

EMBAMEX SWEDEN NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

STATE BY STATE: TLAXCALA

Tlaxcala, in central Mexico, is a small state with many options to have fun. Its temperate weather makes it ideal to visit at any time of the year. This state is a place to get in touch with nature, participate in



extreme sports such as rapelling or mountain biking, and to enjoy the most varied ecosystems, including majestic volcanoes. If one visits the capital city of Tlaxcala, one will be surprised by a picturesque landscape of houses with brightly colored façades, as well as an interesting collection of colonial buildings dating from the sixteenth century, which are still immaculately preserved. Walk by the street of Mariano Sanchez, and visit the Museum of Live Arts and Popular Traditions. Crossing the street, towards downtown, one finds the Plaza Juarez, the Legislation Palace and the Parroquia San Jose, which are all an important part of the Tlaxcala historic center. The main square of the city offers more Colonial architecture, which is a clear example of the important place that the city held during the New

Spain period, which is most vividly displayed by its extraordinary architecture, made up of baroque and *churrigueresque* styles.



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AMBASSADOR GASCA PLIEGO PARTICIPATES IN SEMINAR ON THE PACIFIC ALLIANCE

On October 5, Ambassador Gasca Pliego attended the seminar "The Pacific Alliance (PA) and the Role of Observer States," organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden and the European Institute of International Studies (EIIS), with the collaboration of the member countries of the PA. This event took place within the framework of the presentation of the book "Emerging Markets: The Pacific Alliance, Perspectives and Opportunities for Latin America" with the aim of promoting regional integration in Europe.

The event was attended by representatives of diplomatic missions of the countries of the PA, as well as Uruguay, Cuba, Guatemala, Panama and Bolivia, authorities from the Swedish government, businessmen, academics and members of various chambers of commerce and industry. The main speakers at the event were the Ambassadors from the Pacific Alliance: the Ambassador of Colombia, Ms. Sonia Duran Smela, the Ambassador of Chile, Mr. José Goñi, the Ambassador of Peru, José Beraún Aranibar, and Ambassador Gasca Pliego, of Mexico. Ambassador Karin Olofsdotter, the Director General for Commercial Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, chaired the meeting.

The welcome address was delivered by the Secretary of State of the Ministry of Industry and Innovation, Mr. Oscar Stenström, who emphasized that for Sweden it is a priority to enhance relations with Latin America. He also gave an account of Sweden's relations with the countries of the PA. Regarding



Mexico, he welcomed the possibility of advancing the modernization process of the Global Agreement between Mexico and the European Union. Finally, he said that besides working for the four thematic areas that are the stated priorities of the PA and its observer states, (namely, Education; Science; Technology and Innovation; and SMEs), Sweden wants to be an active observer with defined projects for the benefit not only of the country, but throughout the EU.

In regard to the publication, its editors, Mr. Mario Torres Jarrin and Mr. Jonathan Violante Pica, both of the EIIS, commented that the book provides different perspectives on the progress of regional integration from the diplomatic, political, economic and technological points of view.

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Ambassador Karin Olofsdotter, General Director of Commercial Affairs at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs (moderator), EIIS editors Mr. Jonathan Violante Pica and Dr. Mario Torres Jarrin, Mr. Andrés Rueda, Ambassador of Perú Mr. José Beraún Aranibar, Ambassador of Colombia Mrs. Sonia Durán Smela, Secretary of State Mr. Oscar Stenström, Ambassador of Chile Mr. José Goñi, and Ambassador of México Mr. Agustín Gasca Pliego.

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Later, during the speeches by the Ambassadors, it was noted that the Alliance is on the right path to strengthen dialogue and relations with its 49 observer states. Furthermore, it is emerging as a successful integration mechanism provides for the exchange of a large number of products, 92% of them duty-free, and for the free movement of people. It was also noted that the four countries have good economic growth figures and that combined, they account for more than \$ 2.3 trillion, or 37% of the gross domestic product of Latin America. Finally, it was noted that the PA is a priority to promote the incorporation of a gender-equal perspective in its programs and activities for the region; because of this, it was mentioned that Sweden could collaborate with the PA through various projects related to this topic, such as education, innovation, tourism, culture, environment, and small and medium enterprises.

Ambassador Gasca Pliego's speech stressed that, with a shared commitment to democracy, freedom and human rights, in just five years, the PA has managed to achieve tariff liberalization, trade facilitation and customs cooperation. He also expressed that the PA opens up new opportunities for Sweden in the context of the recent entry into force of the Trade Protocol, which establishes the free trade area of the PA. The Ambassador also mentioned that the EU can deepen its relations with the PA by getting involved in all three areas of interest identified by the PA and the European Union: trade and investment facilitation, free movement of persons, student exchange and Erasmus.



Ambassador Teppo Tauriainen, Director of the Department for the Americas, Ambassador of Mexico Mr. Agustín Gasca Pliego, Ambassador of Chile Mr. José Goñi and President of the European Institute of International Studies Dr. Antonio Núñez García Saucó.

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PREPARATORY SEMINAR FOR CELAC SUMMIT HELD AT STOCKHOLM UNIVERSITY

The Second Preparatory Seminar of the Third CELAC-EU Academic Summit was held on October 6-7 in Stockholm. This event was organized by the European Institute of International Studies (EIIS) in coordination with the Executive Secretariat of the EU-CELAC Permanent Academic Forum and the EU-LAC Foundation, with support from the embassies of Mexico, Chile and Peru in Sweden, Department of Romance Studies and Classics at the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Stockholm and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden.

