee for Protection from Sanitary Risks (COFEPRIS), which helps build capacity to produce and distribute high-quality vaccines, medicines and medical devices.
27. They underline how important it is for both parties to create ambitious policies to fight climate change ahead of the next UN COP28 Conference on Climate Change in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates from 30 November to 12 December 2023, and recognise that cooperation between Mexico and the EU has huge potential for achieving the established objectives.

4. Human and social rights and migration

28. The delegations welcome the success of the 9th seminar for civil society organisations, as well as the 11th high-level EU-Mexico dialogue on human rights, which took place in Mexico City on 16 and 17 November and was attended by the EU Special Representative for Human Rights, Eamon



Gilmore, and the Undersecretary for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights, Joel Hernández.

29. They reiterate their willingness and commitment to working together to eradicate poverty, exploitation, exclusion and racism and promote political, economic, social and cultural rights; to defend freedom of expression and protect those who defend human rights and journalists; and to promote gender equality and the fight against femicide, gender-based violence and political and domestic violence.
30. Both parties point out that the main structural causes of migration are of political, economic or social origin, or due to the negative effects of climate change. Migration as a reality should therefore be tackled with a focus on human rights, prioritising people's dignity and well-being at all times using an approach that combines shared responsibilities and cooperation to tackle the structural and institutional causes of migration flows, which should be jointly managed between countries of origin, transit, destination and return.
31. They underline the importance of a comprehensive approach to study, analyse and tackle migration flows, and of cooperating to help improve social conditions in order to tackle asymmetries and strengthen sustainable development in communities of origin.
32. They express concern about inadequate social protection for certain vulnerable sections of the population in both regions, including migrants, informal workers, people on low incomes, the homeless, ethnic and religious minorities, women, children, young people, the elderly and people from the LGBTI+ community. Therefore, they urge that public policy be adopted to combat significant challenges in terms of accessing education, housing, digital technologies, decent employment and high-quality health services.
33. They acknowledge that illegal arms trafficking is a serious problem that affects societies at all levels and infringes on human rights. For this reason, they reassert their commitment to preventing and combating illegal trafficking of small arms and light weapons. They also renew their support for the sharing of experiences as regards the traceability of exports from the EU to third countries .
34. Given the elections that are to take place in both Mexico and the EU, the two delegations will decide on a date for the 31st meeting of the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee in the coming months. The Mexican and EU delegations will hold the 31st meeting of the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee in Brussels in 2024.

SIGNED



Senator Freyda Marybel Villegas Canché
Co-Chair of the
EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee

Massimiliano Smeriglio MEP
Co-Chair of the
EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee