

4-20-1994

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LADB Staff

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### Recommended Citation

LADB Staff. "Mexico Gains Formal Membership in OECD." (1994). <https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/sourcemex/3169>

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## Mexico Gains Formal Membership in OECD

*by LADB Staff*

*Category/Department: Mexico*

*Published: 1994-04-20*

On April 14, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) formally admitted Mexico as its 25th member at a ceremony presided over by OECD general secretary Jean-Claude Paye at the organization's headquarters in Paris. Membership will become fully effective upon approval by the Mexican Senate. Such approval is virtually certain, given the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party's overwhelming majority in that legislative body. Informally, Mexico's admission into the OECD was announced in late March ([SourceMex, March 30, 1994](#)).

Foreign Minister Manuel Tello told reporters that in compliance with conditions for admission, Mexico pledged to pay annual dues of US\$2.6 million, slightly more than 1% of the OECD's annual budget. The amount of dues each member country must pay is calculated based on factors such as population size, GDP, and other economic variables.

Regarding other conditions for membership, Tello said Mexico is committed to protect the environment and continue economic policies that allow easy movement of capital and favorable conditions for foreign investment. In fact, Tello went one step further, promising that Mexico is ready to extend most of the market-opening measures implemented under the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to the other 22 members of the OECD. The two other signatories of NAFTA, the US and Canada, are also members of the OECD.

A report from the Foreign Relations Secretariat (Secretaria de Relaciones Exteriores, SRE) in mid-April offered more details of the areas where Mexico will have to continue to make changes in order to fully comply with the terms of OECD membership. The report said Mexico will have to review policies on maritime transportation, services, capital goods, multinational enterprises, fiscal and budgetary matters, trade, labor, social issues, communications, information policies, scientific and technological policies, and development assistance, among others.

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