

**JOINT DECLARATION**

**of**

**Mr. Ján Figel'**

**Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth of the  
European Commission**

**and**

**Mr. Alonso Lujambio**

**Minister of Public Education of the United Mexican States**

**JOINT DECLARATION**  
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**Mr. Jan Figel', Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth of the  
European Commission**  
and  
**Mr. Alonso Lujambio, Minister of Public Education of the  
United Mexican States**

The European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth, Mr. Ján Figel' and the Minister of Public Education of the United Mexican States, Mr. Alonso Lujambio,

**CONSIDER** that enhancing cooperation and dialogue on education and training is instrumental to improve mutual understanding and to strengthen their respective position with regard to the challenges facing them in an ever-globalising knowledge-based society and economy;

**THEY RECALLED** the Economic Partnership, Political Coordination and Cooperation Agreement between the United Mexican States, of the one part, and the European Community and its Member States, of the other part, signed on 8 December 1997, and in particular the provision on cooperation in the fields of education, training and youth;

**THEY NOTED** that education is one of the focal sectors of the 2007 – 2013 Country Strategy Paper (CSP) for Mexico, which defines on a multiannual basis the principle areas of cooperation between the European Commission and the United Mexican States;

**THEY HIGHLIGHTED** the importance of promoting the use of existing instruments such as Erasmus Mundus (higher education mobility programme) and Alfa (co-operation programme between higher education institutions of the European Union and Latin America) in order to foster the mobility of students, researchers and academic staff and develop links between institutions active in the fields of education and training;

**THEY REFERRED TO** the 4th Mexico – EU Summit of 17 May 2008 in Lima (Peru) and subsequent Mexico-EU Joint Committee Meetings, where the importance of promoting bilateral academic cooperation and the mobility of students, teachers and researchers was highlighted and the relevance of launching a policy dialogue in the field of education was underlined;

**TO FURTHER REINFORCE COOPERATION AND DIALOGUE IN THE FIELDS OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING, THEY JOINTLY DECLARED THE FOLLOWING INTENTION:**

**Paragraph 1:** The European Commission's Directorate General for Education and Culture and the Ministry of Public Education of the United Mexican States , hereinafter referred to as

“both sides”, will set up a sectoral policy dialogue on education and training, which will cover jointly identified issues of common interest, such as:

1. Efficiency and Equity of education systems;
2. Means of promoting the transferability of qualifications and furthering the recognition of non formal learning outcomes;
3. Modernisation of Higher Education – including the Bologna process which aims to create a European Higher Education Area by 2010;
4. Principles and mechanisms for quality assurance in education and training;
5. Performance measurement methods;
6. Participation of young people in society;
7. Vocational education and training.

**Paragraph 2:** The sectoral policy dialogue will consist of regular exchanges of information, knowledge and best practices on the jointly identified themes of common interest. It will be conducted through specific workshops, seminars and/or conferences with the participation of relevant stakeholders and experts. These events could be held annually, alternately in Brussels and in Mexico City or in any other venue agreed by both sides. Joint comparative studies may also be launched on themes of common interest.

**Paragraph 3:** Both sides will jointly set up a work programme for conducting this sectoral policy dialogue. They will regularly review its implementation and discuss avenues for future co-operation. To this end, senior officials from both sides will meet in principle once a year with the venue alternating between Brussels and Mexico City or any other venue agreed by both sides. Other occasional meetings may be held as necessary.

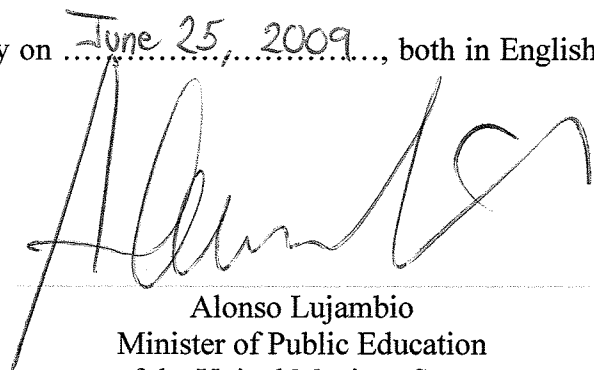
**Paragraph 4:** Both sides will bear their own delegation's costs for participation in events and meetings organised to conduct the sectoral policy dialogue. All other costs linked to the organisation of these senior officials' meetings, seminars, workshops and conferences will be borne by the sides hosting the event, except if agreed otherwise. The costs of the joint studies will also be shared.

The provisions of this Joint Declaration express political intent and are not designed to create rights or obligations under international law.

This Joint Declaration is signed in Mexico City on June 25, 2009, both in English and Spanish, both texts being equally valid.



Ján Figel  
European Commissioner for Education,  
Training, Culture and Youth



Alonso Lujambio  
Minister of Public Education  
of the United Mexican States