

## **XII Joint Committee European Union-Mexico Mexico City, 10-11 June 2013**

### **Joint Communiqué**

1. The twelve meeting of the Joint Committee, established under the Economic Partnership, Political Coordination and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union (EU) and Mexico, the “Global Agreement”, was held in Mexico City on June 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013.
2. The European delegation was chaired by Mr. Christian Leffler, Managing Director for the Americas of the European External Action Service. The Mexican Delegation was chaired by Mr. Juan Manuel Valle Pereña, Executive Director for the Mexican Agency for International Development Cooperation (AMEXCID) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
3. Both parties recognized the work done by their respective diplomatic representatives, Ambassador of Mexico to the EU, Sandra Fuentes-Berain, and Ambassador Marie-Anne Coninx, Head of the EU Delegation in Mexico, that enabled the substantial advancement of cooperation between the EU and Mexico in all areas.

### **Political Dialogue-Strategic Partnership**

4. Mexico and the EU congratulated themselves on the state of their relationship and expressed their commitment to enhance even more their bilateral cooperation. They concurred that the existing institutional mechanisms have facilitated the exchange of points of view and the convergence of positions in issues of the bilateral and international agenda.
5. They also stressed the value granted to the Joint Executive Plan of the Strategic Partnership, adopted within the frame of the V Mexico-EU Summit, held in Spain on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010, that institutes the basis for the collaborative work in a number of bilateral cooperation projects, as well as to strengthen the dialogue and facilitate coordination in the multilateral scene.
6. Both parties coincided that the bilateral dialogue resulting from the Global Agreement should be complementary to the Sectorial Dialogues originated from the Executive Joint Plan of the Strategic Partnership.
7. Both parties highlighted with satisfaction that this complementarity will allow the enrichment and strengthening of cooperation, as well as to envisage the joint positions in a growing number of issues of multilateral, regional and bilateral character.
8. Nevertheless, they coincided that in the light of the priorities of the new government of Mexico and of those of the EU, it is important to define a new stage of the bilateral relationship through a renewed strategic vision that allows the strengthening and enhances the effectiveness of the political dialogue, with a view

to obtain concrete results in each of the institutional spheres of the relationship. Regarding this, both Parties expressed their satisfaction for the launching of the First High Level Political Dialogue.

9. It is agreed to undertake all efforts to constitute in the month of September 2013, a deliberation group on the upgrading of the Global Agreement, as to respond to the resolution of the Presidents in Santiago de Chile on January 2013.
10. In this sense, they agreed to review jointly the existing institutional mechanisms, in order to deepen the dialogue, rationalize the cooperation efforts and avoid unnecessary duplications, in a way to specify the priorities of each party.
11. On the other hand, Mexico and the European Union agreed to hold the Second Sectorial Dialogue on Public Safety and Law Enforcement to take place in Mexico City, tentatively, in the month of September, 2013.
12. Both parties congratulated themselves on including for the first time the issue of Transparency and Protection of Personal Data, and at the same time reaffirmed the importance of the promotion, exercise and observance of the basic human rights laying a stress on the interest of discussing the best practices on access to information and protection of personal data.

### **International Security**

13. Mexico and the European Union recognize the importance of fostering cooperation on the implementation of resolution 1540 (2004) of the Security Council of the United Nations Organization (UN). In particular, with the view of strengthening the national procedures to control the transference of material, dual usage goods, equipment and related technology that can be used in the production of weapons of mass destruction. Further to the recent admission of Mexico in the Wassenaar Arrangement and the Nuclear Suppliers' Group, and its application process to the Australia Group, Mexico and the EU have discussed the recognised merits of Mexico to join the Missile Technology Control Regime.
14. Mexico and the European Union expressed their satisfaction on the recent adoption of the Treaty on Arms Commerce of the General Assembly of the UN. Similarly, they concurred on promoting jointly diverse measures for the prompt entry into force of the Treaty and to work in a coordinated manner to assure its proper application. With this purpose, they ascertained to maintain close cooperation for the strategic control of conventional weapons, ammunition, parts and components.

