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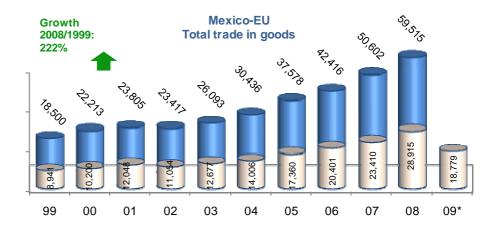


# 9th meeting of the Joint Committee Mexico-European Union

he ninth meeting of the Joint Committee established under the Mexico – European Union (EU) Economic Partnership, Political Coordination and Cooperation Agreement (Global Agreement) was held in Brussels on 26 – 27 November 2009.

The meeting reviewed the progress of the three elements of the Global Agreement: political dialogue, cooperation and trade. Additionally, both Parties took stock of the progress achieved on an executive plan for the implementation of the Strategic Partnership between Mexico and the EU.

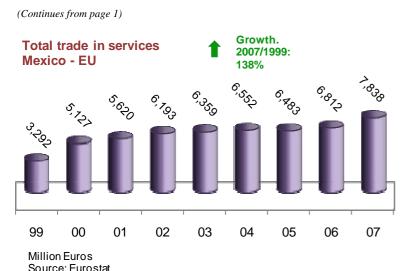
With respect to trade, both delegations agreed on the positive results that the Mexico – EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA) has brought. Since its entry into force in 2000, trade has grown to more than 59 billion USD (40 billion Euros) in 2008, which represents a growth rate of more than 220 percent. It was also reported that during the first half of 2009, both bilateral trade (in goods and services) and foreign direct investment have also shown a positive trend, despite the international economic crisis.



Million USD Source: Bank of Mexico and Euro stat

\*January-June

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Billion USD

Source: Ministry of the Economy of Mexico

The Parties also presented the negotiation processes and strategies they are carrying out with different countries and regions towards further regional integration.

Regarding the multilateral framework, Mexico and the EU reiterated their determination to conclude the negotiations on the Doha Development Agenda in 2010, as well as their commitment to an ambitious, comprehensive and balanced agreement.

Both Parties assessed the results of the FTA's Special Committees meetings, particularly in the areas of rules of origin and customs cooperation, technical standards, sanitary and phytosanitary measures, government procurement, intellectual property and steel products. They instructed their technical experts to continue working on pending issues.

Mexico and the EU expressed their satisfaction towards the conclusion of the adaptation process of the FTA due to the accession of Bulgaria and Romania to the EU, through the adoption of Decision 3/2008 of the Joint Council regarding trade in services.

Both delegations examined the state of play of the FTA review clauses on agriculture, services and investment. They reported on the consultations and informal meetings at the technical level that took place during 2009 and reiterated their determination to advance in those processes. Mexico reiterated its eagerness to negotiate a comprehensive, unique and ambitious chapter on investment once the Treaty of Lisbon enters into force.

In the field of bilateral economic cooperation, both Parties reviewed the progress achieved in current projects in which Mexico and the EU are working together.

In particular, they took stock of the Integral Program for Assistance to Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (PIAPYME) which is on closure procedure. The general objective of this program is to strengthen economic, trade and business relations between Mexico and the EU, particularly competitiveness and export capacity of Mexican SMEs.

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Mexico's Total Trade in October (billion US\$)					
	2008	2009	%		
Total	52.1	43.9	-15.8		
Exports	24.4	22.0	-9.9		
Exports (excluding oil)	21.1	18.8	-10.8		
Imports	27.7	21.9	-21.0		

Source: Banco de México	
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Mexico's Trade with EU and EFTA (million US\$)					
January - October	2008	2009	%		
Exports to the EU	15,324.1	9,258.0	-39.6		
Imports from the EU	33,264.4	22,031.2	-33.8		
Exports to the EFTA	552.7	398.7	-27.9		
Imports from the EFTA	1,503.6	1,143.8	-23.9		

Source: Banco de México

<sup>\*</sup> January-September

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(Continues from page 2)

On the Mexico – EU Trade Facilitation Program (PROTLCUEM), it has further advanced with the signature, in June 2009, of its 2<sup>nd</sup> Addendum, allowing the project activities to be extended until December 2011. Its objective is to support Mexico in its efforts to enhance competitiveness and further the economic, commercial and business relations between the two Parties, specifically through the optimal implementation of the FTA.

In another issue relevant for the bilateral economic relation, Mexico and the EU welcomed the Third Forum "Dialogue between the Civil Society and Institutions of the Mexican Government and the EU" which took place in November 2008 in Brussels, as a privileged space for dialogue and consultation with civil society. Both delegations look forward to the Fourth Forum which is going to be organized in Mexico City during fall in 2010.

At the end of the session, the Parties agreed that the next Joint Committee meeting will take place in the second half of 2010 in Mexico.

