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European Languages

زبانهای اروپایی

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30.08.2022

Mexico defends energy sovereignty



Sources: Rebellion

Without getting excited and with full confidence in his duties to defend the nation's energy and oil independence, Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador (AMLO) has declared on several occasions that his government will not cede the country's sovereignty even if it means leaving the Free Trade Agreement between Mexico, the United States and Canada (T-MEC).

AMLO since he became president on December 1, 2018, initiated actions to recover the national electricity system that is under exploitation by foreign companies and guarantee a greater participation of the State in oil resources.

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For his nationalist actions and progressive approaches on issues of international agendas, he has earned the hatred of the centers of power in the West that have launched constant disinformation attacks, especially by the ultra-right based in Miami.

Recall that the USMCA was proposed by former President Donald Trump to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) because the former head of the White House wanted to obtain greater perks.

The document, with major changes in foreign trade, was signed on November 30, 2018 by the presidents of the United States, Donald Trump, of Mexico, Enrique Peña Nieto and the Prime Minister of Canada, Justín Trudeau.

On July 19, the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) announced the request for consultations for the settlement of disputes under Chapter 31 of the USMCA, arguing that "the public policy and regulatory actions of the Mexican State have negatively impacted U.S. companies in the energy sector to benefit the Federal Electricity Commission (CFE) and Petróleos Mexicanos (Pemex).

As expected, Canada joined Washington's request, as well as the pressures of the Iberdrola company and other capitalist businessmen in order to avoid the rescue of Mexican sovereignty in these important sectors.

The US government points out that the energy policy of the current administration, deployed since 2019, (when AMLO came to power) "violates the disciplines to which the Mexican State committed itself in the USMCA, particularly in chapters such as market access, investment and state-owned companies.

La USTR agregó que las consultas solicitadas se refieren a medidas que perjudican a las empresas estadounidenses en favor de las estatales mexicanas, la Comisión Federal de Electricidad (CFE) y Petróleos Mexicanos (Pemex).

Washington exige que se elimine la reforma a la Ley de la Industria Eléctrica en vigor desde marzo de 2021 que beneficia a las centrales de la Comisión Federal de Electricidad sobre los generadores privados.

With this modification, the Mexican entity is the one that administers this service, including its distribution, that is, the Government preserves 56% of the market, while granting the private sector the rest, which by the way is enough, since it is equivalent to all the energy produced by Argentina.

In addition, the decadent empire wants more: "revocation and rejection of new permits for electricity generation and oil storage, as well as restrictions on the operation of service stations and fuel imports by the Energy Regulatory Commission (CRE) and the Ministry of Energy (Sener).

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador has been very clear in stating that there is no violation of the Treaty and no commitment is being breached.

Since the end of 2018, there is a history that López Obrador and the Morena Party defended oil as a good of the nation in the renegotiations of the Treaty.

In conversations with journalists, he reaffirmed that the first thing his government did was to resist that pressure because neoliberal governments had already accepted, in all agreements, that Mexico's oil be negotiated.

"We told them," he pointed out, "that the previous treaties had been signed by neoliberal, neoporfirist, surrenderist governments and that the people were choosing us to change economic policy."

Chapter 8 of the USMCA is very clarifying in this regard because under the title, Recognition of the direct domain and the inalienable and imprescriptible property of the United Mexican States of Hydrocarbons, it indicates that:

"The parties confirm their full respect for sovereignty and their sovereign right to regulate with respect to matters addressed in this chapter in accordance with their respective constitutions and domestic law." In the case of Mexico, pursuant to this Agreement, the United States and Canada recognize that:

"Mexico reserves its sovereign right to reform its Constitution and domestic legislation; and has the direct domain and the inalienable and imprescriptible ownership of all

hydrocarbons in the subsoil of the national territory, including the continental shelf and the exclusive economic zone located outside the territorial sea and adjacent to it, in mantles or deposits, whatever their physical state, in accordance with the Political Constitution of the United Mexican States."

AMLO said that at no time has Mexico tried to change the rules and stressed that only the approaches of the previous six-year term were modified in defense of oil, even in the face of political pressures from the United States and Canada.

"Upon my arrival at the presidency, he said, the (political) change took place so that Mexico remained an independent country, not a colony of any foreign country. It's a matter of dignity, it's our history we can't betray ourselves."

Therefore, with tranquility and security, the Mexican president announced that on September 16 he will respond to the consultations on energy policies carried out by the United States and Canada, but of course, dignity and political courage overflow the figure of Andrés Manuel López Obrador.

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Rebellion 29.08.2022