### **Nuclear Disarmament and Non-Proliferation**

15. Mexico and the EU reaffirm their commitment to continue working on the promotion of nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the initiatives on weapons control, within the framework of the First Commission of the General Assembly of the United Nations and other forums, as a way to advance in the adoption of concrete measures.
16. Mexico and the EU agree on promoting initiatives that strengthen the institutional regime of non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and to develop concrete actions in the arena of nuclear disarmament and weapons control. For

this, both parties reiterate their disposition to work jointly in order to comply fully with the recommendations contained in the Final Document of the VII Conference on the Revision of the Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons.

17. Conscious of the catastrophic consequences of the use or threat of usage of nuclear weapons, Mexico and the EU reaffirm their commitment to continue to deepen on the issue. In this way, Mexico and the EU will continue to work to incorporate the humanitarian perspective in the debate on nuclear disarmament.

### **Post 2015 Development Agenda**

18. Mexico and the European Union express their interest to continue working on the fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goals whose deadline is the year 2015, and express their commitment to impel a new Development Agenda that considers a unique set of goals to eradicate poverty and promote sustainable development of universal character, based on social inclusion and human rights.

### **Mexico-European Union Cooperation on Human Rights**

19. Mexico and the EU highlighted that the bilateral dialogue on Human Rights has been a positive mechanism, since it has allowed the exchange of experiences and good practices, as well as promoting bilateral cooperation in this topic. With respect to the Third Meeting of the Bilateral Dialogue, the Parties emphasized the incorporation of new issues like migration from a perspective of cooperation and exchange of new practices; likewise, they congratulated themselves for the contribution of civil society to the bilateral dialogue. Mexico and the European Union established that the Fourth Bilateral Dialogue Mexico-European Union will be held, tentatively, in October of 2013 in Brussels, Belgium. The Parties agreed that a second seminar of civil society on human rights will be held on the sidelines of the Fourth Bilateral Dialogue.
20. The Parties concurred that the human rights component of the II Social Cohesion Laboratory project will strengthen the cooperation on the topic; in particular, in activities like: gender equality, torture prevention, protection mechanism for human rights defenders and journalists, access to justice for indigenous populations and the formulation of state plans on human rights, among others.

### **Cooperation on multilateral issues**

21. Mexico and the EU highlighted the great level of coincidences on initiatives on multilateral forums, such as children's rights, death penalty abolition, gender equality, indigenous population rights, handicapped persons rights and the need that the Human Rights Council of the United Nations to be capable to respond to critical international situations. The parties agreed to continue with the fulfillment of their international commitments on the issue of human rights, as well as to continue cooperating in the topic of migration in the framework of the Structured and Global Dialogue on Migration between the EU and CELAC.

## **Environment and Climate Change**

22. Mexico and the European Union congratulated themselves on the dialogues on Environment and Climate Change held in Mexico City on March and April, 2013, in which they exchanged their visions on green economy, low emissions development and resilient to climate change, and the follow up on the accords of the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), as well as the negotiations in the framework of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and the XIX Conference of the Parties, to be held this year in Warsaw, Poland. Both parties highlighted the level of agreement in their positions and ratified their interest to continue the fruitful dialogue and cooperation on these arenas.

## **Cooperation**

23. Both Parties agreed that cooperation activities contribute to fulfilling the political commitments and to impulse new projects in areas of shared interest, such as social cohesion, justice and human rights, sustainable economy, science and technology, innovation, education and culture, statistics and employment, among others.

## **Social Cohesion**

24. The Parties considered that cooperation in terms of social cohesion remains a priority in the relationship between Mexico and the EU. Therefore, the Delegations emphasized that the main objective is to contribute to the identification of actions for building more inclusive societies, with equity and social justice, by strengthening institutions and social participation.