For more information regarding bilateral trade relations between Mexico and the EU, please visit:

www.economia-bruselas.be

http://ec.europa.eu/trade/creating-opportunities/bilateral-relations/countries/mexico/



#### Trade Fairs and exhibits in Mexico

**ESPACIO SEDE DEL REGALO** 

**January 12 – 15, 2010** 

**Mexico city, Mexico** 

Gifts and decoration

**Event Management**: Grupo Salpro

**Phone:** (52) 55 5276-6380 **Fax** (52) 55 55 5273-1454

Website: www.espaciosalpro.com

XVI FERIA INTERNACIONAL DEL MUEBLE,

**MEXICO 2010** 

**January 20 – 23, 2010** 

**Centro Banamex, Mexico City** 

Furniture, machinery, and tools for the furni-

ture industry

**Event Management:** Expo Mobiliario **Phone:** (52) 55 1346-9055 / 1346-9056

**E-mail:** mobiliario@mobiliario.com **Website:** www.mobiliario.com.mx

**ENART** 

February 16 - 20, 2010

Centro Cultural "El Refugio" Tlaquepaque,

Jalisco. Mexico

Gifts and Mexican decorative crafts expo

Event Management: Cámara Nacional de

Comercio de Tlaquepaque **Phone:** (52) 33 3635-4035 **Fax** (52) 33 3635-2162 **E-mail:** info@enart.com.mx

Website: www.enart.com.mx

#### **Mexico's Economic Indicators**

Inflation rate: 0.52% (November, 2009); 3.86 % (2009, annual) Industrial Gross Domestic Product: -5.7% (Sep. 2009 / Sep. 2008) Manufacturing: -8.4%; Construction: -7.3%, Mining: 3.1%

General Index of Economic Activity: -5.5% (Sept. 2009 /Sept. 2008)

Consumer Confidence Index: 78.2 pts. (November 2009) -6.8 percentage points (November 2009 / November 2008)

Open unemployment rate: 5.94 % (Oct. 2009) Source: INEGI

#### **Mexico's Financial Indicators**

Foreign exchange rate: 12.98 peso/dollar (Dec. 9, 2009)

International reserves: \$81,646 million dollars (Dec. 4, 2009)

Mexican stock market index (IPC): 31,670 (Dec. 9, 2009)

Interest rate treasury bonds CETES 28 days:

4.48 % (December 10, 2009)

Source: Banco de Mexico

#### Mexico's Official Gazette Notices

- **04/11/2009** Final decision of the panel concerning the review of the final resolution of the antidumping investigation on imports of apples of the variety red delicious and its mutations, and golden delicious, from the United States of America, regardless of the shipping country. This product is classified under tariff item 0808.10.01 of the General Imports and Exports Tariff Law.
- 11/11/2009 Notice concerning the validity of countervailing duties.
- 13/11/2009 Sixteenth modification to the Agreement through which the Ministry of Economy issues the rules and general criteria concerning foreign trade.
- **20/11/2009** Final resolution of the validity exam of the countervailing duties imposed on imports of polyester terephtalate from the Republic of Korea, regardless of the shipping country. This product is classified under tariff items 5503.20.01, 5503.20.02, 5503.20.03 and 5503.20.99 of the General Imports and Exports Tariff Law.
- **26/11/2009** Resolution declaring *ex officio* the beginning of the validity exam for the countervailing duties imposed on imports of some nails of steel for concrete from the People's Republic of China, regardless of the shipping country. This product is classified under tariff item 7317.00.99 of the General Imports and Exports Tariff Law.
- **30/11/2009** Agreement establishing the Operational Guidelines for the granting of aids from the Reconversion Fund of the Productive Sectors of the Textile, Clothing, Footwear and Toy Industries (Reconversion fund) for the fiscal exercise 2009.

#### **EU Official Journal**

- 11/11/2009 L294 Council Decision of 26 October 2009 concerning the conclusion of the Protocol amending the Agreement on maritime transport between the European Community and its Member States, of the one part, and the Government of the People's Republic of China, of the other part.
- **26/11/2009 L311** Commission Regulation (EC) No 1135/2009 of 25 November 2009 imposing special conditions governing the import of certain products originating in or consigned from China, and repealing Commission Decision 2008/798/EC.
- 28/11/2009 L313 Commission Regulation (EC) No 1151/2009 of 27 November 2009 imposing special conditions
  governing the import of sunflower oil originating in or consigned from Ukraine due to contamination risks by mineral oil and repealing Decision 2008/433/EC.
- 28/11/2009 L313 Council Decision of 20 October 2009 on the signing and conclusion of an Agreement in the form
  of an Exchange of Letters between the European Community and the State of Israel concerning reciprocal liberalisation measures on agricultural products, processed agricultural products and fish and fishery products, the replacement of Protocols 1 and 2 and their Annexes and amendments to the Euro-Mediterranean Agreement establishing an association between the European Communities and their Member States, of the one part, and the State
  of Israel, of the other part.

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