



COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION

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VI Joint Council EU - Mexico

Prague, Czech Republic, May 14th 2009

Joint Communiqué

1. The sixth meeting of the Joint Council between the European Union and Mexico was held in Prague on May 2009.
2. The meeting was chaired by the Secretary of Foreign Relations of Mexico, Ambassador Patricia Espinosa. The EU delegation was led by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic, Mr. Jan Kohout, as President of the EU Council. The Commission was represented by the Commissioner for External Relations and European Neighbourhood Policy, Ms. Benita Ferrero-Waldner.

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Strategic Partnership

3. Both Delegations referred to the conclusions of the April 2007 EU-Mexico Joint Council, which acknowledged that a major qualitative change had occurred in their bilateral relations, and to the subsequent announcement, at the IV EU-Mexico Summit celebrated in Lima, Perú, in May 2008, of the shared decision to establish a Strategic Partnership. They agreed that the main objective of this Partnership is the joint promotion of their common values and principles in the international arena, through closer consultations on global issues of mutual concern within key multilateral fora and international institutions, as well as providing a renewed thrust to bilateral cooperation in all fields.
4. Both Parties decided to continue their joint deliberations on a concrete follow up to implement the Strategic Partnership, covering the multilateral, regional and bilateral levels. They agreed that such follow up should include consultation on issues such as disarmament and non-proliferation, control of conventional weapons and their ammunition, fight against terrorism and transnational organized crime, finance for development, migration, environment and sustainable development, human rights, public security and U.N. reform. Both Delegations reiterated their commitment to the construction of a more humane, fair, prosperous and secure world order, as well as a more effective multilateral system, whose keystone is, and should continue to be, the United Nations.
5. The Parties agreed that, in the bilateral arena, there are numerous areas where there could be closer and more effective cooperation, such as public security, education and culture, science, technology and innovation, economic and trade relations, environment and sustainable development, regional development and social cohesion. They acknowledged that the existing Sectoral Dialogues on many of these areas provide a solid basis for enhancing bilateral cooperation.

6. Both Delegations recognized the need to continue strengthening the dialogue mechanisms derived from the Economic Partnership, Political Coordination and Cooperation Agreement.
7. The Mexican and EU Delegations reiterated their belief that the Strategic Partnership should also encourage bi-regional relations, by promoting a more effective political dialogue between the EU and Latin America on key global issues, as well as actively exploring opportunities for triangular cooperation in Latin America and the Caribbean.
8. Mexico and the EU called for a timely implementation of all measures necessary to put into action the Leaders' Global plan for recovery and reform agreed upon at the G20 Summit held in London on 2 April.
9. Mexico expressed its appreciation to the EU Delegations for their valuable support during the contention phase of the influenza A(H1N1) outbreak in Mexico. The EU expressed its appreciation of the determination and transparency with which the Government of Mexico has been dealing with the epidemic. Both delegations reiterated their commitment to continue sharing information and encouraging joint actions to contain and avoid the spread of the influenza virus A/H1N1, in full cooperation with the World Health Organization.

Fight against the world drug problem

10. The Delegations agreed to continue their efforts to fight against the world drug problem and its related crimes with a view to control, diminish and eliminate the adverse consequences inflicted upon social and economic development, and to the security of our countries, as well as to strengthen the activities of the Coordination and Cooperation Mechanism on Drugs between the Latin America Caribbean Region and the European Union.

Transnational Organized Crime

11. Mexico and the EU assign great priority to the fight against transnational organized crime in all its forms. Bearing in mind its devastating effects on the stability of nations and the well-being of their populations, the delegations agreed to combine efforts in order to promote the universality of the Palermo Convention and its three Protocols as well as their effective implementation.

Migration

12. The delegations committed themselves to work together in developing an EU-LAC structured and comprehensive dialogue on migration in order to identify common areas of mutual cooperation, in which issues of mutual concern and interest to both regions would be addressed in a constructive and pragmatic manner, in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and respect.

Human Rights

13. The Parties expressed their interest in strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights through the exchange of experiences and best practices on the subject based on the principles of reciprocity and cooperation. They also coincided on their commitment to expand the spaces for dialogue, in order to collaborate in the international system for human rights protection and promotion.
14. Both Parties expressed their political will to continue working positively towards the consolidation of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, particularly the Mechanism of the Universal Periodic Review, in order to strengthen the universal system of human rights.
15. The Parties, likewise, endorsed their will to fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other forms of intolerance.