25. The Parties welcomed the progress achieved by the “Social Cohesion Laboratory”, which during last year, developed several actions in health, social security and urban poverty, among others, with the participation of civil society organizations. They also expressed their satisfaction with the reiteration of the commitment from the representative of the Government of Chiapas, in order to fulfill the local component of the Social Cohesion Laboratory in full compliance with the financial contribution that this Government ensured.

26. Furthermore, they reiterated their commitment to sign the Financing Agreement of the second phase of the Social Cohesion Laboratory, which includes additional projects in access to justice, human rights and public security, as well as projects in the States of San Luis Potosí and Oaxaca. Through this project, both Parties may improve their public policies on social development.

## **Science and Technology**

27. The Parties reiterated the importance of continuing cooperation activities under the Scientific and Technological Cooperation Agreement, in order to consolidate the collaborative agenda in research and development and technological innovation; to this purpose, the Sixth Meeting of the Science and Technology Bilateral Steering

Committee will be held on September 25, 2013, in Brussels, Belgium. At this Meeting, the completion of the 7th Framework Programme, and the the participation of Mexican entities, as well as the launch of the "Horizon 2020" Programme from 2014 will be reviewed.

28. They also reaffirmed their interest to take further advantage of the opportunities offered by the EU in research and development, in particular with the new "Horizon 2020" Programme, and to work together in the project EU-MEX INNOVA contemplated to start in the second half of 2013, which will be the third stage of bilateral collaboration between CONACYT and the European Commission, to provide continuity and consolidate the efforts of the UEMEXCYT Project, in its phases I and II.

### **Education and Culture**

29. The Parties expressed that Mexico and countries of the EU maintain a fluid exchange of ideas, through visits of faculty members, specialists, researchers, artists, creators, performers, and students, mainly with the support of training and specialization programs offered by both Mexico and granting scholarships to nationals of Community countries, as the European Union programs like Erasmus Mundus, Marie Curie and Alpha.
30. The Mexican Party, through the Mexican Agency for International Development, invited European countries to take advantage of scholarships offered by Mexico, in order to promote academic and cultural mobility, while strengthening the relations of friendship and cooperation between Mexico and member countries of the European Union.
31. Likewise, the Mexican Party reiterated its interest in reinforcing the internationalization of higher education in Mexico within the frame of the future Erasmus Programme with an orientation crucial to the EU, as well as fostering the mobility of students with universities of EU member countries.
32. The Parties stressed that Mexico and the European Union are strategic partners, and their educational and cultural cooperation is based on the co-participation, co-responsibility and co-financing.
33. The Parties noted the progress of the resolutions adopted at the First Seminar on Sectoral Dialogue on Higher Education, held in Mexico City on November 23, 2010, and agreed to identify, at an early date, the Second Meeting of Sectoral Dialogue that joins the higher education and culture sectors.
34. The Parties pointed out that the Cultural Fund Mexico-European Union Stage II is an essential tool bilateral cultural cooperation, which seeks to respond to the enormous potential of our cultural relations, while enriching the cultural dialogue between Mexico and the European Union and the interaction between cultural, traditional and new. They stressed that initially the Fund supports projects in arts, cultural diversity and identity and community development, and has established a program to support the Performing Arts Mexico-European Union.
35. The Parties expressed that the new stage of educational and cultural cooperation between Mexico and the European Union will be fed back with the successful

projects developed in education and culture and strategic lines on issues of priority interest to the Parties.

### **Sustainable Economy and Competitiveness**

36. Both Parties acknowledged the importance of fostering projects that strengthen the competitiveness of small and medium enterprises, allowing them to access the European market, through its insertion into different levels of internationalization. In this regard, the Mexico-European Union Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (PROCEI) has shown its utility as an innovative instrument in helping the expansion and modernization of Mexican SMEs, triggering regional and sectorial processes in priorities of common interest between the EU and Mexico.

