



## **Report from the 1st round of negotiations for modernising the trade pillar of the EU-Mexico Global Agreement**

*13-14 June 2016, Brussels*

The EU and Mexico met in Brussels on 13-14 June 2016 to start the negotiation process for the modernisation of the EU-Mexico Global Agreement.

A Joint Opening Session took place between the chief negotiators of both sides on all pillars (political, trade and cooperation) of the negotiation. The EU and Mexico expressed their strong commitment to the process and to ensuring an efficient negotiation with a view to moving forward rapidly.

As regards trade matters, discussions on all issues took place in a positive and productive atmosphere between chief negotiators and at expert level. This resulted in agreement on a number of practical issues related to the organisation of the negotiation process and allowed establishing contacts and building trust between Chiefs as well as between lead negotiators in all areas to be included in the negotiations. The discussions on substance on trade issues took place on the background of the preparatory technical discussions between the EU and Mexico carried out in 2014 and 2015. The programme of the discussions is attached.

### **The result of the discussions on specific issues can be summarised as follows.**

Trade in goods: both sides agreed to provide the necessary factual and practical information on trade data (e.g. reference period, base rate).

Sanitary and phytosanitary measures (SPS): the EU underlined the need to achieve an ambitious result as well as the need for progress on the implementation of the existing Agreement so as to establish the basis for a constructive negotiation process.

Technical barriers to trade (TBT)/regulatory coherence: both sides agreed on aiming at an ambitious chapter building on WTO Agreement provisions and recently concluded FTAs of each side.

Small and medium-sized enterprises (SME): there was agreement on the need to elaborate provisions which will maximise benefits and trading opportunities for SMEs on both sides.

Public procurement: the EU recalled the need for an approach based on reciprocity and to include commitments sub-central level in this chapter.

Services and investment: both sides expressed their wish for an ambitious approach which would build on the achievements of TiSA. The EU also explained how it intended to pursue its new approach on investment protection.

Trade facilitation and rules of origin: both sides shared a common understanding of reaching a high level of ambition building on the content of the WTO-TFA.

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Trade and sustainable development: both sides agreed that the chapter on this issue in the new agreement would need to take into account all relevant and latest developments. In this respect, the EU referred to the “Trade for All” Communication, while Mexico referred to its experiences under the TPP.

Intellectual property rights (IPR - including geographical indications): the EU referred to the need for an ambitious outcome and to address both IPR protection and enforcement in a suitable manner and Mexico expressed readiness to consider the EU's proposals.

Competition: Mexico took note of the EU's explanations on its approach on competition related issues, including on subsidies and State-owned enterprises.

Trade remedies: Mexico took note of the EU's ambitions for the modernised Agreement to clarify and achieve value added on the basis of existing provisions.

Anticorruption: the EU underlined the importance (as highlighted in the “Trade for All” Communication) of addressing this issue in a suitable manner and its ongoing reflections on how best to proceed. Mexico expressed readiness to discuss this issue with the EU and referred also to what had been achieved in TPP.

Mediation: Mexico took note of the explanations of the EU and expressed readiness to consider EU proposals.

In the Joint Closing Session both sides expressed satisfaction with the results of the round and agreed to continue the follow-up work on all issues with a view to prepare the next round, which will take place in Mexico in the Autumn on a date to be determined.

[More information about the trade relation between the EU and Mexico](#)

Annexes: Joint press release and programme for the meeting on 13-14 June.

**ANNEX I: Joint Press release on the first round of EU-Mexico negotiations of the Global Agreement**

[http://eeas.europa.eu/statements-eeas/2016/160614\\_03\\_en.htm](http://eeas.europa.eu/statements-eeas/2016/160614_03_en.htm)

Delegations of the European Union and Mexico met in Brussels 13-14 June for the first round of negotiations to update the Economic Partnership, Political Coordination and Cooperation Agreement (Global Agreement), which entered into force in 2000.

Since then, the international context has changed significantly, resulting in the need to reinforce our bilateral framework and strengthen the strategic partnership in all areas.

The opening of negotiations for the modernisation of the EU-Mexico Global Agreement constitutes an important step in this sense. It is notably crucial to adapt EU-Mexico relations to the new realities of global trade and investment policies and flows, strengthen political dialogue and increase cooperation and coordination on foreign policy issues to better respond to the shared global challenges of a new modern world, from security threats, to migration, the fight against epidemics and climate change.

Mexico and the EU agreed to take advantage of the opportunity to innovate in the design of a multidimensional framework that both promotes bilateral, regional, bi-regional and triangular cooperation arrangements and contributes to the new international development cooperation architecture under the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Addis Ababa Agenda.

In the area of trade and investment, the modernisation of the Global Agreement will build on what has been covered in the most recent EU and Mexican bilateral trade agreements with a view to securing better rules for all and the highest possible level of liberalisation.

During this round, the delegations focused on working methods and organisation of work, but engaged also in a first exchange on the content of the modernised agreement.

Given the positive talks in all areas, the Parties agreed to work inter-sessionally to prepare the second negotiating round to be held in Mexico City as soon as possible, in the autumn of 2016. Both sides are strongly committed to achieving swiftly the objective of creating an updated framework with tangible benefits for all 625 million Europeans and Mexicans.

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**ANNEX II: Programme for the meeting on 13-14 June**

<b>Monday 13 June</b>		
09:00 – 10:00	BERL S7	<b>Joint opening session</b>
10:15 – 10:30	CHAR 6/31	General matters related to the trade and investment pillar
10:30 – 11:00	CHAR 6/31	Trade in goods
11:00 – 11:30	CHAR 6/31	SPS
11:30 – 12:00	CHAR 6/31	TBT
12:00 – 12:30	CHAR 6/31	Regulatory coherence
12:30 – 13:00	CHAR 6/31	SMEs
13:15 – 14:45		Lunch
15:00 – 15:45	CHAR 6/31	Services
15:45 – 16:15	CHAR 6/31	Investment
16:15 – 16:45	CHAR 6/31	Investment Court System
16:45 – 17:15	CHAR 6/31	Public procurement
17:15 – 18:00	CHAR 6/31	Rules of origin and trade facilitation (including anti-fraud and budgetary clauses)
<b>Tuesday 14 June</b>		
09:30 – 10:00	CHAR 6/31	Trade and sustainable development
10:00 – 10:30	CHAR 6/31	IPR (including GIs)
10:30 – 11:00	CHAR 6/31	Mediation and dispute settlement
11:00 – 11:30	CHAR 6/31	Competition
11:30 – 12:00	CHAR 6/31	Trade remedies
12:00 – 12:30	CHAR 6/31	Anti-corruption
12:45 – 14:15		Lunch
14:30 – 15:00	Borschette 4C	<b>Joint closing session</b>