

**FIRST MEETING OF THE
EUROPEAN UNION-UNITED STATES OF MEXICO
JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE**

28-29 September 2005

Strasbourg, France

JOINT DECLARATION

The delegations from the European Parliament and the Congress of the United States of Mexico to the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee, having concluded the first EU-Mexico Interparliamentary Meeting, which was held in Strasbourg on 28 and 29 September 2005, have agreed on the following:

JOINT DECLARATION

1. Both delegations welcome the new framework for dialogue furnished by the establishing of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, which implements what is laid down in the Economic Partnership, Political Co-ordination and Co-operation between the European Union and the United States of Mexico.
2. They undertake, by means of this institutional mechanism, to make use of all the opportunities offered by the Agreement, including the use of the evolutive clause, with a view to increasing the levels of well being enjoyed by their citizens.
3. They likewise reiterate their determination to deepen parliamentary dialogue by means of the other existing mechanisms within the EU-Latin American Interparliamentary Conferences or the preparatory meetings for the Summits of Heads of State and Government.
4. They reiterate their determination to defend positions of common interest within international fora, particularly the United Nations, and reiterate in particular their rejection of the action which the USA's *cazamigrantes* (immigrant-hunters) on Mexico's northern border have undertaken. Democracy, human rights and the rule of law are the fundamental bases of the international community.
5. They express their satisfaction at the way the Agreement on Economic Partnership, Political Co-ordination and Co-operation has worked, and likewise its positive impact on bilateral trade. They trust that the same results will be forthcoming from the Agreement signed on scientific and technical cooperation. In this connection, the European Delegation undertakes to supply full information on the work of the EP in respect of the adoption of the VII EU Framework Co-operation Programme.

6. Both delegations undertake to work to get greater budgetary resources assigned to EU-Mexican cooperation projects, particularly in the areas of science, technology and education.
7. The delegations agree to seek to ensure that optimum use is made of the scholarships offered to students by the EU, and undertake to carry out publicity campaigns to encourage the participation of young people.
8. Likewise, both delegations undertake to consider and put forward solutions for resolving disputes which may arise as a result of the adoption of measures representing barriers to trade. Furthermore, they undertake to seek mechanisms to promote all initiatives contributing to increasing trade flows between Mexico and the EU, and prevent the introduction of unjustified obstacles to trade.
9. Both parties undertake to boost cooperation in the agricultural sphere, particularly with regard to the conversion of the sugar industry to produce ethanol and other by-products.
10. The European delegation urges the Mexican delegation to continue its research into the use of the 'Galileo' navigation system, and requests, its support, furthermore, with a view to making progress in negotiating a wide-ranging aviation agreement.
11. Both parties undertake to hold, as soon as possible, a seminar assessing the benefits experienced by small and medium enterprises as a result of the Agreement, and likewise its impact on regions with high unemployment levels or which export labour. They also undertake to hold the seminar on the operation of the structural and cohesion funds in Europe, and a meeting to evaluate the Agreement.
12. The delegations likewise stress the need to create mechanisms for dialogue which will enable society to play a more committed part in discussions on developing, implementing and improving the Treaty; specifically, they propose setting up an Internet portal.
13. Both delegations believe that with a view to supplying information to the members of the Joint Council with regard to the implementation of the interparliamentary dialogue, appropriate arrangements should be made to enable the chairs of the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee to attend the meetings of the Joint Council.
14. Both delegations express their concern at the increase in sexual violence and phenomena such as the murder of women worldwide, and support the efforts undertaken to eradicate it; they undertake to hold a seminar on the issue in the near future.
15. The delegations undertake to step up their relations and to establish link-mechanisms, make individual parliamentarians responsible for specific items on the agenda, and exchange civil servants.
16. The Mexican delegation invites the European Parliament delegation to the Joint Parliamentary Committee to participate actively in the celebration of the bicentenary of the birth of Benito Juárez.

17. Both delegations express their thanks for the support of their respective technical teams, over and above the aid provided by the diplomatic missions which collaborated on the delegations' work.
18. The Mexican parliamentarians issue a cordial invitation to take part in the II Meeting of the EU-Mexican Joint Parliamentary Committee in the first half of 2006, in Mexico, whose date and place the delegations agree to establish at a later date.

Signed in Strasbourg on 29 September 2005

European Parliament Delegation	Mexican Congress Delegation
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