### **Energy**

#### **Nuclear Security**

37. The Parties agreed that the two cooperation projects on nuclear security that began in April 2012 have helped bringing closer together the consortium of companies specialized on radioactive waste management in Spain, the Netherlands and Belgium, and the Secretary of Energy, the Laguna Verde Nuclear Power Plant, the National Commission of Nuclear Safety and Safeguards and the National Institute of Nuclear Investigation (ININ).

38. They also noted with satisfaction the work carried out jointly to assess the management of radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel, and to compare with European countries the processes, financing mechanisms, regulation, facilities and structural organization.

#### **Research and Development on the issue of Energy Sustainability**

39. The Mexican Party reiterated its willingness to develop joint collaboration actions between the European Union and the SENER-CONACYT Sustainable Energy Fund. The EU said the topic of geothermal energy has been identified as an area of possible cooperation with Mexico. This question and others related to renewable energies will be discussed at the next Steering Committee in Brussels on September 25, 2013.

### **New Cooperation Dialogues**

#### **Regional Development**

40. The Parties agreed to establish the Regional Development Dialogue, taking advantage of the profound European experience and good practices in territorial policies, thus advancing to the immediate definition of a thematic agenda and working methods.

### **Information and Communication Technologies**

41. In terms of telecommunications and information technologies, the Mexican Party emphasized the interest of the Federal Telecommunications Commission (COFETEL) to start a dialogue between the EU and Mexico in this matter, considering that it is important to conceive an agenda of harmonization and strategic coordination. COFETEL is also interested in global spectrum harmonization and the creation of a bilateral study group on Internet governance, cyber-security and cyber-crime.
42. Both Parties agreed to establish a Working Group on telecommunications issues including Internet governance and spectrum management.

### **General perspectives on the EU-Mexico cooperation**

43. The European Party explained the characteristics of the EU's new strategic and financing instrument for international cooperation, which will apply from 2014 onwards, in order to ensure that the bilateral relation in this matter retains its current level of relevance strength and impact.
44. Both sides agreed to establish a Working Group to discuss the future of cooperation between Mexico and the EU, regarding the priorities of the new government of Mexico and the new cooperation instruments of the EU.

### **Perspectives for triangular cooperation**

45. Mexico extended an invitation to the European Union to jointly explore new schemes for triangular cooperation in order to execute infrastructure and development projects under the auspices of the Mesoamerica Project. The European Part informed on the available possibilities of financing under the Latin America Investment Facilities (LAIF) for this kind of projects and proposed to explore the opportunities of triangular cooperation in the Working Group on new cooperation perspectives.

### **Trade**

46. With regard to the session on "Trade and trade-related Issues", works were led, on the Mexican side, by Rosaura Castañeda Ramirez, Head of Unit for International Negotiations of the Ministry of Economy and, on the European Union Party, by Matthias Jørgensen, acting Head of Unit for relations with Latin America of the Directorate-General for Trade of the European Commission.
47. Concerning multilateral issues, the Parties agreed on the importance of fighting protectionism and strengthening free trade, stressing that trade facilitation is essential to enable a proper functioning of the global and regional value chains. Likewise, they reiterated the importance of strengthening the multilateral trading system and emphasizing its prominence to regulate international trade, as well as its relevance to boost global economic growth. The Parties stressed the need to promote the Doha Round and highlighted the convergence of positions between Mexico and the EU regarding the priority they give to trade facilitation and issues of

interest to Least Developed Countries (LDC), as well as the common interest of moving forward in the negotiations of a plurilateral agreement on services.

