

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

DELEGATION TO THE EUROPEAN UNION-UNITED STATES
OF MEXICO
JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

Report by Mrs Erika MANN, Delegation chairman,
for the Committee on Foreign Affairs and for the Committee on Development
on the

FIRST MEETING OF THE EUROPEAN UNION-MEXICO
JOINT PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE

Wednesday, 28 and Thursday, 29 September 2005-10-26

STRASBOURG

REPORT

ANNEX I: Final Declaration

ANNEX II: Agenda

ANNEX III, IV and V: Records of attendance and programme of the visit

Brussels, 10 October 2005

LMG/nal

1. Opening of the meeting and introductory statements:

Mrs Erika MANN, chairwoman of the European Parliament delegation to the European Union-United States of Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee, welcomed those attending the first EU-Mexico JPC, highlighting Mexico's role as a bridge between the EU and the USA. She also stressed the fact that they shared joint values, including working to achieve a better and fairer world.

She said that political dialogue had developed very positively, proof that the Agreements' contents go far beyond merely economic matters, and cover the everyday concerns of the man in the street.

She proposed that within the framework of the meeting of the World Trade Organisation being held in Hong Kong on 25 November, the European and Mexican delegations should meet.

Senator Fernando MARGÁIN BERLANGA, chairman of the Mexican delegation, highlighted the importance of parliamentary diplomacy in international relations, and also referred to the need to establish and implement mechanisms for dialogue and working together which would allow exploration of how the benefits of the Agreement could be extended to broader swathes of society.

2. Adoption of draft agenda

The draft agenda was adopted.

Mr **SPERONO** and Mr **LICHTENBERGER** spoke.

3. Adoption of the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee's draft rules of procedure

The rules of procedure governing the working of the EU-Mexico Joint Parliamentary Committee were adopted.

Topics

4. Developments in the European Union's economic and political situation:

Mr SALAFRANCA SÁNCHEZ-NEYRA addressed the political situation of the EU and its relations with third countries, and with Latin America in particular.

He highlighted relations with Russia, and the increased EU presence in the Middle East.

He further reported on the calling of a meeting of European and Latin American parliamentarians, similar to that organised in Puebla before the Third EU-LAC Summit of Heads of State and of Government in Guadalajara in 2004, of a similar interparliamentary meeting before the Fourth Summit in Vienna in May 2006.

Finally, he referred to the structure of the EU budget for 2006: EUR 5 000 million were earmarked for external action, of which 340 million were specifically for Latin America.

Mr STANDERTKJOLD, the Commission representative, then spoke about the implementation of the EU-Mexico agreement, summarising the outcome of the last five years, and mentioning the possibilities for further development offered by the chapter on scientific cooperation.

Mr CARNERO GONZÁLEZ then spoke about the significance of the draft European Constitution, and the new features it contributed to European integration. He particularly highlighted the fundamental values included, and, above all, those which guaranteed the equality of men and women.

He also highlighted the attention paid by the draft Constitution to subjects of everyday concern to the man in the street such as education or health.

He then said that at present, we were in a period of reflection.

He finally highlighted the fact that the Constitution would give the EU a real role as a player on the international stage.

Mr GKLAVAKIS spoke about the recent EU enlargement, with general reference to the benefits of EU accession to candidate countries. He particularly highlighted the way in which such countries acted as magnets for investment.

He stressed the advantages accession meant for the ordinary citizen, providing greater environmental protection, social cohesion and sustainable economic development.

Finally, he mentioned the impact of the recent enlargement on the EU demographic pyramid.

Mr SPERONI and Mr VARELA SUANZES-CARPEGNA spoke.

5. Political and economic developments in Mexico:

Senator CAMACHO spoke about the political situation in Mexico, and particularly the state of democracy and the operation of the Mexican federal system.

He also mentioned issues of civil security, and particularly the killings of women which had occurred in Tijuana City.

With regard to the indigenous minorities he mentioned the efforts made both by central and regional governments to encourage greater integration.

Mr Juan José GARCÍA OCHOA spoke about the problems on both the northern and southern frontiers of Mexico. He also mentioned the situation of the 38 million Hispanics in the USA, and above all the 25 million Mexicans. He said that 10 million of these had been born in Mexico, and reported on the programmes funded from Mexico for emigrants settling in the USA.

Senator Carlos MEDINA then addressed the economic aspects of the Mexican situation, with particular reference to the structural reforms which were needed, particularly with a view to achieving a more equitable distribution of income.

He referred to the importance to Mexico of the almost 17 000 million dollars of remittances from emigrants, on which an estimated two and a half million Mexican families lived.

