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## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

### **The European Union and Mexico hold bilateral Human Rights Dialogue**

The EU and Mexico reaffirm their shared values and common vision based on a strong and mature relationship in the field of human rights. Both parties agree to deepen bilateral ties in this area. On 18 March, the fourth bilateral High-Level Dialogue on Human Rights between the EU and Mexico took place in Brussels, Belgium.

On this occasion, the EU and Mexico discussed multilateral issues to help deepen their mutual understanding, and to enhance cooperation, reinforcing common positions in favour of strengthening international human rights standards.

The EU and Mexico also discussed issues of common interest at bilateral level, in order to promote the exchange of best practices, to identify challenges and to strengthen their links in cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

During the Dialogue, the EU and Mexico took stock of the current situation of human rights on both sides and shared the progress made since the last Dialogue in October 2012. They covered major issues of concern for human rights, in particular gender and violence against women, abolition of the death penalty, counter-terrorism and human rights as well as combatting racism and xenophobia. The Dialogue was followed by a workshop during which the EU and Mexico exchanged views on how to implement international guidelines on business and human rights and on the shared fundamental values of democracy and the rule of law. They also reviewed EU-Mexico cooperation projects in the field of human rights.

#### FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

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For the second time, the dialogue was preceded by a Seminar of Civil Society Organisations from Mexico and the EU, which provided opportunities to promote the exchange of information and good practices on topics covered in the Human Rights Dialogue. As a result, the participants made recommendations, addressed to Mexico and the EU, concerning violence against women; human rights defenders, business and human rights; and citizen security.

The European Union was represented by its Special Representative on Human Rights, Mr Stavros LAMBRINIDIS, assisted by the EU Ambassador in Mexico, Mr Andrew Standley, and senior officials from the EU institutions. The Mexican delegation was led by the Vice-Minister for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Juan Manuel Gómez Robledo, the Vice-Minister for Human Rights in the Home Ministry, Mstra. Lía Limón García, and the Head of the Mission of Mexico to the European Union, Ambassador Juan José Gómez Camacho.

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