



JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON MEXICO - TURKEY RELATIONS

Mexican Council on Foreign Relations

Turkish Asian Center for Strategic Studies

During two days, experts from the Turkish Asian Center for Strategic Studies (TASAM) and the Mexican Council on Foreign Relations (COMEXI) analyzed and debated several issues regarding the Mexico-Turkey relationship, with a focus on areas that offer special opportunities for a stronger collaboration.

In recognition of their role as groundbreaking players in the intellectual and policy realm, COMEXI and TASAM are committed to stimulate a well-informed and positive dialogue that helps to take better advantage of the potentials for collaboration between Turkey and Mexico.

Both institutions acknowledged that the visit of President Enrique Peña Nieto to Turkey in December 2013 was a historic moment in the bi-lateral relationship and that it offers a great opportunity for both countries to come effectively together. They emphasized the need to have a concrete agenda that follows up on the “Turkey-Mexico Strategic Cooperation and Partnership Framework for the 20st Century” signed by President Abdullah Gül and President Enrique Peña Nieto.

Experts from both institutions considered essential that the understanding and collaboration go beyond governments and involve universities, business communities in both countries and society in general. They strongly recommended not missing the current momentum to advance relations, by defining clear priorities in the agenda.

During their discussions, specialists from TASAM and COMEXI agreed that there are plenty of similarities between the two countries going from the cultural heritage to the shared values and objectives in the global system. Common belongings, such as to the OECD and to the G20, offer opportunities for cooperation and dialogue also. They considered that difficulties such as language and distance can be transcended.

The participants in the dialogue analyzed the role of Mexico and Turkey as regional powers. They also examined the current political contexts in both countries. They put emphasis on the possibility of signing a Free Trade Agreement, as it could be the catalyst to deepen the relation.

The specialists debated the challenges that both countries are facing in their energy sectors, being the implementing legislation of reforms the case of Mexico while Turkey’s challenge is given by a complex energy mix and dependence on imported energy resources. They also concluded that both countries have a general common view on the G20 agenda. Besides, experts on security affairs reviewed both countries security contexts and challenges.

Additionally, the participants analyzed both countries’ foreign policy agendas with a view on the recent MIKTA initiative that gathers them together with Indonesia, South Korea and Australia. In this last respect, they recommended to fill the acronym with content so that it becomes a real tool of coordination of the five countries to have an impact on the international debate, based upon the multiple commonalities that already exist amongst them.

Both institutions, COMEXI and TASAM, agreed to continue their the collaboration to strengthen mutual understanding between Mexico and Turkey and in that way helping to improve and advance the bi-lateral relationship.

Mexico City, June 24th, 2014