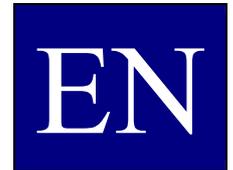




**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



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Lima, 17 May 2008
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**FOURTH MEXICO EU TROIKA SUMMIT
Lima, Peru, 17 May 2008
Joint Communiqué**

- The fourth summit meeting between Mexico and the European Union was held on 17 May 2008 in Lima (Peru). For Mexico it was attended by President Felipe Calderón Hinojosa and by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Patricia Espinosa Cantellano. The European Union was represented by the Prime Minister of Slovenia, Mr Janez Janša, as current President of the European Council and by the President of the European Commission, Mr José Manuel Durão Barroso.
- The Parties highlighted the institutional maturity and the dynamism of long-term relations between Mexico and the European Union under the Economic Partnership, Political Coordination and Cooperation Agreement
- They recognised the regional and international significance of their bilateral ties for jointly promoting their shared values, principles and interests, such as consolidating democracy, rule of law, respect for human rights, commitment to gender equality, sustainable economic development, equal opportunities, and sustainable preservation of the environment.

P R E S S

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- In accordance with their commitment to continue building a closer, more mature partnership based on the EU-Mexico Global Agreement, as stated at the third EU-Mexico summit, both sides expressed their determination to work together towards establishing an EU-Mexico Strategic Partnership.
- Both sides concurred in seeing the intensity of political dialogue at all levels as a reflection of the importance attached by them to their bilateral relations. They pointed out that the last year had brought several EU-Mexico high level meetings, among which a visit by the President of Mexico to the European Institutions' headquarters and to a number of EU Member States capitals, a meeting between Foreign Minister Patricia Espinosa and Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner, a visit to Slovenia by Foreign Minister Espinosa, a visit to Mexico by the High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy, Javier Solana, and by Commissioners Peter Mandelson, Janez Potočnik and Vladimir Špidla, as well as the recent visit by President José Manuel Durão Barroso to Mexico.
- As regards economic aspects of the bilateral relationship, both sides appreciated the favourable trend in trade and investment flows under the Mexico-EU Free-Trade Agreement (FTA) and were pleased to see that bilateral trade had amounted to over USD 50 billion in 2007, while productive investment flows between the two sides continued to show a very positive pattern.
- In addition, both sides welcomed the recent entry into force of the Mexico-EU Joint Council Decision on the establishment of a framework for the negotiation of mutual recognition agreements and noted the agreement reached on the texts of decisions to bring the Mexico-EU Global Agreement into line with the European Union's latest enlargement.
- The leaders reiterated their readiness and willingness to reactivate and conclude as soon as possible, negotiations regarding the Mexico-EU FTA review clauses on agriculture, services and investment.
- The Parties reiterated their commitment to press ahead with policy dialogue on social cohesion, under the 2007-2013 cooperation programme.
- The Parties welcomed the outcome of the first EU-Mexico employment and social policy dialogue seminar, held in Mexico City in April 2008 in which they highlighted the importance of bilateral exchanges about policies aimed at enhancing social protection, active inclusion and decent work for all.

- The leaders welcomed the establishment of a sectoral policy dialogue on the environment and climate change, designed to step up cooperation and political consultation in international environmental bodies. In parallel to that dialogue, the European Investment Bank (EIB) opened up a EUR 50 million credit facility to fund climate-change mitigation projects in Mexico.
- The Parties further agreed to increase bilateral cooperation on human rights and pointed out the importance of the 2008-2010 Mexico-EU human rights cooperation programme, its main lines being eradication of gender-based violence, reform of Mexico's justice system and harmonisation of the country's legislation with international human rights instruments.
- Both sides recognised the significant progress achieved in scientific and technological cooperation and expressed their interest in broadening and stepping up cooperation in areas of mutual interest, such as biotechnology, nanotechnology, information technology, health, energy and the environment. They also highlighted the possibility of joint research projects to be financed by Mexico's National Council for Science and Technology (CONACYT) and by the European Commission.
- The parties welcomed the recent presentation of the Mexico-EU cultural fund, opening up a new stage of cooperation in that area. In addition, they pointed to the importance of promoting bilateral academic cooperation, mobility of students, teachers and researchers through the Erasmus Mundus Programme and its external cooperation window. The external cooperation window will also provide assistance to students from Mexico's ten least-developed states
- The leaders underlined the relevance of launching as soon as possible a sectoral policy dialogue on education and culture
- The parties reiterated the importance of their economic cooperation in particular through, the integrated support programme for small and medium-sized enterprises and the EU-Mexico trade facilitation programme
- Both sides welcomed the forthcoming third Mexico-EU civil society dialogue forum, to be held in the second half of 2008.
- Mexico and the European Union welcomed the progress made in Latin America and the Caribbean in consolidating democratic institutions,
- As regards the present situation in Europe, the European Union informed Mexico about Lisbon Treaty ratification process and future prospects for the European integration process. Mexico stated that it is keeping a close watch on those processes, in the light of their favourable implications for the strengthening of the European Union and of the bilateral relationship.

