



Global Project Quality Infrastructure in Mexico

Context:

A well-functioning quality infrastructure (QI) is essential for the functioning of the economy in a country. It is an important basis for product innovation, technology transfer and equal opportunities on the market and makes a central contribution to environmental, health and consumer protection. A functioning QI ensures that the products on the market meet both the quality expectations of the users and the legal requirements.

Additionally, QI is an essential element of international trade facilitation. Only through uniform and internationally recognized product requirements and conformity assessment procedures it is possible to sell products across borders and to ensure the compatibility of products and services. International coordination of national quality infrastructures is essential to promote cross-border trade and overcome technical barriers to trade.

Mexico is Germany's most important trading partner in Latin America and, vice versa, Germany for Mexico within the European Union. The trade volume between the two countries is around 20.4 billion euros (2017). Around



GLOBAL PROJECT *Quality Infrastructure*



On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, the Global Project Quality Infrastructure (GPQI) initiates and implements political and technical dialogues with selected partner countries. As part of the bilateral dialogue partnerships, mutual topics of cooperation in the field of quality infrastructure are defined by taking into account the input of relevant companies, associations, chambers of commerce and experts. They aim to reduce existing technical barriers to trade, promote market access and fair trading conditions and improve the quality and safety of traded products. The continuous and long-dated exchange on regulatory and technical issues prevents the creation of new technical barriers to trade and enables innovation of new technologies and products.

1,900 companies with German capital are based in Mexico. In addition to the automotive industry, mechanical engineering, the chemical and pharmaceutical industries as well as transport and logistics are important trade areas for both countries.

A further expansion of trade while simultaneously improving the quality of products and services is in the interest of both countries. A coherent quality infrastructure between the two countries is therefore of great importance.

Approach:

The policy dialogue between Germany and Mexico includes all relevant stakeholders: ministries, subordinated state institutions, industrial associations, companies and research institutions. In April 2018, the collaboration between Mexico and Germany as part of the Global Project Quality Infra-

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structure (GPQI) was officially launched with the signature of a Joint Declaration of Intent between the Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWi) and the Mexican Ministry of Economy (Secretaría de Economía - SE) at the Hanover Fair.

Both sides have a strong interest in working towards harmonization of their quality infrastructure and fair conditions for market access and production through policy-driven expert dialogues. They are also interested in working on a balanced legal framework. This is to be achieved jointly and with the active involvement of the economies of both countries.

The project covers all areas of QI, in particular standardization and technical regulation, conformity assessment and accreditation as well as market surveillance and product safety. A coherent QI ensures compliance with all product requirements and thus the safe use of the products by consumers. It provides orientation for manufacturers and thus helps to develop innovative technologies.

We are currently working in the following areas:

Technical regulation and Standardization

The project accompanies the technical policy dialogue on standardization policy and strategy between the General Bureau for Standardization of the Mexican Ministry of Economy, the BMWi and the German Standardization Bodies DIN and DKE and thus supports harmonization with international standards and technical regulations.

Conformity assessment and accreditation

The project supports the reduction of technical and regulatory barriers to trade in connection with conformity assessment and accreditation. Together with the responsible regulatory authorities, solutions are developed for the concerns of industry. At present, the focus is on issues such as the mutual recognition of factory inspections in the field of electrics/electrotechnology.

Product safety and market surveillance

An exchange on transparency of rules contributes to improved market surveillance and product safety. The project supports the cooperation of technical experts from both countries, among other things in the revision of the Mexican directives on machine and plant safety as well as the safety regulations for pressure equipment.

Have we aroused your interest?

- We are your contact for questions regarding conformity assessment procedures
- We increase the transparency of the product safety and market surveillance system by means of dialogues
- We support the harmonisation of national with international standards and technical regulations.

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