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**PRESS RELEASE**

**European Union (EU) Special Representative for Human Rights  
in official visit to Mexico**

Mr. Stavros Lambrinidis, the EU Special Representative for Human Rights is visiting Mexico on 17-19 October 2012. Mr Lambrinidis will co-chair the 3<sup>rd</sup> EU-Mexico high level Dialogue on Human Rights that will take place on October 19 together with the Vice-Minister for Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, Ambassador Juan Manuel Gómez Robledo.

In 2010 the European Union and Mexico adopted an action plan for their Strategic Partnership, which foresees the establishment of a regular High-Level Human Rights Dialogue. Through this Dialogue both parties have the opportunity to deepen the discussion on their respective challenges and experiences in this field, including the exchange of best practices and information, as well as appropriate public policies. Both parties will also evaluate the EU-Mexico bilateral cooperation in Human Rights and examine new possible projects in the field.

In addition, Mr. Lambrinidis will participate to the first EU-Mexico Human Rights Civil Society Seminar which will be held in Mexico City on 18 October 2012. This seminar is primarily intended to promote an exchange of views and best practices between EU-based and Mexican civil society organisations. They will discuss various issues like the implementation of Human Rights' policies, gender violence as well as protection mechanisms for Human Rights defenders and journalists.

The EU Special Representative will have the opportunity to meet with, among others, the President of the Nation's Supreme Court of Justice and the Representative of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in Mexico.

Mr Lambrinidis is the first ever European Union Special Representative for Human Rights and was appointed in July 2012 along with the adoption of the EU Strategic Framework and the Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy. He has a high level experience, commitment and expertise in human rights.

Born in Athens, Mr Lambrinidis is an attorney, a former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Greece and a former Vice-President of the European Parliament. Between 2004 and 2009 he served as Vice-President of the Parliament's Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs Committee. Earlier in his career he was Chairman of the Committee for Human Rights in the Bar Association of Washington, D.C.

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