

VII Joint Council European Union - Mexico

Mexico City, 9 February 2012

JOINT COMMUNIQUE¹

1. The seventh meeting of the European Union - Mexico Joint Council established by the Economic Partnership, Political Co-ordination and Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and its Member States and Mexico (the Agreement) was held in Mexico City, on 9 February 2012.
2. The High Representative of the European Union and Vice-President of the Commission, Ms. Catherine Ashton, led the European Delegation. The Mexican Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ms. Patricia Espinosa Cantellano, headed the Mexican Delegation.

Strategic Partnership and Joint Executive Plan

3. The Parties confirmed the importance they assign to their Strategic Partnership and to the fulfilment of the objectives of its Joint Executive Plan (JEP). They underlined progress in the implementation of the JEP, notably with the organization of the Dialogue on Public Security and Law Enforcement, held on 15th July 2011. Both Parties exchanged information and explored possibilities of concrete actions on police cooperation and training and preventing and fighting organized crime, in particular trafficking in human beings. Furthermore, the Parties welcomed the strengthening of their cooperation and coordination in multilateral fora, in order to promote issues of common interest, particularly in the areas of the fight against transnational organized crime, climate change, environmental protection and governance, and biological diversity. The efforts to fulfil the implementation of the JEP will continue with the upcoming launch of the Dialogue on Macroeconomic Issues in 2012, which will allow the financial authorities of both sides to exchange views, on a regular basis, on issues of great importance, such as the reform of the international financial system and the framework to achieve a sustainable world economic growth..
4. The Parties also recognised the progress made in the consolidation of the bilateral Dialogues on Social Cohesion, Education, Environment, Climate Change and Human Rights, the latter in both its bilateral and multilateral segments, as well as the bilateral contacts to encourage greater cooperation in areas such as Public Health, Regional Development and Nuclear Safety.

¹ References in this text to the « Parties » shall be deemed to mean, on the one hand, the European Union or the European Union and its Member States or the Member States, in accordance with their respective competences, and Mexico, on the other hand. Nothing in this text shall be interpreted as calling into question the division of competences between the European Union and its Member States.

Political Dialogue

Human Rights

5. The meeting confirmed the high level of engagement and co-operation that the Parties maintain in the field of human rights both at the bilateral level and in the multilateral fora.
6. The high quality and wide scope of the bilateral dialogue on human rights issues between the Parties, especially at the occasion of the two high level dialogues on human rights held so far, was referred to during the meeting. Both Parties look forward to the third session of this dialogue, which will be organized later this year. The results of these dialogues will orient future cooperation between the Parties on human rights.
7. The Parties reiterated further need for sustained efforts to strengthen and improve the functioning of the Human Rights Council, as well as their mutual support for the parties' initiatives on different human rights issues and situations at the Council and the General Assembly of the United Nations. In this context, the Parties reaffirmed their commitment towards the elimination of all forms of discrimination, as well as towards the abolition of death penalty.

Security / Fight against transnational organized crime

8. The Parties expressed their interest to enhance their cooperation, bilateral and with other countries, in particular with Central American countries in order to provide them with technical assistance to strengthen their capacities against transnational organized crime.
9. They will continue to support the works for an Arms Trade Treaty in the UN context, in particular in view of the 2012 Conference on this Arms Treaty, and the discussions to revise the UN Programme of Action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons, in view of the 2012 Review Conference.
10. The Parties recognize the importance of strengthening dialogue and cooperation to tackle the problem of production, trafficking and consumption of illicit drugs. They welcome the future organization of the Joint Follow-up Group to reactivate the agreement on the control of precursors and chemical substances used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances.

Climate change

11. The Parties welcome the outcomes of the 17th Conference of the parties (COP 17) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the 7th Session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the Meeting of the Parties (CMP 7) to the Kyoto Protocol in Durban. They stressed that COP 17 has been a decisive step in the establishment of a new comprehensive and legally binding climate regime, and provided a clear mandate to raise the level of ambition for climate action. Durban also made significant progress on the second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol. Furthermore, Durban approved the Green Climate Fund and operationalised the Cancun Agreements, including the adoption of rules for monitoring, reporting and verification of greenhouse gas emissions; setting up the Adaptation Committee and the Climate Technology Center Network. They highlighted their commitment to continue to cooperate in order to contribute achieving a successful implementation of the decisions taken in Durban.

