



Foreign Secretary Patricia Espinosa Makes an Official Visit to the United Kingdom

In order to further develop Mexico's ties with the United Kingdom, Patricia Espinosa, the Mexican Secretary of Foreign Affairs, made an official visit to London. During her stay Secretary Espinosa held talks with her British counterpart, Sir William Hague and the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, Sir Chris Huhne. She also delivered a keynote speech at the invitation of the Royal Institute of International Affairs.

During her meeting with Foreign Secretary Hague at the British Foreign Office, Secretary Espinosa emphasised the excellent degree of cooperation reached between both countries in both bilateral and multilateral issues. The two officials discussed Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg's visit to Mexico in March as well as the agreements reached by President Felipe Calderón and Prime Minister David Cameron during their recent meeting at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

Also highlighted were the outstanding joint Mexico- UK efforts on sustainable development, especially within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding for Dialogue on Sustainable Development. Espinosa and Hague also agreed to further strengthen the accords reached at the Cancun Conference (COP16) so that their results may serve as a benchmark for the next meeting in Durban, South Africa.

The two Foreign Secretaries also reviewed the topics discussed during the 15th meeting of the Bilateral Consultation Mechanism in 2010. Matters given special attention included free trade, financing for development, security and justice, human rights, the G20, as well as the reform of international financial institutions and the United Nations.

On economic matters, they agreed to implement national strategies to promote trade and investment in the automotive, energy, biotechnology, nanotechnology and financial services sectors. Both countries are already important commercial associates; the United Kingdom is Mexico's 14th-largest trading partner and its 5th most important in the European Union as well as the third greatest EU source of investment in Mexico. To build on these strengths and boost commercial ties between the two countries, a Mexican Chamber of Commerce was opened in the United Kingdom on 23 June. This new organisation will assist with the identification of business opportunities in both countries.

Prospects for the continued revitalization of bilateral trade through the Mexico-UK Business Forum and the Joint Plan between ProMéxico and its counterpart, UK Trade and Investment, were also analysed. Tourism also figured on the diplomats' agenda; the UK is Mexico's third largest source of tourists after the United States and Canada. Consequently, the two officials discussed ways in which Mexico could diversify its resorts and broaden its appeal to a greater range of British travellers.

Regarding regional and multilateral affairs, Espinosa and Hague exchanged views on their respective countries' initiatives in a range of fields including: the UN Security Council, international security, human rights, current events in North Africa and the Middle East, the Millennium Development Goals and global governance. Concerning the G20, Foreign Minister Hague stated that he supported Mexico's upcoming presidency of the group in 2012.

As part of her visit, Foreign Secretary Espinosa also met with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change, Chris Huhne, with whom she discussed the environmental policies of both countries and their support for sustainable development programs in the EU, Latin America and the Caribbean.

In addition to her diplomatic talks and at the invitation of the prestigious Royal Institute of International Affairs, Secretary Espinosa delivered a keynote speech at the conference "COP16: Results and Prospects" held at Chatham House. She also met with representatives of the British media to discuss a range of issues.