

## *Amendments to the USMCA*

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Today the governments of Mexico, United States and Canada signed in our country some amendments to the Treaty between the United Mexican States, the United States of America and Canada (“USMCA”), notwithstanding that an initial text had already been ratified by the Senate on June 19, 2019.

Although the three countries had agreed on a definitive version of the USMCA that would substitute the North American Free Trade Agreement, its ratification by some members of the U.S. Congress was conditioned on including certain additional points, which resulted in a de facto reopening of the negotiations which concluded today.

This renegotiation was characterized by secrecy and exclusion of the representatives of the Mexican business sector, which has accompanied the government in the negotiation of all the international commercial instruments for more than two decades. This secrecy meant that no one outside of the government knew the official text and scope of the agreements signed. As of this date, it has only been indicated that the amendments concern rules of origin for steel and aluminum, biotechnology medicines, and environment and labor aspects.

It will be important to look out for the release of the amended texts and immediately evaluate the implications they will have for Mexican companies. This *a posteriori* evaluation will be essential given the marginalization of the business sector during the renegotiation process.

It should be pointed out that this agreement still has to be approved by the competent bodies of the three countries. The Mexican Senate is expected to approve it without delay.

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Sincerely,

***Von Wobeser y Sierra, S.C.***

Mexico City, December 10, 2019.