

The 3-1 win by Mexico at the North American Summit

President López Obrador out-maneuvered his U.S. and Canadian counterparts, trading the promise of cooperation for keeping biotech and energy off the agenda.

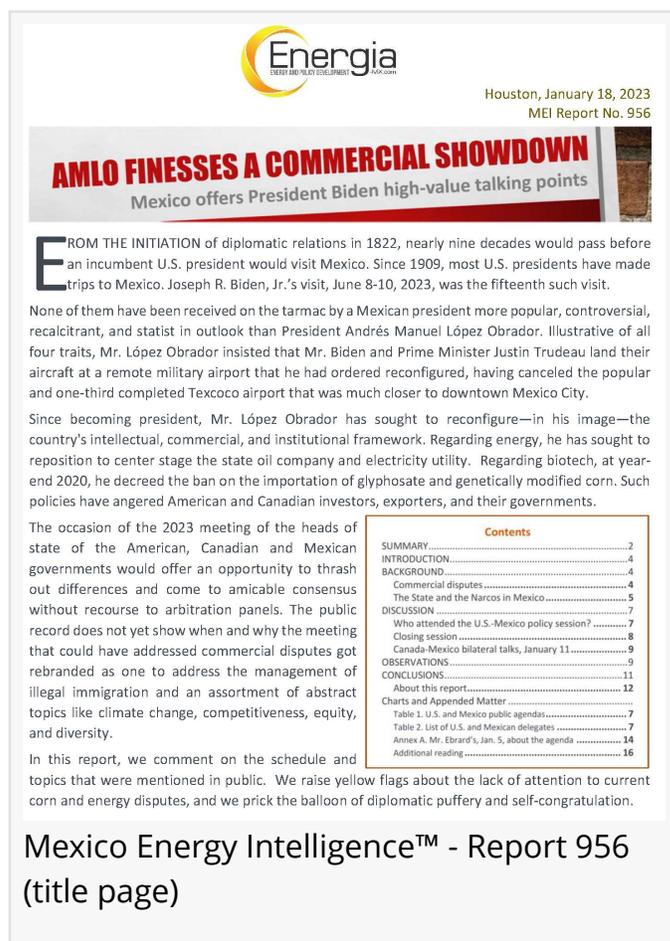
HOUSTON, TX, UNITED STATES, January 20, 2023 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The 10TH North American Leaders Summit, held in Mexico City during January 9-10 was important for what was said and agreed upon as well as for the topics that were taken off the table for discussion, according to Houston energy analyst George Baker in a [new report](#).

The three heads of state agreed to discuss the immigration crisis at the U.S.-Mexico border and decided on ameliorative measures. They embraced aspirational goals concerning illicit drug and human trafficking, climate change, and import substitution. Their closing remarks embodied unanimity of purpose.

There would be no scheduled discussion of the commercial disputes regarding Mexico's laws and policies regarding biotech and energy, and no warnings about the convening of arbitration panels or [sanctions](#).

Mexico's president, Andrés Manuel López Obrador, or AMLO, scored on the field of public relations when American and Canadian security officials agreed to his travel demands: The aircraft of the delegations would not land at the downtown airport, and would instead be rerouted to a distant airport that that he had ordered built at the site of a military airstrip. The hour's travel back to the capital was along a route vulnerable to security breaches.

There was no substantive benefit but considerable cost and risk to this choice of airport. Still, the landing there by two heads of state showcased the airport's commercial viability. The two



AMLO FINESSES A COMMERCIAL SHOWDOWN
Mexico offers President Biden high-value talking points

Houston, January 18, 2023
MEI Report No. 956

FROM THE INITIATION of diplomatic relations in 1822, nearly nine decades would pass before an incumbent U.S. president would visit Mexico. Since 1909, most U.S. presidents have made trips to Mexico. Joseph R. Biden, Jr.'s visit, June 8-10, 2023, was the fifteenth such visit.

None of them have been received on the tarmac by a Mexican president more popular, controversial, recalcitrant, and statist in outlook than President Andrés Manuel López Obrador. Illustrative of all four traits, Mr. López Obrador insisted that Mr. Biden and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau land their aircraft at a remote military airport that he had ordered reconfigured, having canceled the popular and one-third completed Texcoco airport that was much closer to downtown Mexico City.

Since becoming president, Mr. López Obrador has sought to reconfigure—in his image—the country's intellectual, commercial, and institutional framework. Regarding energy, he has sought to reposition to center stage the state oil company and electricity utility. Regarding biotech, at year-end 2020, he decreed the ban on the importation of glyphosate and genetically modified corn. Such policies have angered American and Canadian investors, exporters, and their governments.

The occasion of the 2023 meeting of the heads of state of the American, Canadian and Mexican governments would offer an opportunity to thrash out differences and come to amicable consensus without recourse to arbitration panels. The public record does not yet show when and why the meeting that could have addressed commercial disputes got rebranded as one to address the management of illegal immigration and an assortment of abstract topics like climate change, competitiveness, equity, and diversity.

In this report, we comment on the schedule and topics that were mentioned in public. We raise yellow flags about the lack of attention to current corn and energy disputes, and we prick the balloon of diplomatic puffery and self-congratulation.

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presidents rode back to Mexico City in President Joe Biden's hardened limousine, accompanied by an interpreter.

Following the closing ceremony on January 10, Mr. Biden boarded his plane at the downtown airport. He did not go home empty-handed. He had been given AMLO's assurances of Mexico's cooperation regarding the management of migrants and the capture of drug cartel leaders, two important talking points for the Democratic candidate in the 2024 presidential elections.

As for the 2024 presidential elections in Mexico, the candidate of the MORENA party will have a talking point in being able to claim that American and Canadian silence at the 2023 summit about Mexico's biotech and energy policies meant consent.

"The concerns of [corn growers](#), grain and fuel exporters, and energy investors have not yet been addressed, and the outlook for the billions of dollars of sunk costs and future revenue is in doubt," says Baker, the lead author of the report.

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Mexico needs exporters & investors to provide energy for better lives & national development: more calories on the dinner table, kWh-hours in the home & workplace, and BTUs of fossil fuel in the tank"

George Baler

"Mexico needs exporters and investors to provide additional energy for better lives and economic development: more calories on the dinner table, kWh-hours in the home and workplace, and BTUs of fossil fuel in the tank," Baker believes.



George Baker was a speaker on the energy panel at the 2022 DC meeting of the US-Mexico Chamber of Commerce

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