

Seminario "México: en el horizonte entre América del Norte y la Unión Europea"

Co-organizado por el Centro de Investigaciones sobre América del Norte (CISAN) y la Fundación Friedrich Naumann

Conferencia Magistral "Política Europea hacia México"

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13:00 hrs.

1. Introduction

- Doctora Estela Morales
- Maestra Silvia Núñez
- Doctora. Verónica Villarespe
- Licenciado Víctor Becerra

- Dear professors and students,

- First let me take this opportunity to kindly ask Doctora Estela Morales to please transmit to Rector José Narro, my sincere and warmest congratulations for the hundredth anniversary of Mexico's National University UNAM.

- I would specially like to thank the "Centro de Investigaciones sobre América del Norte (CISAN)" and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for organizing this seminar.

- 2010, is truly a year full of celebrations and opportunities!

- Mexico and the European Union are celebrating this year, the **fiftieth anniversary** of the establishment of their **diplomatic relations**.

- Most importantly, we are also celebrating the **tenth anniversary of the EU- Mexico Global Agreement**; an instrument which I consider has become the cornerstone of our relationship.

- And as you know, Mexico and the EU have signed in May this year in Santander, a very ambitious action plan to implement their Strategic Partnership.

2. Global Agreement and Strategic Partnership

- The Global Agreement reflects a **commitment to shared values**, democracy and human rights, and highlights Mexico's rising profile on the international scene.
- It is a **comprehensive instrument** that has resulted in a deepened political dialogue, strong economic, and trade relations, and which has fostered cooperation programmes in a wide range of areas.

2.1 Free Trade Agreement

- The **Free Trade Agreement** is perhaps the best known part of the three components of the Global Agreement,
- The EU-Mexico FTA was one of the most **comprehensive** instruments in the global economy when it entered into force in 2000.
- It covers **trade in goods and services** and has specific chapters on access to public procurement markets, competition, intellectual property rights and investment.
- This instrument has led to a **significant increase** in bilateral trade.
- Trade growth until 2008, before the crisis, was **much higher** between Mexico and the EU than with other trade partners.
- We have had **significant results** for both parties.
- Bilateral trade had grown in approximately **130%** until 2008. **2010 shows a recovery** of the steep downturn in 2009, mainly in imports from the EU.
- We would certainly have not reached those numbers if we had not **counted with an FTA**.
- Regarding **Foreign Direct Investment**, it is important to mention that between 1999 and the beginning of 2010, the **EU FDI** in Mexico represented **34%** of the FDI that Mexico received during that period (around 231 billion US dollars). Mainly in services (52% of total EU Investment) and manufacturing (35%).
- Making the EU, the **second largest source of FDI in Mexico**.
- Overall we believe that the EU- Mexico FTA has **generated very good results** and we look forward to increasing these numbers even more.

2.2 Political Coordination

- I would not like to pass the opportunity to mention the **other two very important** areas of the Global Agreement.

- It is precisely these two areas which make the bilateral agreement **qualitatively different** from any other that Mexico has signed with other counterparts.
- In the area of **Political Coordination** we have gone a long way.
- Not only, have we institutionalised the relationship with **regular high level meetings, and EU- Mexico Summits,**
- But more recently, and as reinforcement to this section of the Agreement, we have started to **implement** the Joint Action Plan that sets the priority areas of the **Strategic Partnership**, signed in 2008.
- I would like to emphasize that Mexico is the only country in Latin America that has both a Global Agreement and a Strategic Partnership,
- One more element which demonstrates the EU's **political commitment** towards Mexico.
- The Strategic Partnership will lead to **closer coordination of positions** on global, regional and bilateral topics on the basis of shared interests and concerns,
- In this regard, **three new bilateral dialogues** were decided at the 2010 EU-Mexico summit, in the areas of human rights, security, and macroeconomics.
- This strengthened coordination with Mexico is very important to us;
- In particular, due to the importance we both give to **multilateralism**, especially now that **Mexico** is playing an **active role** on the international stage.
- Examples of this are Mexico's hosting of several international Fora such as the World Youth Forum, the International Telecommunication Union Conference, Migration and Development Forum and the **COP 16**.
- The EU is actively participating in all of them but I would like to say a few words regarding this last event, due to the special relevance **Climate Change** has for all of our lives.
- We are each day experimenting the catastrophic effects, climate Change is having on our planet. We do not have to look very far. **South Eastern Mexico has been hit especially hard in recent days.**
- Mexico and the EU need to work together in order to secure an **international, legally binding agreement.**
- The Copenhagen conference did not meet all Europe's expectations, but it was an important step forward.
- We need to make progress in Cancun in the form of a series of action-oriented decisions which will pave the way for the post-2012 international framework.
- Of course, such a 'package' has to be balanced. It must reflect the interests and concerns of developed and developing countries alike.
- Mexico, the US and Canada should demonstrate more leadership in tackling emissions from the aviation sector. This is an issue where I am sure Mexico and the EU can make good progress if we work together.

