



**COUNCIL OF  
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Santo Domingo, 19 April 2007  
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## **EU-MEXICO JOINT COUNCIL**

**Santo Domingo, 19 April 2007**

### **JOINT COMMUNIQUE**

1. The Fifth Meeting of the Joint Council established by the Economic Partnership, Political Co-ordination and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and Mexico was held in Santo Domingo, on 19 April 2007.
2. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Germany, Mr. Frank-Walter Steinmeier, President-in-office of the European Union led the EU Delegation. The European Commission was represented by Ms. Benita Ferrero-Waldner, Commissioner for External Relations. The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Patricia Espinosa Cantellano, headed the Mexican Delegation.
3. At the beginning of the meeting, the Delegations stressed the importance of the links between the European Union and Mexico in terms of history, economy, culture, and shared values. Ministers recognised Mexico's importance in Latin America and its essential task in regional and international context.

# **P R E S S**

4. The Parties expressed their mutual satisfaction for the considerable strengthening and deepening of the EU-Mexico relations which took place during the last two years. The relations between the EU and Mexico constitute now a very good example of cooperation on the global scene.
5. Within the framework of political dialogue, both sides had a comprehensive exchange of views on matters of mutual interests and issues being on the international agenda. The discussions stressed the strategic importance both partners attribute to each other. The Parties agreed to reinforce a targeted political dialogue both in substance and format for fully exploring their cooperation in subjects of global importance such as human rights within the framework of the new Human Rights Council, the question of energy supply and infrastructure in the field of foreign policy and climate change.
6. Both sides had an exchange of views on international migration and share the conviction that policies on migration must be based on respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms of migrants. Addressing the root causes is essential. They will cooperate and support efforts to address all aspects of migration, including irregular immigration and the fight against smuggling of and trafficking in human beings. The EU side recalled the Presidency conclusions of the European Council of December 2006 in this context. Both sides will cooperate towards the first meeting of the Global Forum on International Migration and Development in July 2007 in Belgium.
7. In the context of Cooperation, the European Commission made reference to the general enhancement of EU-Mexico bilateral relations as a whole. With respect to the Project to Facilitate the Implementation of the EU-Mexico Free Trade Agreement (PROTLCUEM) Mexico noted that 2007 will be a key year for the Project since the majority of the activities will be implemented. As to the Integral Support Programme to SMEs (PIAPYME) Mexico reiterated its commitments. Mexico stated that the experience gained in the implementation of these programs could be useful when designing the future bilateral cooperation. The European Commission made reference to the specific advances in the area of Science and Technology following the entry into force of the EU-Mexico Sectoral Agreement on Science and Technology.
8. With reference to the new programming cycle for the period 2007-2013, the EU side stressed that the Strategy presented by the European Commission, in its Mexico Country Strategy Paper 2007-2013, has identified and adopted modalities of cooperation better corresponding to the level of development reached by Mexico. The strategy intends also to take into account Mexico's potential for further growth and relevance on the global scene.

9. Following extensive consultations with the Mexican authorities, civil society and other concerned stakeholders, both Parties have identified three priority sectors for cooperation with Mexico for the period 2007-2013, namely: Social Cohesion; Sustainable Economy and Competitiveness; Education and Culture. In order to establish the bases for the implementation of specific projects in the context of the above mentioned strategy, the EU and Mexico will proceed with the signature of a specific Memorandum of Understanding.
10. In the context of cooperation, the EU and Mexico will set up sectoral policy dialogues. These policy dialogues will be carried out having as reference the modalities already adopted by the EU in its dialogue with other emerging countries of great economic and political relevance but adapting them to the specificities of the EU-Mexico relationship. In this context, particular attention will be devoted to the issue of social cohesion. The EU intends to share with Mexico its experience in the field and support Mexico in identifying its own specific way to enhance internal social cohesion and progress toward further development. The parties also expressed their interest in having a sectoral policy dialogue in the area of environment. In the area of Education and Culture, Mexico expressed its interest in developing a sectoral policy dialogue.
11. In order to assure an efficient implementation of future projects, both Parties agreed on the importance, in the context of co-financing, of assuring the regular allocation of funds in accordance to jointly agreed schedules.
12. Both parties recognized the progress achieved in the implementation of ongoing projects of cooperation in the fields of social development, administration of justice and human rights.
13. The Parties engaged themselves in strengthening the bilateral cooperation in the field of Human Rights. Mexico expressed its interest in a new project consolidating the achievement obtained in the previous Program of the Cooperation in the area of Human Rights, Mexico-European Commission, in order to reach the goals of bigger scope.

14. Mexico informed the EU side on recent developments in the context of the Plan Puebla Panama (PPP), a Mexican-proposed regional integration initiative that promotes cooperation among the nine Mesoamerican countries with the support of the international community to address areas that have limited economic growth such as infrastructure, energy, telecommunications, trade facilitation, human and sustainable development, and natural disaster prevention. Mexico stated that during the PPP Leaders Summit held in Campeche on April 10, 2007, the Leaders emphasized their commitment to strengthen the initiative by establishing better coordination schemes, fostering public private partnerships, and the participation of other actors sharing interests in Mesoamerica where EU members could participate through cooperation and investment.
15. On the trade aspects, the two Parties assessed the evolution of trade flows under the Free Trade agreement. Total bilateral trade exceeded 42 billion dollars in 2006, an increase of 39% in two years, with Mexican exports to the EU growing 57% and EU exports to Mexico 32%. They also noted that bilateral investment flows have maintained a positive trend.
17. The Parties examined the state of play of negotiations on the review clauses on agriculture, services and investments, and confirmed their intention to make progress
17. The Parties will deploy joint efforts in order to further improve and intensify bilateral cooperation on competition policy issues.
18. The Parties expressed their interest in continuing technical contacts in the area of Civil aviation, with the aim to adapt the current legal framework to the appropriate European legislation.
19. The Parties reiterated their endorsement in principle for institutionalization of the dialogue with the Civil Society and expressed their willingness to continue exploring the appropriate modalities for such an institutionalization.

20. The Parties convened that the Third EU-Mexico Civil Society Dialogue Forum should take place in Brussels in the first half of 2008.
  21. Finally, the Parties decided to hold the next meeting of the Joint Committee in Brussels in the second half of 2007, and that the next meeting of the Joint Council will be held in the first half of 2009. At the next EU-LAC Summit, to be held in Lima in 2008, an EU-Mexico Summit is planned.
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