Holland & Knight EYES ON MEXICO POLITICAL OVERVIEW MONTHLY REPORT



October 2025



United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) Consultations. Mexico's Ministry of Economy (SE) has begun consultations with 30 productive sectors to shape the country's position for the 2026 USMCA review. Conducted alongside the Business Coordinating Council (CCE), the consultations process includes forums and working groups with private sector representatives. Minister of Economy Marcelo Ebrard noted that although the U.S. has suggested a bilateral approach, this likely refers to the strong bilateral elements already present in the treaty's negotiation framework.

Furthermore, on Oct. 15, 2025, Mexican Minister of Foreign Affairs Juan Ramón de la Fuente met in Washington, D.C., with U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio to review progress on the Bilateral Security Cooperation Program, reaffirming mutual respect and shared sovereignty. Economy Minister Ebrard aims to travel to the U.S. to finalize trade matters. President Claudia Sheinbaum announced that the USMCA review process is nearly complete, with only seven issues pending resolution.

Energy Regulations Are Published. Mexico's *Official Gazette* published regulations for six secondary energy laws on Oct. 3, 2025, governing hydrocarbons, electricity, energy planning and transition, biofuels, geothermal energy and hydrocarbon revenues. Coordinated by the Ministry of Energy (SENER), these instruments outline the procedures, permits and mechanisms stemming from the 2024 constitutional reforms, as well as the 2025 secondary legislation establishing the legal framework for the implementation of Mexico's new national energy model.

Simplified Water Concession Renewal Decree. Published in the *Official Gazette* on Oct. 28, 2025, the <u>renewal decree</u>, issued by the government of Mexico and the National Water Commission (CONAGUA), establishes a simplified process to renew expired or lapsed national water concessions. It grants a six-month period for users in the domestic, agricultural, livestock, aquaculture and public urban sectors to regularize their titles through CONAGUA's digital platform, aligning with the National Water Plan 2024-2030 and the National Development Plan 2025-2030 to promote transparency, sustainability and equitable access to water resources.

National Circular Economy Policy (PNEC). Mexico's Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), together with the SE, French Development Agency (AFD) and Global Factor, launched a nationwide consultation to develop PNEC. The initiative seeks input from public, private and civil society organizations through regional missions in six cities during October and November 2025 (supported by virtual sessions). Participants are invited to register online and choose their region and date of engagement.



Congress Report

2026 Economic Package. The Senate approved the Federal Fiscal Code, Federal Fees Law, Special Tax on Production and Services Law on Oct. 28, 2025, as part of the review of the 2026 Economic Package. Additionally, on Oct. 29, 2025, the Senate approved the Federal Revenue Law. The discussion and approval of the federal expenditure budget remains pending with a constitutional deadline of Nov. 15, 2025.

Customs Law Approved. The Federal Congress approved the new Customs Law on Oct. 21, 2025, to modernize Mexico's foreign trade framework, strengthen oversight and improve efficiency. The reform adds real-time



monitoring, simplifies procedures and enhances legal certainty in customs operations. The decree has been sent to the Federal Executive for constitutional enactment.

Amparo Law. A <u>reform to the Amparo Law</u> was published in the *Official Gazette* on Oct. 16, 2025, aiming to strengthen fundamental rights protection and public financial stability by preventing procedural abuses, improving efficiency, and promoting equitable and technologically accessible access to justice.

General Water Law Proposal. President Sheinbaum presented the bill on the General Water Law on Oct. 9, 2025, to strengthen state authority in water management and ensure the human right to water through equitable, sustainable and transparent allocation. On Oct. 23, 2025, Rep. Ricardo Monreal of the National Regeneration Movement (Morena) noted that although the bill is under committee review, its discussion will proceed without haste, making certain a broad and inclusive consultation process.

National Antitrust Commission (CNA) Begins Operations. The Senate approved the ratification of the commissioners for the National Antitrust Commission (CNA) on Oct. 14, 2025, which formally began operations on Oct. 17, 2025, replacing the former Federal Economic Competition Commission (COFECE). The new plenary – led by COFECE President Andrea Marván Saltiel and composed of Commissioners Ana María Reséndiz Mora, Óscar Alejandro Gómez Romero, Ricardo Salgado Perrilliat and Haydee Soledad Aragón Martínez – is currently completing the transfer of files and resources, marking a transition period as the CNA assumes full responsibility for market competition oversight.

Senate Appointment. The Senate ratified Roberto Velasco Álvarez as undersecretary for North America at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Oct. 14, 2025. Velasco, a career public servant with extensive experience in U.S.-Mexico diplomacy and North American economic integration, previously served as chief of the North America Unit at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Extortion Law. The House of Representatives approved the Extortion Law on Oct. 29, 2025, which seeks to establish a unified national legal framework to strengthen access to justice and combat extortion. The bill harmonizes criminal definitions and penalties, enhances investigative tools and includes measures to protect victims. It has been sent to the Senate to continue its legislative process.



Bilateral Cooperation. President Sheinbaum reported that her recent call with U.S. President Donald Trump aimed to maintain open communication and ensure coordination between both governments. The brief and cordial conversation confirmed positive progress in ongoing negotiations, with no special measures or tariffs expected on Nov. 1, 2025. Both leaders agreed that relations remain strong in security, migration and trade, and they plan to speak again soon to advance toward a new trade agreement.

Screwworm Plague Updates. Minister of Agriculture Julio Berdegué reported significant progress in eradicating the screwworm plague in Mexico on Oct. 29, 2025. The sterile-fly production plant, launched in July 2025, has reached about 30 percent completion. Efforts remain focused on the south-southeast region, particularly the Isthmus of Tehuantepec. Mexico and the U.S. remain in close coordination to strengthen biological control strategies.

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit. At the APEC Summit in Gyeongju, South Korea, Mexico's Economy Minister Ebrard met with U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) Jamieson Greer to advance talks toward a new trade agreement ahead of the 2026 USMCA review, following a recent discussion between

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Presidents Sheinbaum and Trump. Ebrard also held meetings with U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick and officials from New Zealand and Singapore, promoting investment opportunities in Mexico through the Plan México initiative.

President Sheinbaum Outlines Plan México. President Sheinbaum presented Plan México to the World Economic Forum (WEF) members from 17 countries, outlining a strategy to boost domestic demand, raise wages and strengthen public and private investment, all while enhancing food and energy sovereignty. The plan includes major infrastructure projects, expanded power generation through CFE, increased Petróleos Mexicanos (PEMEX) output and new housing, water and education initiatives. President Sheinbaum also announced 26 Economic Development Hubs (PODECOBI) to attract investment.

Federal Officials Appear Before Congress. As part of the legislative review of President Sheinbaum's first state of the nation address, several senior officials – including Secretary of the Interior Rosa Icela Rodríguez, Secretary of Finance and Public Credit Édgar Amador Zamora, Secretary of Energy Luz Elena González Escobar, Secretary of Foreign Affairs Alicia Bárcena Ibarra and Economy Minister Marcelo Ebrard – have appeared before the Federal Congress to report on their respective portfolios. These hearings aim to provide accountability, assess policy implementation in security, economic, energy and foreign-relations sectors, and ensure alignment between the executive agenda and legislative oversight.

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