Sustainable Development

12. The Parties are committed to pursue their close cooperation in the run-up to the UN "Rio+20" Conference on Sustainable Development that will take place in June 2012. They reiterated their shared ambition to achieve a successful outcome of the conference. The Parties share the goal to move towards a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, as well as to improve international environmental governance, and they agreed to promote the concept of green growth in the framework of G20.

Cooperation

Social cohesion

13. The Parties underlined that social cohesion continues to be a priority for both. Progress in this area is reflected by the preparation of the second phase of the project "EU-Mexico Social Cohesion Laboratory". The project will target social cohesion key areas such as human rights, access to justice and security activities at federal and State level. Furthermore, based on the success of the EU-Mexico programme on human rights, the Parties will strengthen the cooperation in this matter within the social cohesion project as a tool to reinforce the bilateral dialogue.

Economic cooperation

14. The Parties highlighted the relevance of projects focused on strengthening the competitiveness of small and medium size enterprises to increase access to the European market, such as the Competitiveness and Innovation Project Mexico-EU (PROCEI) in the context of the Country Strategy Document 2007-13. The Parties also expressed their satisfaction regarding the successful

closure in June of the Trade Facilitation project PROTLCUEM co-financed by the federal government and the European Commission.

Science and Technology

15. Cooperation between the Parties in science and technology has been developing in a very positive way. The Parties acknowledged the progress made in the sectoral Dialogue on Science and Technology and acknowledged the quality results obtained in the V Meeting of the Steering Committee for Bilateral Cooperation, held in Mexico in 2011.
16. At this occasion, both sides expressed their willingness to further develop cooperation, particularly in addressing societal challenges; they agreed the launching of coordinated calls for proposals in priority areas of common interest for the next years. The Mexico-EU dialogue will also promote reciprocal access to research programmes and support regional cooperation in science, technology and innovation.

Education and Culture

17. Both Parties expressed their interest in enhancing the cooperation in the cultural sector and welcome the agreements of having the First meeting of the sectoral Dialogue on Culture in Mexico City on April 2012, and the organization of the Mexico-EU Publishing Seminar in coincidence with the next edition of The Guadalajara International Book Fair in November 2012. A decision on the proposed addendum to the project "EU-Mexico Cultural Fund II" (EC contribution 2.8 M/Mexico contribution 2.8M) is pending by the European Commission.
18. They also welcomed Mexico's participation in the International Quality Assurance Conference held in December 2011 and the launch of a joint study on transparency tools in higher education. Both Parties agreed that the second meeting of the sectoral Dialogue on Education will be held in 2012.

Environment and Climate change

19. The Parties expressed satisfaction for the discussions during the Third EU-Mexico High-Level Dialogues on Environment and Climate Change, held in Brussels on 14-15th July 2011.
20. The Parties were pleased about the start of three new cooperation projects between them, in particular to support Mexico's low-emission development

strategy; to work on the measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of greenhouse gas emissions; and to link watershed management projects in several Mexican states with Mexico's national REDD+ strategy.

Bilateral Trade and Investment

21. Regarding trade issues, the parties noted the positive evolution of trade and investment flows between the Parties, as well as the highly satisfactory and smooth functioning of the Mexico-EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

Issues related to the review clauses of the EU-Mexico FTA

22. The parties noted the state of play of the negotiations in accordance with the review clauses in the FTA, and reaffirmed their interest to consider all other options to deepen bilateral trade relations.

WTO-Doha Development Agenda

23. The Parties regretted the current impasse of the WTO Doha Development Round negotiations. The Parties recognized the progress achieved so far and noted that in order to further advance the DDA in its core market access dimension, a strong political commitment will be needed in 2012 from all major WTO members. In the meantime, the Parties expressed their willingness to work closely together to deliver concrete results in other areas of the negotiations where progress can be achieved, in particular in trade facilitation. Likewise, they agreed to give due priority to address the specific needs of the Least Developed Countries, in line with the political guidance provided by the 8th Ministerial Conference. The Parties reiterated their steadfast support for a strong, rule-based multilateral trading system, which is instrumental to ensure a healthy and fair global trading system.

EU-Mexico Civil Society Dialogue process: State of play

24. The Parties noted with satisfaction that the Mexican civil society has welcomed the reply issued jointly by the Parties to the recommendations of the IV EU-Mexico Civil Society Dialogue Forum. They reiterated their commitment to strengthen the civil society dialogue process, notably by promoting the creation of a consultative mechanism that would host permanent dialogue between Mexican and EU civil society. They agreed to work together with the representatives of their civil societies in reviewing the mandate, composition and functioning procedures of such a mechanism, in order to ensure that it would contribute constructively to the bilateral relation.