



Mexico, 24/05/2016

160525_02_en

REMARKS

Remarks by the HR/VP Federica Mogherini at the Joint press conference with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, Claudia Ruiz Massieu

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Querida Claudia [Ruiz Massieu], muchas gracias. Vine a México para reunirme con el Presidente Peña Nieto y la Ministra [de Asuntos Exteriores] mi amiga Claudia [Ruiz Massieu] y anunciar que la UE aprobó ayer el mandato para iniciar negociaciones con México.

La UE y México comenzarán negociaciones el próximo mes, en Junio, sobre un nuevo Acuerdo para responder a las necesidades y aspiraciones compartidas del siglo XXI; un Acuerdo con un diálogo político más fuerte, una cooperación mayor en temas globales y un Acuerdo para abrir nuevas oportunidades para nuestros operadores económicos y nuestros inversionistas.

As you said, more than 40% of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Mexico comes from the European Union and we want to even increase that.

La UE y México son socios en cuestiones globales, en el cambio climático, en la lucha contra el tráfico de drogas, en la necesidad de abordar los flujos migratorios, la lucha contra el crimen organizado y el terrorismo.

Trabajamos juntos en América Latina también. La UE y la Comunidad de Estados de Latino América y del Caribe (CELAC) y la UE y la Comisión Económica Para América Latina y el Caribe (CEPAL) son socios en el desarrollo de una relación bi-regional fuerte. La UE fomenta la integración regional en América Latina como un instrumento importante para la paz, la democracia y el crecimiento inclusivo y sostenible. Tenemos una prioridad compartida: los derechos humanos. Los derechos humanos son parte de las relaciones que la UE tiene con México. Llevamos a cabo frecuentes diálogos sobre los derechos humanos con una activa participación de la sociedad civil y muy pronto, en junio también, tendremos otro diálogo sobre los derechos humanos en México. En la UE seguimos la evolución de la investigación de la desaparición de los estudiantes de Iguala. Saludamos la iniciativa del gobierno mexicano para invitar a una misión de investigación internacional independiente y alentamos a que las recomendaciones de su último informe sean puestas en aplicación en estrecha colaboración con las familias de las víctimas.

If I can add something in English. I understand that there have been encouraging developments in this respect in the last days.

También llevaremos a cabo entre la UE y México un diálogo de alto nivel sobre la seguridad y la justicia. La reunión, mañana, es una oportunidad para encaminar nuestra cooperación y entablar un diálogo profundo sobre la seguridad ciudadana, la lucha contra el narcotráfico, el terrorismo y los delitos cibernéticos.

To wrap up in a few words, the agreement we are going to negotiate and upgrade is a global agreement, not only because Mexico and the EU are important global actors and strong partners, but also because the scope of our partnership is somehow global. It covers so many aspects and it is so important for all our people that we perfectly understand that we need to bring it to this century. And this is exactly what we are going to do from next month, starting negotiations that I am sure will allow us to increase and deepen our cooperation in an even more beneficial way for both the people of Mexico and the people of Europe.

I thank you very much, I do not repeat all the wonderful things you said, also in this we are partners, we don't need to duplicate. But indeed you covered all the aspects of our excellent cooperation in such a wonderful way. This also shows the strong identity that we share.

Thank you very much.

Questions and Answers

Question on Human Rights situation in Mexico

Human Rights, Rule of Law are a fundamental part of our common work and our dialogue, in our common action in the world, because, as Claudia was rightly mentioning, we share values, and we share a common global action for the promotion of Human Rights. We discussed in particular the issue of Gender Rights. We share a lot of common activities on the promotion and defence of Human Rights on the global scene. Human Rights are also part of our bilateral work and dialogue. As we mentioned, we are going to have the second round of Human Rights dialogue in June, we had a very good one already, and as partners and friends, we discuss all issues on the table, in a very frank way, in a very open way, with a constructive approach. As I mentioned, I am very encouraged by the news that I received in the last days regarding the work on a follow-up mechanism that was done. We trust that the 22 recommendations will be taken into serious consideration and that this mechanism can be put in place soon, in consultation with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. Let me also add that I am very much encouraged by the Human Rights reforms and the implementation of these reforms that I know the administration is carrying on with the parliament in these weeks.

Question on the roadmap for the negotiations for the Global Agreement

First of all, we will start negotiations. It would be a little bit strange to announce the end date before we start the negotiations. However, the fact that I can be here today, 24 hours after having received the mandate from the EU Council [of Ministers] to start negotiations, announcing not only the fact that we have the mandate, but also that we decided to start the first round already next month, gives you a sense of the rhythm we want to keep and we want to establish in these negotiations. It will not be a lazy one, I put it like this.

We decided that we will put all our political will to make sure that our teams, and our chief negotiators meet also today. I am travelling here today accompanied by the European one, who will enter into these rounds with the clear intention of proceeding at the maximum speed. Obviously the quality of the content of the negotiation is the most important thing, but we know very well that with enough political will, we can not only enter the negotiations but also conclude the negotiations in a reasonable time framework.

When it comes to the content, as Claudia [Ruiz Massieu] was mentioning, it will cover different aspects, as do all the new generation's agreements that the European Union is negotiating, or has been negotiating, in these last years. That's the case for Canada, or the United States of America. It's only natural that we do the same kind of exercise with Mexico, which, as I said, is a key strategic partner for us. This means it will cover the aspects of our economic relations, trade, investments, as well as foreign policy, and our global engagement on some cooperation on the security aspects. We are really convinced this will increase even more the level of partnership and cooperation, not only of the institutions, but also of our people. Because what makes our partnership so strong is the ties that our people, our entrepreneurs, our students, our civil society - and I could continue, the list would be long - have among each other. Claudia [Ruiz Massieu] was mentioning the numbers. The fact that since the entry into force of the free trade agreement, in 15 years, trade between the EU and Mexico increased over 230% and EU investments reached \$156bn USD tells you what we have already achieved under the previous agreement. On this solid basis, I could only expect something even more important for our people, for our economies, for our democracies, and also for our regions and, let me say, also for the state of the world, because, when you are strong partners working together, you also have a better network of alliances and partnerships that connect with each other. This is useful also for the multipolar global order that we aim at.

Video:

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

Catherine Ray +32 (0)498 96 99 21 - +32 (0)2 296 99 21 - Catherine.Ray@ec.europa.eu - [@CatherineEUspox](#)

Maja Kocijancic +32 (0)498 984 425 - +32 (0)2 298 65 70 - Maja.Kocijancic@ec.europa.eu - [@MajaEUspox](#)

Sharon Zarb +32 2 (0)460 792 256 - +32 (0)2 29 92256 - Sharon.Zarb@ec.europa.eu