

**Welcoming remarks of HRH Princess Astrid at the webinar "Follow-up on the 2019 Belgian Economic Mission to Mexico and opportunities on the modernized Mexico-EU Global Agreement" on 20.05.2021**

Good afternoon Ladies et gentlemen, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to open this first of its kind Webinar.

The follow up of economic missions abroad is an excellent initiative which I hold close to heart and I hope that many will follow.

This feedback mechanism will incorporate your thoughts and observations in order for us to continuously improve our services and provide an even better experience in the future.

It is our hope that this initiative will foster a forum to identify even more potential agreements and will ultimately lead to more business opportunities.

Additionally, we hope it will reaffirm that Belgian economic missions abroad are beneficial to our country, to its regions, to our businesses and to our friendly relations with the host country.

For all these reasons, I am incredibly happy that this initiative was taken today, and I thank the Embassy of Mexico in Belgium, the Belgian Foreign Trade Agency and all federal and regional authorities participating in the Webinar.

We feel also very honored by the presence of the distinguished member of the government of Mexico.

I take the opportunity to express to her my deep sorrow and sincere condolences for the loss of lives of people in Mexico City, after the terrible accident earlier this month in your capital.

At this Webinar, I intend to listen carefully to your interventions and testimonials, especially if you mention that solutions have been found to problems that businesses or public authorities may have encountered.

Perhaps today, a "good practice" will be created for the future.

I conclude by wishing that we meet again in person as soon as possible, with the goal of successfully continuing our collective work on economic missions.

Thank you again and please remain assured of my full commitment and support to your work, to our work.