

5th Forum of Dialogue between Civil Society and Institutions of the Mexican Government and the European Union

Brussels, 25 and 26 October 2012

Joint Communiqué EU – Mexico

The 5th Forum of Dialogue between Civil Society and Institutions of the Mexican Government and the European Union took place in Brussels on 25-26 October. It was organised by the European External Action Service, in coordination with the Government of Mexico and in cooperation with EU and Mexican civil society organisations.

The Forum is organised every two years. It is a platform through which civil society organisations from the European Union and Mexico engage in dialogue, and present constructive contributions and recommendations to enhance the EU-Mexico relations. This meeting has become, over the years, an invaluable opportunity to discuss and convey the ideas of civil society, in order to better adapt the implementation of the Global Agreement and Strategic Partnership between Mexico and the European Union to the needs of their respective societies.

The objective of this year's Forum was to assess the perspectives of the EU-Mexico relations after more than ten years of Global Agreement, and to discuss proposals and recommendations on three main aspects: political dialogue and strategic partnership; economic and commercial issues; and cooperation.

The Forum was host to fruitful exchanges between civil society, the government of Mexico and the institutions of the European Union. As a result of extensive preparation by all parties, the dialogue between civil society and the authorities has now matured and reached a high technical level.

Following the debates, the civil society addressed to the authorities of both sides a series of constructive recommendations, with a view to enhance the cooperation between Mexico and the European Union, on both multilateral issues and internal challenges, as well as to strengthen the participation of civil society in the bilateral relation.

The Forum also took stock of progress made by the Mexican government and civil society towards the constitution of a civil society joint consultative mechanism in the framework of the Global Agreement between the European Union and Mexico. The aim of this mechanism is to materialise long-standing efforts towards institutionalisation of the dialogue.

In conclusion, all parties felt this was a Forum of transition towards a new, positive era. Mexico and the European Union are confident that the dialogue with civil society in the framework of their relation will further deepen in the near future.

The next Forum will take place in Mexico in 2014.