Mr Carlos FLORES (Mexico) then spoke about the employment situation, saying that a million jobs a year were necessary in order to respond to the amount of labour on offer. The current job shortfall was 6 million.

With regard to the fight against poverty, he mentioned the efforts that had already been made. Poverty still affected 47% of the population; in 1930 it affected 96%. However, he deplored the fact that in recent years, the rate of poverty elimination had slowed down.

Finally, he mentioned the difference in salaries between the countryside (90 dollars per month) and the towns (140 dollars).

Mr Homero DÍAZ (Mexico) spoke about access to different levels of education in Mexico and the fact that 8% of the budget was devoted to education. Two thirds of young people attended public schools, which was an enormous challenge for the government. He highlighted the growing number of young people who complete their schooling, particularly at primary and secondary level.

Mr Sergio PENAGOS (Mexico) spoke about the federal support programmes, which benefited 5 million families.

In the ensuing discussion, **Mr SALAFRANCE SÁNCHEZ-NEYRA (EP)** and **Mrs DÍEZ GONZÁLEZ (EP)** spoke about ethics and politics, immigration and reforming political parties to provide effective responses to people's needs.

From the Mexican side, Mr CAMACHO and Mr MEDINA spoke about the crisis in the political parties, the agreement on migration, and the reform of the energy sector.

6. Matters of common interest:

Exchange of points of view with the Council of Europe representative, **Mrs Jannick DEVAUX**, on the Council of Europe's handling of the issue of killings of women, presenting apologies for the absence of the rapporteur, Mrs VERMONT-MANGOLD.

With regard to the killings of women, she voiced her concern that many of these crimes had gone unpunished, largely because of a lack of resources and competence on the part of the police authorities responsible for the investigations.

She also spoke about the legal reforms required to prevent the large number of known instances of impunity.

Finally, she spoke about the need to carry out awareness-raising and civil education campaigns concerning equality between men and women.

Mr JIMÉNEZ and **Mr DÍAZ** spoke for Mexico, and **Mrs DÍEZ GONZÁLEZ** for Europe.

End of the Wednesday sitting, 28 September 2005

Continuation of the sitting, Thursday, 29 September 2005

7. Assessment of the Treaty and proposals for making better use of it

The second day's work began with an address by the Mexican Ambassador, **Mrs Lourdes DIECK ASSAD**, on the implementation of the EU-Mexico Agreement. She first cited the increased trade flows in both directions, specifically referring to the 17% increase in Mexican exports over the last year, totalling almost \$7 m dollars. The balance of trade was favourable to the EU, with exports to Mexico totalling some \$16 m dollars.

She then spoke about European investment in Mexico, which totalled almost \$40 000 m between 1994 and 2005. At present, European participation involved 6722 Mexican businesses. Mexican investment in the EU was smaller, totalling \$7 700 m over the same period.

Finally, she mentioned the possibilities raised by the evolutive clause for the service, investment and farming sectors. Further sectors with development potential were tourism, the audiovisual sector, and professional services.

The Commission (TRADE) representative, **Mr STANDERETSKJOLD**, then spoke about the future potential of the Agreement. He mentioned the problems posed by non-tariff barriers, and the need to boost legislative and regulatory transparency as a means of boosting investment and the involvement of SMEs.

Mr MARTÍNEZ RAMOS, for Mexico, assessed the main features of the evolutive clause, and referred to growing Mexican concern about environmental issues. As subjects for future discussion, he mentioned the difficulty that Mexican manufacturers of electrical appliances could run into due to Mexican legislation on refrigerator gases. He also mentioned the tuna exports being made under a label guaranteeing dolphin-protection measures.

For Europe, **Mr SCHRÖDER** and **Mr LICHTENBERGER** spoke about the export of recyclable products, industrial fishing and climate change.

8. Interparliamentary dialogue

The chairwoman, **Mrs MANN**, spoke about the future planning of JPC meetings, suggesting that for future conferences, specific subjects be put forward to give the debates more content and produce more results.

It was suggested that issues relating to the killing of women, the activities of the 'cazaemigrantes' and terrorism be dealt with.

For Mexico, **Mr UNANUE** and **Mr MEDINA PLACENCIA** spoke to this.

For Europe, **Mr LICHTENBERGER** and **Mr SCHRÖDER**, referred to immigration, killings of women and the relationship between the political parties and citizens.

Mrs Díez González (EP) spoke about the need to tackle sexual violence on the basis of a common diagnosis.

