

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

THIRD MEETING OF THE EU-UNITED STATES OF MEXICO JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE DELEGATION

TUESDAY, 30 May 2006

BRUSSELS

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Opening of the meeting and introductory statements by:
Mrs Erika MANN, Co-Chair of the third EU/Mexico JPC meeting
Mr Gerardo BUGANZA SALMERÓN, Co-chair of the third EU/Mexico JPC meeting
HE Mr Gregor WOSCHNAGG, Austrian Ambassador to the EU, representing the EU Presidency-in-Office
Mr Victor ANDRÉS MALDONADO, a Commission representative
2. Adoption of draft agenda
3. Adoption of the minutes of the second JPC EU/Mexico meeting (Monterrey, 11 January 2006)

SUBJECT

4. Bi-regional political issues
- IV Vienna summit of Heads of State and of Government (May 2006)
- III EU/Mexico summit
- Increased EU-Latin American cooperation
- EU/Mexico cooperation agreement: political balance sheet and prospects
5. Bi-regional trade issues
- Rules of origin
- WTO
- EU-Mexico trade

6. Emigration – Human rights
7. Meeting with representatives of the Embassies of the USA, Canada and Mexico
8. Adoption of the Final Declaration
9. Other business
10. Date and place of next meeting

Annex I: List of participants

Brussels, 6 June 2006
LMG/nal

1. Opening of the meeting and introductory statements

Mrs Erika MANN, co-chair, introduced the members of the delegation. She then observed that the outcome of the IV EU/LAC Summit in Vienna on 12 May had shown that this was a good time for bi-regional relations. She then referred to the forthcoming Mexican general elections on 2 July, and welcomed the fact that a significant number of Mexican parliamentarians were nonetheless in attendance.

Mr Gerardo BUGANZA SALMERÓN, co-chair, spoke about the Final Declaration of the third Meeting of Members of the Integration Parliaments held in Bregenz on 24 and 25 April. He then reported on the forthcoming emigration conference to be held in Cartagena in June. He proposed that emigration be a permanent feature of the bi-regional agendas, given its importance. He also reported on the Mexican Parliament's ratification of Mexico's Agreement with the EIB. Finally, he said that more SMEs needed to reap the benefits of the Association Agreement.

Mr Gergo WOSCHNAGG, Austrian Ambassador to the EU, representing the Presidency-in-Office, also spoke about the results of the IV EU-LAC summit which Austria had hosted. He stressed the importance of trade relations between the two regions and the role being played by Mexico on the international stage.

Mrs Eva LICHTENBERGER MEP referred to the presence of political leaders at the Vienna Summit, and press coverage thereof, and **Senator Mr César CAMACHO** spoke about institutional reinforcement and the need for each JPC meeting to begin with an assessment of how the commitments undertaken in the preceding meeting had been met.

Mrs Lourdes DÍECK ASSAD, Mexican Ambassador to the EU, spoke about the results of the IV Summit and her country's priorities on the international scene: Mexico's concerns included UN reform, emigration, cooperation on science and technology and the fight against drugs. Finally, she highlighted her government's commitment to eradicating social exclusion.

Víctor ANDRÉS MALDONADO, a Commission representative, spoke about the new focus of EU-Mexican relations as set out in the Commission's communication on relations with Latin America, issued in connection with the Vienna Summit. He spoke about the political dialogue mechanisms included in the Association Agreement and the role they fulfilled. He then spoke about EU-Mexican cooperation 2007-2013, where support for SMEs, education and culture were priorities. He also recalled the importance of social cohesion.

Finally, he spoke about growth in trade and investment since the Association Agreement had come into force. Trade had apparently arisen by 40% and investment by 100%.

Finally, again, he referred to the fact that dialogue with civil society would lead to the establishment of a joint consultative economic and social committee, in which the Economic and Social Committee would participate on behalf of Europe.

2. Adoption of draft agenda

The agenda was duly adopted.

3. **Adoption of the minutes of the second JPC EU/Mexico meeting (Monterrey, 11 January 2006)**

The minutes were adopted.

4. **Bi-regional political issues**

Mrs Erika MANN co-chair, spoke about the major European issues, enlargement and the draft Constitution. She also voiced her scepticism with regard to the future of WTO discussions. They also summarised the current state of EU external relations.

Finally, she spoke about emigration, and particularly the treatment being meted out to Mexican emigrants on the US border, and the letter sent to the US Senate, of which she handed out copies.

Members of both delegations then spoke in support of her initiative.

Mr Ignacio SALAFRANCA, MEP, said that the EU was currently in a period of ‘reflection’ with regard to the draft Constitution and referred to the forthcoming Bulgarian and Romanian accessions. With regard to relations with Latin America, he mentioned the recent visit to the European Parliament by President Evo MORALES of Bolivia and the issues that were then discussed.

