

JOINT DECLARATION

of

Mr. Ján Figel'

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

and

Mrs. Consuelo Sáizar

**President of the National Council for the Culture and Arts of the
United Mexican States**

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The European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth, Mr Jan Figel', and the President of the National Council for the Culture and Arts of the United Mexican States, Mrs Consuelo Sáizar,

DECLARE THEIR WILLINGNESS to further strengthen cooperation and dialogue in the field of culture;

THEY ACKNOWLEDGE the crucial contribution of culture towards a harmonious development of societies and mutually enriching exchanges;

THEY CONSIDER that enhancing co-operation and dialogue on culture is instrumental to improve mutual understanding and to establish a genuine intercultural dialogue, as well as a community of views as regards questions of cultural governance at international level;

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 regarding cultural cooperation which provides that "the Parties agree to promote cultural cooperation that duly respects their diversity, in order to increase mutual understanding and the spreading of their respective cultures";

THEY EMPHASISED that, as indicated in the 2007-2013 Country Strategy Paper (CSP) for Mexico, cooperation in the culture field could, in the mid to long term, prove instrumental for strengthening bilateral relations between the European Commission and the Government of the United Mexican States;

THEY WELCOMED the recent establishment of the EU-Mexico Cultural Fund, as a significant achievement which opens a new stage of cooperation in the area of culture;

THEY HIGHLIGHTED the Lima Declaration, signed on 16 May 2008 at the 5th Latin America, Caribbean and European Union Summit which underlined the solid, historic and cultural ties that have always existed between the Latin American and Caribbean countries and the nations of the European Union.

TO FURTHER REINFORCE COOPERATION AND DIALOGUE IN THE FIELD OF CULTURE, THEY JOINTLY DECLARED THE FOLLOWING INTENTION:

Paragraph 1: The European Commission's Directorate General for Education and Culture and the National Council for Culture and Arts of the United Mexican States, hereinafter referred to as "both sides", will set up a sectoral policy dialogue on culture, which will cover jointly

identified issues of common interest, such as, in a first phase: cultural diversity and more specifically the implementation of the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, adopted in Paris on 20 December 2005 in the framework of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); cooperation between both sides inside the governing bodies of this Convention; the development of cultural industries in Mexico and the EU; policy orientations for the fostering of creativity in Mexico and the EU as well as the question of intercultural dialogue between both sides.

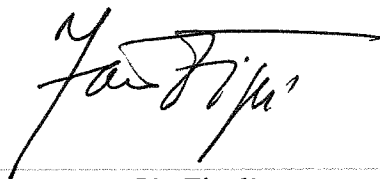
Paragraph 2: The sectoral policy dialogue will consist of regular exchanges of information, knowledge and best practices on the jointly identified themes of common interest. It will be conducted through specific workshops, seminars and/or conferences with the participation of relevant stakeholders and 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 Brussels on 11 June 2009, both in English and Spanish, both texts being equally valid.



Ján Figel'

European Commissioner for Education,
Training, Culture and Youth

In Representation of the President of the
National Council for the Culture and Arts of
the United Mexican States



Sandra Fuentes-Berain
Ambassador

Head of the Mission of Mexico
to the European Communities