

Recommendations

Recommendation 1

3.35 The committee recommends that the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources and Biosecurity Australia assign high priority to the import risk analyses for Mexican agricultural goods such as avocados, table grapes and limes currently awaiting import risk analysis. If the analyses cannot be concluded before the end of 2016, the committee requests a written explanation outlining the reasons for delay and providing an expected date of completion for each product.

Recommendation 2

3.52 The committee recommends that the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, working with Mexican authorities, develop a strategic plan for the establishment of direct flights between Mexico and Australia by 2020. The strategic plan should incorporate consultation with airlines, tourism industries in both countries, and ANZMEX and should be presented to the Parliament before December 2016.

Recommendation 3

3.63 The committee recommends that the Australian government work to grant Mexican travellers eligibility for the eVisitor visa before the end of 2016. If this is not possible, the committee requests a written explanation outlining the reasons for delay and providing an expected date of completion.

Recommendation 4

3.80 The committee recommends that the Australian government work with Australian businesses to raise awareness of the risks and benefits of doing business in Mexico and to dispel exaggerations of risk with regards to security and corruption in Mexico.

Recommendation 5

4.19 The committee recommends that the Australian government work together with Australian universities to review the accreditation of existing Mexican qualifications and achieve mutual recognition of qualifications by 2020.

Recommendation 6

4.35 The committee recommends that the Australian government allocate additional funding for initiatives to promote Australian VET services in Mexico.

Recommendation 7

4.43 The committee recommends that the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade consider whether there is scope to extend the New Colombo Plan to include Mexico as a destination country.

Recommendation 8

4.47 The committee recommends that the Department of Immigration and Border Protection appoint additional panel physicians in key Mexican cities to reduce delays to international student medical examinations.

Recommendation 9

4.56 The committee recommends that the Department of Immigration and Border Protection review its current student visa provisions to reduce visa application processing times for Mexican students.

Recommendation 10

4.67 The committee recommends that the Australian government actively encourage research collaboration between Australia and Mexico and that more resources be made available to Australian universities and research institutions to facilitate this collaboration.

Recommendation 11

5.59 The committee recommends that additional resources be allocated to Austrade to raise awareness of the significant value chain opportunities in the Mexican automotive sector (and advanced manufacturing more broadly) and assist Australian suppliers of OEMs and automotive aftermarket to quickly and effectively engage with the Mexican automotive market.

Recommendation 12

5.60 The committee recommends that additional resources be allocated to the Australian diplomatic and Austrade posts in Mexico, particularly the provision of additional specialised staff to assist Australian small to medium enterprises wishing to enter the Mexican market in the wake of the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Recommendation 13

5.61 The committee recommends that the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Austrade work with the Export Council of Australia to develop a suite of practical, user-friendly tools to assist Australian small to medium enterprises, especially service companies, understand and utilise the Trans-Pacific Partnership.