



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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LIMITE

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"I/A" ITEM NOTE

from: Political and Security Committee
to: Coreper/Council
Subject: Draft Council conclusions on the EU-Mexico Strategic Partnership

1. By a letter of 4 April 2008 the Mexican authorities put forward their suggestion that bilateral relations be extended by means of a strategic partnership. In mid-July the Commission submitted a communication agreeing to this suggestion (11947/08).
2. Giving its approval to the outcome of the discussions in the Working Party on Latin America (COLAT/AMLAT), the PSC agreed to advise the Permanent Representatives Committee to recommend that the Council adopt the annexed draft Council conclusions at the meeting of the GAERC on 13 October.

Draft Council conclusions on the EU-Mexico strategic partnership

The Council welcomes the communication from the Commission entitled: "Towards an EU-Mexico Strategic Partnership" proposing the strengthening of relations between the EU and Mexico.

1. The Council notes that since 1960 the European Union and Mexico have maintained unbroken relations which have been constantly consolidated and deepened. It notes that the EU and Mexico are tied by a global and ambitious Economic Partnership, Political Coordination and Cooperation Agreement that was signed in 1997 and entered into force in 2000. The Agreement constitutes a preferential framework for deepening bilateral relations in the political, trade and cooperation areas. The Council has further observed that on a political level a sustained dialogue has been established between the two Parties, in particular by regularly holding bilateral Summits, Joint Council meetings at ministerial level and Joint Committee meetings in the framework of the Association Agreement. The Council welcomes the fact that, in the economic area, the European Union is the second trading partner of Mexico and the second foreign investor in that country.
2. Based on this, the Council considers that the time has now come to enter a new stage as this will enable the EU to fully enhance its special relations with a State that shares similar values and principles and exerts growing influence on the global scene.
3. The Council further notes that this key country shares the EU's commitment to the principles of human rights, democracy and the rule of law . It notes with satisfaction that political changeover at the head of the State has consolidated democratic life. Mexico has moreover become a party to most international instruments on the promotion and respect of human rights, including the rights of indigenous peoples. The Council underlines the efforts made by Mexico to meet the requirements set by those instruments. It encourages Mexico to continue on this path with a view to securing their full implementation and strengthening governance and respect for human rights throughout its territory.

4. The Council recalls that the European Union and Mexico share the same commitment to an effective multilateral system, the keystone of which is the United Nations. It observes that Mexican support for multilateralism is apparent notably at financial level through Mexico's contribution to the United Nations budget, the tenth largest contribution at global level. Mexico's and the European Union's commitment towards multilateralism should contribute to the development of a fruitful partnership in international fora.
5. The Council also acknowledges Mexico's growing role on the global scene. It recalls that Mexico is the only Latin American member of the OECD, that it takes part in the Heiligendamm Process within the G5 and is one of the major economic powers in Latin America, a region in which it exerts far-reaching influence. The Council underlines the strategic positioning of Mexico between North America and Latin America which makes Mexico the link between these two regional entities and enables it to play a growing role in working out the international community's responses to global challenges. The Council welcomes Mexico's contribution to bringing closer together the positions of developed countries and emerging powers.
6. The Council therefore subscribes to the Commission's recommendation aimed at establishing a strategic partnership between the European Union and Mexico. The Council considers that this partnership should primarily be implemented in the existing legal and institutional framework established by the Association Agreement and which has proved both relevant and effective.
7. The Council considers that the strengthening of the relationship between the EU and Mexico should help deepen the strategic partnership between the EU and Latin America by facilitating the search for a consensus at regional level. In the Council's view, the principal objective of the strategic partnership between the EU and Mexico should be to jointly promote their values and common interests on the global scene. The partnership should in particular help both parties strengthen their dialogue and cooperation in international fora on crisis situations and global challenges. Finally, the Council believes that the partnership will give renewed impetus

to cooperation between the two parties in many areas including those of peace and security, the fight against terrorism, organised crime and illicit drugs as well as arms and human trafficking, human rights, social cohesion, migration and regional integration, sustainable development, environmental protection and the fight against climate change.