He also reported on the outcome of the IV Summit in Vienna, highlighting the agreement that a Euro-Latin American Assembly be established.

Senator **Carlos MEDINA PLASCENCIA** welcomed the establishment of this Assembly.

5. **Bi-regional trade issues**

Mrs Erika MANN, co-chair, reported on the REACH Directive and assessed its possible consequences for bilateral trade flows. She mentioned the positive factors of consumer protection and the advantages it represented for SMEs.

Following an exchange of views, highlighting the legal framework to be applied to European companies operating in third countries once the REACH Directive was approved.

It was agreed that discussions on the contents and application of the REACH Directive should continue during a forthcoming European delegation Bureau visit to Mexico, which would take place once the Council had forwarded its proposal to Parliament for second reading in September 2006.

6. **Other business**

The discussions focused particularly on migration, confirming the European rejection of the policy being applied by the USA at the Mexican border, and particularly the existence of the so-called ‘emigrant hunters’.

Both delegations said that there was a need for migratory flows to be legally regulated, but said that the legislation had to be clear and respect human rights.

It was agreed that migration would be a permanent item on the bilateral agenda.

7. Meeting with representatives of the Embassies of the USA, Canada and Mexico

The JPC held a working meeting with the Mexican and Canadian ambassadors, Mrs Lourdes DIECK ASSAD and Mr Jeremy KINSMAN and Mr Todd HUIZINGA representing the US Embassy; views were exchanged on the application of the three countries' NAFTA.

The participants welcomed **Mrs Erika MANN's** initiative in holding this meeting to allow the differences with the EU-Mexico Agreement to be analysed.

The Mexican Ambassador, **Mrs Lourdes DIECK ASSAD** said that the Agreement was beneficial from a trade point of view, although she pointed out that these benefits had not been shared out geographically, since they especially benefited the regions of northern Mexico. She also highlighted the need for greater involvement of SMEs.

The US representative Mr HUIZINGA, spoke about the excellent relations between the three countries and the partnership being developed with Mexico, which would be strengthened by means of the 'alliance or the security and prosperity of North America'. This alliance would include developing infrastructure in the border region.

Finally, the Canadian ambassador, Mr KINSMAN, talked about the new markets into which investment was flowing to the detriment of the NAFTA signatories.

In the ensuing exchange of views, Mr Enrique BARÓN, MEP, inter alia, spoke about the differences between the NAFTA and EU-Mexico agreements.

The JPC then met Trade Commissioner Mr Peter MANDELSON, who spoke about the future possibilities offered by the Agreement and the greater importance of increased trade flows between Mexico and the EU, rather than the opposite direction.

8. Adoption of Final Declaration

The Final Declaration was then voted on and adopted.

9. Other business

There was no other business.

10. Date and place of next meeting

The next meeting of the JPC would take place in Mexico in the first quarter of 2007.

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The meeting closed at 7 p.m.

**THIRD MEETING OF THE
EUROPEAN UNION-UNITED STATES OF MEXICO
JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE**

30 May 2006

Brussels

The delegations from the European Parliament and the Congress of the United States of Mexico to the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee, having concluded the Third EU-Mexico Interparliamentary meeting, which was held in Brussels on 30 May 2006, have agreed on the following:

JOINT DECLARATION

1. Both delegations express their satisfaction at the way in which the provisions laid down in the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee's Rules of Procedure on holding two meetings per year are being adhered to, particularly in view of the forthcoming general elections in Mexico on 2 July.
2. The European delegation reaffirms the commitment voiced at the previous meeting of the Joint Parliamentary Committee to follow the election process in Mexico very closely, as it did in the previous elections in 2000.
3. The Mexican delegation thanks the European delegation for organising meetings, particularly in the 'Baudouin' and 'Solvay' Foundations, which have helped increase their understanding of European problems, the

nature of politics and social and economic affairs in Belgium, and familiarised them with the regionalisation process implemented in Belgium.

4. Both delegations voiced their conviction that including meetings with civil society both before and after the Committee's meetings strengthens familiarity with realities of the situation on both sides of the Atlantic, and with civil society's views on the issues which will appear on the bilateral agenda.
5. Both delegations take an extremely positive view of the meeting held with the diplomatic representatives of the North American Free Trade Agreement signatories, which saw an exchange of opinions on the application and implementation of that Agreement.
6. The Joint Parliamentary Committee notes that bi-regional relations are currently flourishing, and has taken due note of the proposals arising from the third meeting of members of integration parliaments, held in Bregenz on 24 and 25 de April. The delegations also express the hope that subjects still pending on the LAC-EU agenda will be tackled shortly.