- Building on the momentum for bilateral relations provided by the drive toward the establishment of an EU-Mexico Strategic Partnership:
- The EU and Mexico reiterated their readiness to work together for a reform of the United Nations. On the basis of the awareness that peace, security, human rights and development are inter-linked and self reinforcing factors, the parties agreed to continue pressing for better coordination among the different UN bodies.
- Both sides further signalled their desire to pursue efforts to ensure that development and the campaign against poverty and hunger are placed at the heart of the international agenda and agreed on the importance of fulfilling the UN Millennium Development Goals.
- The EU welcomed the information given by Mexico on the motives for its candidacy for a non-permanent seat on the Security Council for the period 2009-2010. Mexico reported that the Latin American and Caribbean Group had endorsed its candidacy on 31 March.
- With regard to cooperation in multilateral fora, both sides reiterated their commitment to formulate joint human rights initiatives and to support one another in matters of interest to each of them.
- The leaders welcomed the outcome of the process of establishing the United Nations Human Rights Council and reaffirmed their political will to pursue their constructive efforts to help firm up the Council and its mechanisms, and in particular the Universal Periodic Review, with a view to strengthening the international human rights system.
- Both sides welcomed the agreement reached at the 62nd session of the United Nations General Assembly on adopting the resolution on a "Moratorium on the use of the death penalty" and emphasised that it should be adopted every two years.
- They reaffirmed the importance of combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, with strict observance to international law, international standards of protection of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law.
- The European Union and Mexico reaffirmed their commitment to support and to promote the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 on disaster reduction.

- Furthermore, Mexico and the European Union expressed the conviction that all countries, without exception, ought to work together to tackle the effects of climate change, according to the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities. Both sides reiterated their commitment to reach a conclusion on a comprehensive and global agreed outcome under the Bali Action Plan no later than 2009, to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the UNFCCC through long-term cooperative action now, up to and beyond 2012, focusing on a shared vision and the four pillars of the Bali Action Plan: mitigation, adaptation, technology and financing, and based on the scientific evidence set out by the 4th assessment report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).
- The European Union and Mexico convened on the need for a broad and balanced approach to migration. This approach shall consider causes and effects of migration, in order to find a comprehensive response based on the principle of shared responsibility between countries of origin, transit and destination, and fully respecting the human rights of all migrants. The parties reiterated the importance of an intensified fight against the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in human beings, and constructive cooperation to address the issues of regular and irregular migration, in accordance with international law and, as appropriate, the legal framework of the parties, as well as the link between migration and development.
- Mexico and the European Union reaffirmed their commitment to promote gender equality, protect children's rights and the rights of indigenous peoples at the national and international level.
- They reiterated their commitment to promote and defend the human rights of persons with disabilities in the world and, in this vein, welcomed the recent entry into force of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.
- Cooperation between the EU and Mexico in tackling illicit drug problems and related crimes is based on the principle of shared responsibility, in accordance with international law, and will support the development of policies and programmes to address the drug problems through an integrated and balanced approach.
- The EU and Mexico stated that illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and their ammunition constitutes a serious threat to international peace and security. As a means of curbing this illegal trade, Mexico and the European Union undertook to implement the recommendations of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all its aspects and promote its application. They further undertook to play an active role in the Third Biennial Meeting on the Programme of Action, to be held in New York from 14 to 18 July 2008.
- Finally, both sides decided to hold the next political dialogue meeting at Heads of State or Government level on a date to be mutually determined.