2.3 Cooperation

- To end I would now like to focus in the third area of the Global Agreement, which has to do with **cooperation projects**.
- These are normally co financed in equal shares, between the EU and Mexico.
- We have been working hard to put resources where they are most needed, and with this in mind, three priority areas have been established.
 - Social Cohesion,
 - Sustainable Economy and Competitiveness,
 - and Culture and **Education**.
- EU- Mexico cooperation is wide and varied.
- I could give you many examples of different areas in which cooperation projects have been a success.
- However I will focus on an area which I am sure interests you particularly; the field of **higher education**.
- The EU is very keen to **intensify collaboration** with Mexico in this regard.
- I strongly believe that we can **improve the quality of our systems and boost mobility and cooperation** between our countries through exchanging best practices and engaging in joint reflection on common issues.
- Higher education has become more internationalised, as knowledge goes global.
- The European Commission has for many years supported EU Member States and their higher education institutions in their efforts to internationalise their programmes and strategies and strengthen their global cooperation.
- This trend is supported by the growing number of our **higher education cooperation programmes** around the world;

Erasmus Mundus

- We launched the **Erasmus Mundus** programme in 2004.
- Its purpose is the creation of **European joint masters and doctoral courses** in which non-European institutions, can now participate as full partners.
- The programme also supports the **mobility of students, doctoral candidates and academic staff**.
- More than 100 Masters are currently operating and **13 doctoral programmes** are being created this year.
- I am delighted that **Mexican participation** in the programme **is on the increase**.
- Mexican students applied for the academic year 2009-2010 with a **success rate of 17%** - well above the world average of 7%.

- Mexican partners are currently involved in 10 Erasmus Mundus partnerships. **UNAM is participating in 4 of them.**
- However, I would like to make a call for Mexican higher education institutions to **increase their participation** in the area of **Erasmus Mundus Joint Doctoral Programmes** where Mexican institutions could be more active.

Marie Curie actions

- I also want to draw your attention to our **Marie Curie** actions.
- They are **funding the mobility of researchers**, under the 7th framework research programme.
- These researchers can be based in any research organisation, in universities but also in industry.
- The mobility period can last from a few weeks to a few years,
- Opportunities exist for researchers at **all stages in their career**, from PhD candidates to highly experienced staff.
- We want to encourage host laboratories and individual researchers to apply.
- I understand that your area of specialization is North America, but **I would invite you** to take advantage of the cooperation programmes that we have, to maybe even do some comparative studies!
- It is through **mutual understanding and knowledge** that we can make the **bilateral relationship prosper** even more.

3. Conclusion

- Ladies and gentlemen,
- Europe is a global player pursuing a political vision inspired by its values of freedom, justice and solidarity, and by a **spirit of partnership**.
- It is this spirit which governs our relationship with Mexico.
- We have come a long way, thanks in part, to the Global Agreement.
- I am positive that the **Strategic Partnership** will not let us down and will **serve as an excellent instrument** in our quest for a **stronger and deeper bilateral relationship!**
- Thank you.