

**"Implicaciones del Nuevo Tratado de Lisboa de la  
Unión Europea"**  
Programa de Estudios Sobre la Unión Europea de la  
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11 de Febrero 2010

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Dear professors and students,  
Ladies and Gentlemen.

**Introduction: deepening/widening**

- Thank organisers for this very timely conference, and for opportunity to have the possibility to address the Lisbon Treaty.
- Timely event because:
  - 2010 - we at the start of the implementation of a new Treaty, that is a milestone in the history of the EU.

- 2010 - because also 2010 is a mile stone in the relationship between the EU and Mexico (implementation of the Strategic Partnership; celebration of 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary Global Agreement, 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of EU-Mexico diplomatic relations; first Summit)

Stress that Mexico is the only country in Latin America with which the EU has and a Global Agreement, and a Strategic Partnership.

- There is a clear link between Lisbon Treaty and the external relations of the EU with strategic partners, such as with Mexico that I would like to explain.
- Question: Why did we need a new Treaty in the first place? The reason is simple:

The previous Treaties were designed for a much smaller Union. Several speakers has said it already, but it cannot be stressed enough: the Union has nearly doubled its seize over the last years.

A Union with 15 Member states, is not the same ass 27 Member States, and most probably we are at the end of the enlargement process. We would have been a lame duck, if we would have to continue with the existing rules and Treaties.

Also, when the EU was created, we were not facing current challenges such as:

- Climate Change
- global economic / financial crisis
- energy security
- migration
- fighting against international organised crime

In order to tackle these problems - which is our duty to do so in cooperation with partners such as Mexico -, the only way was to improve the way the EU was functioning.

- Hence, the purpose of the Lisbon Treaty, is:

1. To make the EU **more democratic**:

A stronger role for the national parliaments and the European Parliament

2. More **efficient**:

More simplified decision making (more decisions taken by majority)

3. More **transparent**,

Lisbon Treaty establishes a clear list of competences, between the EU and the national level. It shows clearly who does do what.

4. **More united and visible on the world stage:**

**To give Europe a clearer, stronger, single voice in the world.**

**Allow me to elaborate on this aspect – one of the major changes / achievements of the Lisbon Treaty – namely A STRONGER, CLEARER, SINGLE, VOICE of the EU in the WORLD:**

**EU as an international actor**

- The EU has become a global actor present in the international arena (where once only states operated).
- The EU is already now :
  - The world' strongest commercial power
  - The biggest aid donor in the developing world.
  - Promoting the values of the EU in the world
- The Lisbon Treaty gives the EU a stronger foundation to the principles on which the EU acts:
  - Democracy
  - The Rule of Law
  - The protection of Human Rights.
  - Respect of human dignity.
  - The principles of equality and solidarity (eradication of poverty).

I want to stress that these principles are **principles also shared by Mexico**. This is the reason why it was decided in 2008, to have a Strategic Partnership.

- A key innovation of the Lisbon Treaty, is the creation of a High Representative of the EU – responsible for Foreign Affairs and Security. Can be compared with the function of a Minister of Foreign Affairs (Ms Espinosa), but at EU level.
- The High Representative is Ms Ashton.
- She will represent the European Union abroad.
- Why is this an innovation ?:

Because before, this function was dealt with by different personalities. Having only one EU Foreign Minister, will ensure that our aid, trade, development and other foreign policies, all pull in the same direction.

- In other words, Catherine Ashton will play the fundamental role of ensuring coherence in external action. Such coherence is needed to address the latest global challenges of our times.
  - A fundamental role in raising the EU's profile in the world. Ensure that Europe has a clearer voice.

- A fundamental role in “putting a face” on the Union, in promoting the “common European interest”.
- The new Treaty will simplify the face of the EU for the rest of the world.
- Example: We have to admit that our current arrangements are complicated. For example: since President Putin came into power in 2000, he has been faced with no less than 16 EU Presidencies and two Commission Presidents.
- Such a rapid changing gallery, makes it difficult to stick to a coherent, long term message.
- Under the Lisbon Treaty, when your President will be having a Summit with the EU, he will be meeting with the President of the European Council – M. Van Rompuy and the President of the European Commission. They will represent the EU, with the support of the new High Representative.

It still may sound very complicated, but it is a major improvement. Do not forget, that we the most integrated region in the world, and that these major changes have been unanimously approved – and ratified - by 27 Member States and their parliaments.

- To effectively carry out her mandate, the High Representative/Vice-President will be assisted by the newly created European External Action Service which is composed of officials from the Council, the Commission and the diplomatic services of the Member States.
- Part of the External Service are the EU Delegations.
- Overall, the Lisbon Treaty seeks to make of the EU a **fully fledged actor in international relations**, which will be capable of engaging proactively and in a unitary fashion with other regions and at the multilateral level.

European Integration can be regarded as the most advanced and successful regional integration experience accomplished thus far.

Regardless of its final destiny, Europe will not be the same after the Lisbon Treaty.

I thank you for your attention.