They likewise welcome the progress achieved in the discussions between the Mexican delegation and the Commission, and the expectations aroused by the future establishment of a Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly, which will take due consideration of Mexico's specific weight in its relations with the European Union. Both parties congratulate the European Parliament, and particularly its President, Josep Borrell, for the leading role played in this initiative.

7. Both delegations agree to continue to assess the results of the Mexico-European Union Agreement on Economic Association, Political Coordination and Cooperation (global agreement) and likewise voiced their concern to stimulate small- and medium-sized enterprises, by including

them in the benefits offered by the Agreement, including technology transfer and investment. This will enable ordinary citizens to benefit from the Agreement by means of the major job-creation potential represented by SMEs.

8. Both delegations believe that it is necessary to strengthen social cohesion in the light of what was said both at the third Meeting of Members of the Europe-Latin American Integration Parliaments held in Bregenz, Austria last April, and the Fourth Summit of EU-LAC Heads of State and of Government held in May in Vienna. Healthy economies and appropriate tax and incomes policies are the best means of increasing social cohesion and citizens' gratitude to the institutions. Both delegations are aware of the need to strengthen social cohesion in the light of what was said both at the third Meeting of Members of the Europe-Latin American Integration Parliaments held in Bregenz and the Fourth EU-LAC Summit and reiterate their lively commitment to establishing a Bi-regional Solidarity Fund to promote development.
9. The delegations likewise reiterate their recommendation to the Association Council and the Commission to support the establishment of a bursaries programme for Mexican students within the framework of the new bilateral cooperation programming.
10. Both delegations reiterate that it is important that they continue to debate the REACH Directive at the parliamentary meeting in Mexico in October, once the Council has forwarded its proposal to the European Parliament for second reading in September 2006.
11. With regard to multilateral trade, parliamentarians should play a larger role in monitoring the activities of the WTO. To this end they suggest that once the Euro-Latin American Assembly starts its work, progress in the WTO Rounds be placed on the agenda of the meetings.

12. Climate change, whose effects have been experienced in various parts of the world in recent months in the shape of tidal waves, hurricanes or droughts, lie at the heart of parliamentarians' concerns in both regions; they are aware that the first step in tackling climate change involves the ratification of and compliance with the Kyoto Protocol and other international agreements on the environment.

13. As at the previous two meetings, the topic of migration was a subject of common interest as an issue which should appear on all bilateral agendas; both delegations are committed to protecting the human rights of all migrants, independently of their status, in accordance with international law, and particularly the provisions of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and Members of their Families, which means that it is important to encourage the ratification of this international agreement. The Mexican delegation thanks the European delegation, and particularly its chair for her initiatives vis-à-vis the United States Parliament during the discussions on immigration reform in the USA.

Both delegations attach importance to the principle of shared responsibility between countries of origin, transit and destination. They therefore reiterate their conviction that unilateral coercive measures such as building walls or making migrants criminals are not a way of finding viable long-term solutions to the issue of illegal migration.

The JPC therefore hopes that all initiatives in favour of effective integration into host societies, family reunification, and the regularisation of migrant workers and their families, in keeping with the relevant legislation.

14. With regard to future cooperation, Mexico and the EU agree that it is important to strengthen their relationship by means of a new cooperation focus involving the identification and adoption of additional modalities

likes sectoral dialogues and trilateral Mexico-EU third country cooperation, particularly in connection with Central America.

15. With regard to the forthcoming Mexican federal elections and the arrival of a fresh intake of parliamentarians, the delegations undertake to appoint liaisons to ensure the continuity of the JPC's work until the new parliamentarians take their seats.
16. Both delegations welcome the Mexican Congress's ratification of the agreement with the EIB, which will enable Mexico to benefit from the major funding which the EIB has earmarked for cooperation with Latin America.
17. Both delegations draw attention to the existence of bilateral trade disputes, such as the fraudulent marketing of pseudo-tequila in the European Union, or the tax arrangements which apply to European wine in Mexico.
18. The Mexican delegation thanks the European Parliament for its willingness to take part in commemorating the Bicentenary of the birth of Benito Juárez García, and put up a plaque in one of the European Parliament's buildings.

The delegations agree that the Fourth Meeting of the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee will take place in Mexico in the first quarter of 2007.

Signed in Brussels, Belgium, 30 May 2006.

Erika MANN

**Chair of the European Parliament
Delegation to the Third Meeting of
the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary
Committee**

Gerardo BUGANZA SALMERÓN

**Chair of the Mexican Delegation to
the Third Meeting of the EU-Mexico
Joint Parliamentary Committee**