

## EUROPEAN UNION – MEXICO TRADE UNION DECLARATION

The undersigned organizations:

EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC)

CONFEDERATION OF MEXICAN WORKERS (CTM)

REVOLUTIONARY CONFEDERATION OF WORKERS AND CAMPESINOS  
(CROC)

NATIONAL UNION OF WORKERS (UNT)

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF WORKERS (CNT)

REVOLUTIONARY WORKERS' CONFEDERATION (COR)

MEXICAN TRADE UNION FRONT (FSM)

With the support of the international bodies ICFTU and the WCL, and the regional entities ORIT and CLAT, have met in Mexico City, during the II Europe – Latin America and the Caribbean Trade Union Summit, and have reached the following agreements:

1. To reiterate in its fundamental aspects the RTUC-ICFTU-WCL Declaration of November 2000 regarding the Economic Partnership, Political Co-operation and Co-operation Agreement signed between Mexico and the European Union.
2. We especially stress the need for the Joint Council (European Union – Government of Mexico) to accept the inclusion in this Agreement of a Social and Labor Chapter<sup>1</sup> in order to clearly include respect for the rights of workers based on at least the five core conventions of the ILO on freedom of association, collective bargaining, prohibition of forced labor, prohibition of child labor, and non-discrimination.
3. The signatory trade union organizations demand effective channels of information, consultation, and participation for civil society that must not be limited to the general consultations convoked by the Government of Mexico and the European Union but instead require permanent mechanisms.

The European Social and Economic Committee (EESC) performs this function in the European Union, and we urge that a Mexican Economic and Social Committee be constituted with similar characteristics and competencies, and with

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<sup>1</sup> The European Economic and Social Committee has commented in this regard in its Opinion [on “Social Cohesion in Latin America and the Caribbean.”]

sufficient resources. Once this Mexican committee is formed, the two bodies should establish a joint committee.

4. We support the creation of a Social Observatory with the presence of the trade union organizations and other organizations representative of civil society of Mexico and the European Union and with adequate public financing.
5. The signatory Mexican confederations (in the context of their collaboration with ORIT and CLAT) and the ETUC (and its affiliated organizations) will jointly establish a permanent trade union coordination to ensure that the trade union movement of Mexico and the European Union can at every opportunity put forward its specific proposals in a united manner, both in civil society forums and directly before the legislative institutions and the Governments of Mexico and the European Union.
6. The signatory organizations will initiate or increase their relations with the organizations of employers with the goal of promoting social dialogue.
7. In order to deepen these initiatives a seminar will be organized between the ETUC (and its affiliates) and the Mexican trade union organizations in association with the Second European Union-Mexico Civil Society Forum which will be held next September and which will permit us to add our specific contribution to the proposals advanced in that event by social, civil, and other organizations.

The ETUC and the Mexican centrals will demand that the Government of Mexico and the European Commission put into effect participatory and preparatory mechanisms for that event.

Mexico City, April 13, 2004.