

Sergio Sierra Bernal, *Mexico and Germany: Strengthening the Strategic Partnership of Two Globally Responsible Partners*

The stepping-up of political dialogue between Mexico and Germany in recent years makes it imperative that bilateral instruments of political and strategic coordination between the two countries are revisited and revised. In this article, Sergio Sierra puts forward specific recommendations to achieve this purpose. He suggests the setting-up an informal mechanism for bilateral discussions between foreign policy planning units; greater use of parliamentary diplomacy as a catalyst for political dialogue; prioritizing the issue of security on the bilateral agenda, as two responsible partners striving for peace; and the adoption of a social security agreement offering a response to the demands placed by constant flows of migration between the countries, and a flexible and swift informal discussion mechanism for speeding up decision-making in regards to the ever more complex agendas of bilateral and global cooperation; thus enabling Mexico to formally become a member of Germany's close circle of strategic partners. Finally, the author recommends that the security issue should carry greater weight in cooperative dialogue with Germany so as to broaden out the issue, to contribute finding a balance in the issue in terms of the bilateral agenda with the United States, and to find in Germany an ally in fighting the scourge of violence, which is not always correctly covered in the media.

Héctor Alcántara Palacios, *A Forward Look at Mexican-German Economic Relations*

A constant feature of Mexican foreign policy is the diversification of the country's economic relationships in an effort to reduce the country's reliance on a single commercial partner, to find new markets for Mexican exports and to increase the flow of foreign investment in the country's production apparatus. Héctor Alcántara, in this article, explains the reasons why strengthening and furthering economic ties with Germany would contribute to the fulfillment of this wider objective. The main conclusion drawn from this study concerns the promising outlook of the economic relationship between both countries, with a rapport based on common values, institutionalized connections and mutual acknowledgment as strategic partners. Moreover, by leveraging economic factors, such as the German strategy of diversification across foreign markets as a result of the Eurozone financial crisis and the realization of economic reforms in Mexico, a new chapter can be envisaged in Mexican-German commercial relations.

Daniel Tamayo Astié, *The Promotion of Culture in Mexican Foreign Policy Toward Germany*

Cultural and educational cooperation, with its main objective of promoting greater understanding between peoples, constitutes a top priority as part of Mexico's foreign policy agenda. Daniel Tamayo examines how Mexican cultural activities have evolved in Germany, looking at the various bilateral cooperation agreements in terms of academic exchanges and cultural and scientific development, and he highlights some of the cultural activities promoted by the Mexican Embassy in Germany,

such as visual arts exhibitions and festivals, which as well as making the country better understood in Germany, have also had a positive impact on political and economic relations. The author also sees cultural cooperation between Mexico and Germany as a possible starting point for consolidating other aspects of the countries' relations, such as the strengthening of economic concerns through the promotion of tourism, in view of which the holding of A Year of Mexico in Germany would be an unparalleled opportunity for promoting the country in all areas of bilateral relations.

Miriam G. Medel García, *Mexico and Germany: Strategic Partners in International Development Cooperation*

In this article, Miriam Medel examines the current state of international development cooperation relations between Mexico and Germany. She explains how this cooperation has evolved in the wake of a number of transformations in both countries, such as the passing of the Mexican International Development Cooperation Law and a change in how Mexico is viewed in Germany. After examining cooperation in tackling climate change and in the promotion of sustainable development, specifically dealing with nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs) on climate change and housing, the author recommends the entrenchment of a bilateral cooperation plan that commits to the strengthening of bilateral relations as strategic partners and enables Mexico to achieve its national development goals and encourage the promotion of third-country cooperation, thus fulfilling the objective of making Mexico a globally responsible player.

Enrique Palos Soto and Marc Herráiz Esteban, *The Dual Education System: New Avenues in German-Mexican Bilateral Cooperation*

Enrique Palos Sotos and Marc Herráiz Esteban begin from the premise that it is necessary to promote greater links between formal education and the industrial apparatus in Mexico with a view to encouraging the country's economic and social development. They consider the setting-up of an alternative dual education system that allows companies to actively participate in educating students. In a similar vein, they closely examine the state of the dual education system in Germany, a country where this has been successfully developed out and whose government has shown a keen interest in working with Mexico on the matter, and they take account of the needs of German industry's significant and growing presence in Mexico. They also make mention of Mexico's experience in this area and of Mexican-German cooperation in dual education. Finally, they set out the advantages this system offers to industry and employment in Mexico, pointing to the requirements and challenges that would be involved in implementing the system in Mexico.

Adolfo Ayuso Audry, *The Return of Mexican Cultural Assets from Germany. Rescuing an Idea*

The recovery of archaeological artifacts illegally sold abroad must be undertaken on considerations other than existing legal instruments if this objective is to be achieved. Adolfo Ayuso explains how Mexico has set precedents in Germany for the detection and return of archeological artifacts by capitalizing on the following factors: effective partnership among different na-

tional and international institutions; the innovation of shared values principled upon the equality of States in international law; and the effective and efficient participation of a legal advisor undertaking the role of mediator between political actors and cultures. Finally, he explains why, in his view, the recovery of archeological artifacts constitutes a foreign policy instrument that strengthens Mexico's position in the international community.

Alejandro Negrín and Aída Velasco Pérez, *Mexico and Germany: A Future Agenda*

Through its strong, substantive and dynamic foreign policy, President Enrique Peña Nieto's government aims to make Mexico a globally responsible player. This involves expanding and strengthening the country's global presence to establish itself as an emerging power. With this aim in mind, relations with Germany - the fourth largest global economy, the strongest European power and a key player in Mexican foreign policy in Europe - are strategically important. The crucial question posed in this article is: Why must Mexico consolidate its relations with Germany? To answer this, Alejandro Negrín and Aída Velasco give a detailed overview of the current state of bilateral relations between the countries, recommending a combination of tools and strategies to strengthen cooperation in business and investment, science, technology, energy, culture and tourism. The authors point out that we should look to the future of these relations and visualize them not only in terms of exceptional cooperation in the traditional areas, but also in terms of genuinely strategic cooperation in sectors with high political, economic and cultural potential.