The aim of the seminar was to advance the implementation of the European-Latin American and Caribbean Common Space in Higher Education, Science, Technology and Innovation. The event was attended by university authorities, academics, teachers from higher education institutions, and researchers from Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean.

At the seminar, attended by Ms. Astrid Söderberg Widding, Dean of the University of Stockholm, Mr. Mario Torres Jarrin, Director of EIIS, Ms. Annika Söder, State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden, as well as Ms. Marina Isabel Caceres Estevez, Ambassador of the Dominican Republic in Sweden, Mr. Fernando Galvan, Dean of the University of Alcalá, Dr. Antonio Nunez Garcia Sauco, President of EIIS, and Dr. Leonel Fernandez Reyna, President of the EU-LAC Foundation.

The European Union-Latin America and Caribbean Foundation (EU-LAC Foundation) began operations in November 2011 and aims to implement a strategic partnership between the regions in order to generate benefits for their societies. The headquarters of the Foundation are located in the city of Hamburg, in Germany, and have 62 members: the 33 States composing Latin America and the Caribbean and the 27 members of the European Union, as well as the institutions of the European Union.



Participants in the CELAC Preparatory Seminar at Stockholm University in October.

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INLATINO FESTIVAL IN VILNIUS CELEBRATES FRIDA KAHLO

The InLatino Festival was held between October 13 and 16 in the capital of Lithuania, Vilnius, presenting a comprehensive program whose main theme was the renowned Mexican painter Frida Kahlo. Among the many events were “Art in the Streets,” in which the Lithuanian artist Paule Bocullaite embodied a portrait of Frida in the Zemaite Square in the center of the city; the “Dialogue between Frida and Zemaite,” in which the improvisational theater community Kitas Kampas created a theatrical dialogue between Frida and the Lithuanian writer Zemaite. During the dialogue, the women discussed a visit by Frida to Lithuania, the InLatino Festival and the beginning of their friendship; a Tequila Tasting, at the Spiritus Bar, in which Linas Stark, a talented barman and a great admirer of tequila, spoke about this beverage, its origin and its preparation; as well as a film projection at the Pasaka film theater, during which the films *Frida*, by Julie Taymor (2002) and *Frida, Living Nature*, by Paul Leduc (1983) were shown.

For more information, please visit the InLatino website, [here](#).



Artist Paulė Bocullaite painting a mural of Frida Kahlo at the InLatino Festival this year. Photo credit: InLatino Facebook Page.

Promotional poster for this year's InLatino Festival in Vilnius, Lithuania.



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DAY OF THE DEAD CELEBRATED IN STOCKHOLM AND GOTHENBURG

On Saturday, November 5, a Day of the Dead altar dedicated to the Mexican artists Juan Gabriel and Leopoldo Flores was inaugurated at the Medieval Museum (Medeltidsmuseet) in Stockholm.

Third Secretary Lorelee Arias Vázquez, head of Cultural Affairs at the Embassy of Mexico, gave a brief presentation to museumgoers on the traditions surrounding the Day of the Dead and the celebrations that take place in this context, as well speaking about the artistic legacy of the artists being honored. The event was attended by members of the Mexican community as well as by Swedish citizens of Stockholm. At the conclusion of the talk, traditional Day of the Dead bread (*pan de muerto*) and hot chocolate were distributed to the attendees.

The public was deeply interested in the altar of the dead and its meaning. It is clear that there has been a very significant increase in the interest of the Swedish public in this Mexican custom. During this event, a significant number of visitors of diverse nationalities were in attendance, which resulted in a more diverse public than in previous years.

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Top: Third Secretary Lorelee Arias Vázquez speaking about the Day of the Dead to attendees. Right: Day of the Dead altar at the Medieval Museum.

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At the Etnografiska Museet, celebrations were enlivened by Yucatecan jarana dances and songs by Mexican singer-songwriter Juan Gabriel, as well as by a mariachi group, Fiesta México, who played several traditional Mexican songs, including the classics Cielito Lindo and Bésame mucho.

The event was attended by Deputy Head of Mission Audrey Rivera Gómez, of the Embassy of Mexico, and ProMéxico Commercial Counsellor Carlos Pérez Cirera.



Top: Deputy Head of Mission Audrey Rivera Gómez with members of the Fiesta México mariachi.



Right: Day of the Dead celebrations at the Etnografiska Museet included dancing to traditional Mexican music.



Left: Deputy Head of Mission Audrey Rivera Gómez with Proméxico Commercial Counsellor Carlos Pérez Cirera and his wife at the Etnografiska Museet Day of the Dead celebrations on November 5th.

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The Association of Mexicans in Gothenburg, in collaboration with the Embassy of Mexico, also held a Day of the Dead celebration at the Frilagret Cultural Center on November 5. During the event, a traditional Mexican altar was assembled and put on display, decorated with typical *catrinas* which were created in a special workshop at the Frilagret center on October 29. There was also traditional Mexican dance and live music at the celebration. The event was attended by members of the Mexican community in Gothenburg as well as by members of the Swedish public interested in Mexican traditions and celebrations.



Right: Participants in the “catrina” workshop at the Frilagret cultural center in Gothenburg.



Day of the Dead celebrations at the Frilagret Cultural Center. Photos courtesy of the Association of Mexicans in Gothenburg.



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CONVOCATORIA DE LA UNAM PARA MEXICANOS EN EL EXTRANJERO

La Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) ha emitido una Convocatoria que estará abierta hasta el 04 de enero del 2017 para las personas hispanoparlantes radicadas en el extranjero interesadas en cursar el bachillerato en la modalidad de educación a Distancia en el programa B@UNAM del Sistema Universidad Abierta y Educación a Distancia (SUAYED).

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