Environment and Climate change

16. Mexico and the European Union expressed their commitment to work together in order to secure a global deal at Copenhagen that is comprehensive, effective and fair for all countries, in accordance with their common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. In this regard, the European Union highlighted that, it is the first industrialised region to commit to concrete emission reductions, meanwhile enshrined into law, foreseeing a reduction in 2020 by 20% compared to 1990 levels, and by even 30% if in Copenhagen an agreement satisfactory to all is reached. Mexico has also expressed its readiness to contribute to the global goal of reducing emissions by 50% by 2050, with the support of the international community.
17. Both parties highlighted their interest in strengthening, in a fair and balanced manner, the four pillars of the Bali Action Plan: mitigation, adaptation, technology and financing. The EU took note of the Mexican proposal to establish a World Climate Change Fund (Green Fund) aimed at providing positive incentives to countries willing to enhance their mitigation and adaptation actions.
18. Recognizing Mexico's engagement on climate change, the European Union took note of Mexico's interest to host the Sixteenth Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 16) in 2010.

Disarmament

19. Mexico and the EU will intensify their cooperation in the United Nations and other multilateral fora in order to strengthen the international nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament efforts and fully comply with all commitments regarding the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). In this sense, both Parties will actively pursue their well-established close cooperation to move towards a safer world, one in which it is possible to meet all the objectives enshrined in the NPT, whether they be disarmament, non-proliferation, or the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

20. In the same context, the parties reaffirm their support for a universal and legally binding instrument regarding arms trade control (ATT), as well as for efforts to achieve full implementation of the UN Program of Action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its aspects.

Cooperation

21. Both Parties expressed their satisfaction with the dialogue they had begun in the framework of the mid-term review of 2007-2013 cooperation. They recognized that the overall progress in the first phase, provides a basis to reconfirm that the sectors for the second phase of the cooperation programme are those initially identified: social cohesion, education and culture, sustainable economy and competitiveness.
22. They agreed that the areas of additional interest to be identified in the framework of these three sectors will be incorporated in a complementary way into the action plans to be implemented over the period 2010-2013.
23. Regarding the Facilitation Project for the Free Trade Agreement between Mexico and the EU, the Parties recognized the achievements of its implementation and expressed their intention to conclude, as soon as possible, an addendum to continue the work in new actions of cooperation.

Trade

24. In relation to trade issues, the Parties analyzed the trade flows since the entry into force of the Mexico-EU Free Trade Agreement (Mexico-EU FTA). In 2008, total trade amounted to 59.6 billion dollars (40.5 billion euros), a figure 18 per cent above that reached in 2007, and 222 per cent higher with respect to the one achieved in 1999, the year preceding the entry into force of the Mexico-EU FTA. Additionally, they observed the increasing bilateral direct investment flows, which reveal that the trends derived from the Agreement are positive

25. Both Delegations expressed their satisfaction for the formalization in December 2008, on adaptations to the Mexico-EU FTA due to the accession to the EU of Republic of Bulgaria and Romania through the Decision 3/2008 in the field of services.
26. The Parties reiterated their interest in moving forward in the negotiation under the revision clauses foreseen in the Mexico-EU FTA in the areas of agriculture and fishing, services and investment, with the aim of deepening their bilateral trade relations.
27. The Parties agreed to continue to examine the possibilities and conditions to progress towards a cumulation of origin between Mexico, EU and their common Latin-American trade partners.
28. The EU and Mexico remain committed to reaching an ambitious, balanced and comprehensive conclusion to the Doha Development Round, which is urgently needed, to avoid protectionism and to boost trade flows. To achieve this, the EU and Mexico are committed to building on the progress already made, including with regard to modalities. Both Parties will give renewed focus and political attention to this critical issue in the coming period and will use their continuing work and all international meetings that are relevant to drive progress.

Other

Dialogue with Civil Society

29. The Mexican and EU Delegations welcomed the progress made in the dialogue held with the representatives of civil society on both sides during the Third Forum held last November in Brussels, such as the institutionalization of the Forum and the commitment to analyze during the next Joint Committee the proposals made by the representatives of the civil society. Both sides reiterated the importance of creating and keeping a space open for further dialogue with the representatives of the civil society in order to enrich bilateral relations at all levels.

Mesoamerica Project

30. The Mexican delegation described the Mesoamerican Integration and Development Project (MP) as a dialogue and coordination mechanism that articulates cooperation, development and integration actions among nine Mesoamerican countries. Since Mexico's efforts of cooperation towards the region are geared through this mechanism, the Mexican Delegation acknowledged the European Union's own experience in regional integration, which can serve as a model for the MP in its aim to promote economic and social integration within the Mesoamerican region.
 31. Both delegations acknowledged that the MP represents an opportunity to promote the competitiveness of México, Central America and Colombia, as well as to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) in the region. In this sense, Mexico proposed the following areas in which the EU and Mexico could work together: health, environmental sustainability, renewable energies, electrical interconnectivity, and transport infrastructure.
 32. The parties decided that the VII Joint Council will be held in 2011.
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