The chairwoman, **Mrs MANN**, stresses the excellent communications with the Mexican Embassy to the EU, which was conducive to the swift resolution of any problems which arose.

The Mexican chairman, **Senator MARGAÍN**, spoke about the date of the next meeting of JPC. He also mentioned the unused EU scholarships for Mexican students, and suggested that information about these on the internet could be boosted.

Finally, the chairwoman, **Mrs MANN**, said that at a future meeting of the USA-EU Interparliamentary Delegation, she would tackle the issues that had been raised, particularly those concerning the Mexican-US border.

9. Adoption of the Final Declaration

The Final Declaration was agreed.

10. Any other business

There was no other business.

11. Date and place of the second meeting of the European Union/United States/Mexican Joint Parliamentary Committee

It was proposed that the second meeting of the European Union/United States/Mexican Joint Parliamentary Committee would be held in Mexico from 17 to 23 February 2006.

*
* *

The meeting closed at 12.00.

**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 *cazaemigrantes* (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
--------------------------------	-----------------------------

**DELTAGERLISTE/ANWESENHEITSLISTE/KATAΣΤΑΣΗ ΠΑΡΟΝΤΩΝ/LITE RECORD
OF ATTENDANCE/LISTA DE ASISTENCIA/LISTE DE PRESENCE/ELENCO DEI
PRESENTI/PRESENTIELIJST/LISTA DE PRESENÇAS/LÄSNÄOLOLISTA/DELTAGARLISTA**

Til stede	Formandskabet/Vorstand/Προεδρείο/Bureau/Ufficio di Presidenza/Mesa/Puhemiehistö/J.L. Presidium: (*) MANN (P), SCHRÖDER (1VP); GKLAVAKIS (2VP)
Anwesend	Medlemmer/Mitglieder/Μέλη/Members/Diputados/Deputés/Deputati/Leden/Deputados/Jäsenet/Ledamöter: BERLINGUER, BONO, DIEZ GONZALEZ, GUELLEC, LICHTENBERGER, MATO ADROVER, SPERONI Stedfortrædere/Stellvertreter/?ναπληρωτές/Substitutes/Suplentes/Suppléants/ Membri supplenti/Plaatsvervangers/Membros suplentes/Varajäsenet/Suppleanter:
Παρόντες	FLASAROVA, MIGUELEZ RAMOS, SALAFRANCA SÁNCHEZ-NEYRA, TOIA
Present	
Presentes	
Présents	
Presenti	
Aanwezig	
Lasna	
Närvarande	
Art. 178,2	
Art. 183,3	ATTARD MONTALTO, VARELA SUANZES-CARPEGNA, CARNERO GONZALEZ
Endv. Deltog/Weitere Teiln./ Συμμετείχαν επίσης/Also present Participaron igualmente/ Participaient également/ Hanno partecipato altresì/ Andere deelnemers/ Outros participantes/ Muut osallistujat/ Dessutom deltog	
(Dagsorden/Tagesordnung Pkt/Ημερήσια Διάταξη Σημει/Point OJ/Punto OG/Agenda Punt/Ordem do dia Punto/punto orden del dia/Esityslist Kohta/ Föredragningslista punkt):	

- * (P) = Formand/Vorsitzender/Πρόεδρος/Chairman/President/Presidente/Voorzitter/Presidente/Puhemies/Ordförande
(VP) = Næstform./Stellv.Vorsitz./?ντιπρόεδρος/Vice-Chairman/Vice-President/Vicepresidente/Varapuhemies/Ondervoorz./
Vice-Pres./Vicepres/Vice ordförande.

Til stede den/Anwesend am/Παρών στις/Present on/Present le/Presente il/Aanwezig op/Presente em/Presenteel/Läsnä/Närvarande den.

Efter indbydelse fra formanden/Auf Einladung d. Vorsitzenden/Με πρόσκληση του Προέδρου/At the invitation of the Chairman/Por invitacion del presidente/Sur l'invitation du président/Su invito del presidente/Op uitnodiging van de voorzitter/A convite do presidente/Puhemiehen kutsusta/På ordförandens inbjudan:

Rådet/Rat/Συμβούλιο/Council/Consejo/Conseil/Consiglio/Raad/Conselho/Neuvosto/Rådet: (*)

Kommissionen/Kommission/Επιτροπή/Commission/Comision/Commissione/Commissie/Comissão/Komissio/Kommissionen: (*)

DE GIROLAMO, MENATO, STANDERTSKJOLD

Cour des comptes:

C.E.S.:

Andre deltagere/Andere Teilnehmer Επίσης Παρόντες/Also present Otros participantes/Autres participants/Altri partecipanti Andere aanwezigen/Outros participantes Muut osallistajat/Övriga deltagare		Ambassade Mexique: Conseil de l'Europe: DEVAUX
Gruppernes sekretariat Sekretariat der Fraktionen Γραμματεία των Πολ. Ομάδων Secretariat political groups Secr. De los grupos políticos Secr. Groupes politiques Segr. Dei gruppi politici Secr. Van de fracties Secr. Dos grupos políticos Puolueryhmien sihteeristö Gruppernas sekretariat	PPE-DE PSE ALDE Verts/ALE GUE/NGL IND/DEM UEN NI	SALAFRANCA, CONTRERAS MARÍN KAMMITTSI, TRAUFLER KUPPERS, KOCH BONI, MAZZOTTI Assistants
Cab. Du Président		
Cab. Du Secrétaire Général		
Generaldirektorat Generaldirektion Γενική Διεύθυνση Directorate-General Dirección general Direction générale Direzione generale Directoraat-generaal Direcção general Contrôle financier Service juridique Pääosasto Generaldirektorat	I II III IV V VI VII	
Udvalgssekretariatet Ausschubsekretariat Γραμματεία επιτροπής Committee secretariat Secretaria de la comisión Secrétariat de la commission Segretariato della commissione Commissiesecretariaat Secretaria de comissão Valiokunnan sihteeristö Utskottssekretariatet		MARTINEZ GUILLEN HERDIES, AZPURI LEJARDI
Assist./Βοηθός		

* (P) = Formand/Pres./Πρόεδρος/Chairman/President/Voorzitter/Puhemies/Ordförande

(VP) = Næstform./Vize-Pres./?ντιπρόεδρος/Vice-Chairman/Vice-President/Ondervoorz./Vice-pres/Varapuhemies/Vice ordförande.

(M) = Medlem./Mitglied/Μέλος/Member/Miembro/Membre/Membro/Lid/Membro/Jasen/Ledamot

(F) = Tjenestemand/Beamter/Υπάλληλος/Official/Funcionario/Fonctionnaire/Funzionario/Ambtenaar/Functionario/Virkamies/Tjänsteman

PARLAMENTO EUROPEO

DELEGACIÓN EN LA COMISIÓN PARLAMENTARIA MIXTA UE-MEXICO

Iª Reunión de la Comisión Parlamentaria Mixta UE-Mexico

Miércoles 28 y Jueves 29 de septiembre de 2005

Estrasburgo

Lista de Participantes

CÁMARA DE SENADORES.

- Sen. **Fernando MARGÁIN BERLANGA** (PAN)
Presidente Comisión de Relaciones Exteriores
- Sen. **César CAMACHO QUIROZ** (PRI) *
Presidente de la Comisión de Federalismo y de Desarrollo Municipal
- Sen. **Sadot SÁNCHEZ CARREÑO** (PRI)
Presidente de la Comisión de Derechos Humanos
- Sen. **Carlos MEDINA PLACENCIA** (PAN) *
Presidente de la Comisión de Organismos Internacionales

CÁMARA DE DIPUTADOS

- Dip. **Carlos JIMÉNEZ MACÍAS** (PRI)
Secretario de la Comisión de Relaciones Exteriores
- Dip. **Carlos FLORES RICO** (PRI)
Secretario de la Comisión de Desarrollo Social
- Dip. **Homero DÍAZ RODRÍGUEZ** (PRI) *
Integrante de la Comisión de Relaciones Exteriores
- Dip. **Sergio PENAGOS GARCIA** (PAN) *
Integrante de la Comisión de Justicia y Derechos Humanos
- Dip. **Gustavo de UNANUE AGUIRRE** (PAN)
Secretario de la Comisión de Relaciones Exteriores
- Dip. **Jorge MARTÍNEZ RAMOS** (PRD)
Integrante de la Comisión de MERCOSUR
- Dip. **Juan José GARCÍA OCHOA** (PRD)
Integrante de la Comisión de Relaciones Exteriores

SECRETARÍA

- Dra. Maria Amparo CANTO
- Lic. Maria Rosa LÓPEZ
- Sr. Jorge ALVAREZ

MISIÓN DE MEXICO ANTE LA UNIÓN EUROPEA

S.E. Sra Maria Lourdes DIECK ASSAD, Embajadora
Sra. Blanca VILLARELLO. Ministro

Sra. Lorena LARIOS, Consejera
Sr. Genaro ALARCON, Consejero Secretaria de Economia
Sr. Alejandro RODRIGUEZ, Encargado de Prensa