48. Regarding the current state of the trade relationship, the parties emphasized the positive trend in bilateral trade and investment flows. In 2012, trade in goods between Mexico and the EU amounted more than 47 billion euros (63.1 billion dollars). The investment flows also continued its upward trend, reinforcing the EU's position as the second source of foreign direct investment -FDI- in Mexico. Between 1999 and 2012 a cumulative investment of 109.6 billion dollars was recorded, representing 36 percent of the total FDI received by Mexico in this period.
49. The Parties reviewed the issues under consideration in the Special Committees established within the framework of the commercial aspect of the Global Agreement and encouraged the technical experts to continue working to address those outstanding issues in order to facilitate bilateral trade. Specifically, regarding the Special Committee on Customs Cooperation and Rules of Origin, they pointed out the recent progress in the field of procedures and customs legislation in both Mexico and the EU and reviewed pending issues on rules of origin.
50. The Parties also exchanged points of view on the request of the EU to reach a solution under the commercial aspect of the Global Agreement taking into account that Andorra and San Marino are part of the customs union of the EU.
51. Concerning the Special Committee on Standards and Technical Regulations the progress on modification and adoption of norms in Mexico and the EU was highlighted, and views were exchanged on relevant issues concerning this Special Committee as well as those corresponding to the and Intellectual Property where the EU welcomed the advances proposed by Mexico on the protection of geographical indications and the Special Committee on Spirits and Public Procurement.
52. As regards Sanitary and Phytosanitary issues (SPS), the Parties committed to work to resolve the remaining obstacles on sanitary and phytosanitary issues while respecting the protection levels set by both parties in this area. Both sides stressed the importance of compliance with the commitments under the SPS Special Committee, the respect for multilateral obligations and of decisively promoting measures to facilitate trade.
53. They also agreed that all Special Committees shall meet regularly and before each Joint Committee.
54. There was a fruitful exchange of views on the draft of the third additional Protocol and the Joint Decisions to take into account the accession of Croatia to the EU.
55. The Parties also addressed the subject of European investments in wind power in the Isthmus of Tehuantepec in the state of Oaxaca. The Parties agreed on the benefits of these investments and the importance of legal certainty in the promotion of future investments in renewable energy.
56. They highlighted the importance of ensuring that the commercial part of the Global Agreement will effectively respond to the new conditions of the international economy and will contribute to greater trade integration. To this end, the Parties



exchanged opinions regarding options for proceeding with a comprehensive modernization of the commercial part of the Global Agreement through the improvement or update of existing provisions, as well as through the inclusion of new provisions and subjects. Finally, they reiterated a strong interest in moving forward with this process, following the internal procedures of each Party.

### **Dialogue with the Civil Society Mexico-European Union**

57. In the framework of the follow up to the process of Dialogue with Civil Society Mexico-EU, the Parties congratulated themselves for the progress made by civil society of both sides in the previous consultations to the constitution of a Joint Consultative Mechanism of Civil Society Mexico-EU within the Global Agreement

58. With respect to the dialogue process of the Mexican and European civil society, aimed to constitute a consultative organ of civil society of both Parties within the Global Agreement, the Parties congratulate themselves on the achievements reached and encourage the European Economic and Social Committee and the Mexican Dialogue Mechanism to continue their contacts to settle on a proposal to present, in a joint manner, to this Mexico-EU Joint Committee.

59. Likewise, the Parties congratulated themselves for the proactive and active participation of the civil society organizations in the V Dialogue Forum Mexico – EU held in Brussels on 25 and 26 October 2012. This Forum has expanded the path of analysis and reflection related to the Global Agreement and the implications that the whole of public policies has been having for the Parties.

### **Regional Issues**

60. Both Parties referred to the VII Summit of the Pacific Alliance held in Cali, Colombia on May 23rd, 2013, in which the European Union attended as a special guest, and recognized the important achievements obtained by this mechanism, which was considered a success example in Latin America.

61. In the regional context, they appraised the entry into force and work done during the first year of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) as a forum of dialogue and political compromise and the main speaker of Latin America and the Caribbean in the dialogue with the EU. In light of which, they recognized the strategic importance of consolidating the bilateral association and were pleased with the meeting of the I Summit CELAC-UE held in Santiago de Chile, on January 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

### **Other issues**

62. It was agreed that the next meeting of the Joint Committee will take place on the second semester of 2014 in Brussels, Belgium.