

Mexico Political Chatter

April 16, 2026

With fracking as a backdrop, the week was marked by decisions that strain the narrative of the Cuarta Transformación. Following last week's announcement, the government of Claudia Sheinbaum formed a scientific committee to evaluate the viability of unconventional gas extraction through hydraulic fracturing, under the argument of strengthening energy sovereignty. The committee is made up of experts from UNAM, IPN, UAM, and other research centers, whose mandate will be to determine within two months whether it is viable to extract these resources, where, and by what methods. The official line insists that no decision has been made, but as Denise Maerker notes, governing requires adjusting the narrative to reality.

Additionally, the ruling coalition is showing cracks ahead of 2027: the Green Party has raised its tone over the definition of candidacies and is demanding that the polling method be respected, after months of internal friction over the allocation of certain political positions, such as San Luis Potosí, where the Green Party is backing Ruth González — wife of the current governor — as its candidate. The party also sees opportunities in other states including Chiapas, Nayarit, Colima, Nuevo León, and even Mexico City.

The process of renewing INE councilors is moving forward under suspicion: profiles close to the ruling party have passed the filters with near-perfect scores, while independent specialists and critical voices were eliminated in early stages. The final decision will rest with the Chamber of Deputies, where today the interviews with candidates conclude — among them Arturo Manuel Chávez López, director of Talleres Gráficos and former legal advisor to President Claudia Sheinbaum.

On security, Mexico recorded in March its lowest daily homicide average in a decade, with a cumulative drop of 41% since October 2024. The downward trend has been one of the government's strongest cards, though the national average also revealed an uncomfortable reality: the seven most violent states recorded increases in the same period, with Guerrero nearly doubling its homicides in a single month and Oaxaca reappearing among the most violent states in the country. Guanajuato and Chihuahua, governed by the opposition, remain at the top of the list.

Finally, President Sheinbaum will travel to Barcelona from April 16 to 19 to join the progressive summit convened by Pedro Sánchez and Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, marking her first major positioning within an international left-wing bloc. The meeting also serves as a platform to mend relations between Mexico and Spain after years of distance, despite the political alignment of both progressive governments.

Fracking under review: science steps in as political cover

The government of Claudia Sheinbaum took a step that would have seemed unthinkable months ago: it formed a committee of scientists to evaluate the viability of fracking in Mexico, under the argument

of strengthening energy sovereignty. The group — made up of specialists from UNAM, IPN, UAM, and the Mexican Petroleum Institute — must deliver conclusions within two months, amid an uncomfortable reality: Mexico imports around 75% of the natural gas it consumes, primarily from the United States.

The move marks a clear political shift. The same Sheinbaum who for years rejected fracking is now opening the door to analyzing it under "scientific" and technological criteria, betting that new techniques can reduce its environmental impact. The official line insists that no decision has been made, but the underlying message is different: the pressure to guarantee cheap and sufficient energy is beginning to outweigh ideological positions.

 [Reforma: CSP presents committee to analyze fracking](#)

Cracks in the 4T: the Green Party pressures Morena ahead of 2027

The ruling coalition is beginning to show cracks ahead of 2027. Although Morena maintains political control, its allies — especially the Green Party — have started to raise the tone over the definition of candidacies. The party's leadership demanded that the polling method be respected and warned it will not accept unilateral decisions, in a context where an internal dispute over key positions is anticipated.

The complaint reveals a deeper tension: the distribution of power within the coalition. According to reports, the Green Party is seeking greater weight in electoral decisions and to stop being a subordinate actor within the alliance. While there is no rupture, the message is clear: unity heading into 2027 will depend on internal agreements and the margin Morena is willing to concede.

 [El Universal: The ruling alliance creaks ahead of the 2027 election](#)

Homicides down on average, but violence intensifies in hotspots

Mexico recorded in March 2026 a daily homicide average of 51 — the lowest in a decade — and a cumulative drop of 41% since October 2024, already under the government of Claudia Sheinbaum. The trend confirms a sustained reduction that accelerated with a more targeted strategy to dismantle criminal structures, distancing itself from the containment approach inherited from López Obrador. The figure gives the government political breathing room: fewer killings, a narrative of control, and room to tout results. But the national average conceals an uncomfortable reality: violence is not disappearing, it is concentrating. The decline coexists with hotspots where crime is not only holding its ground but intensifying, revealing that the federal strategy remains uneven across the territory. The seven most violent states — two governed by the opposition and five by Morena — recorded increases in homicides from February to March, accounting for more than half of all killings.

Guanajuato: from 128 to 147 victims (+14.8%) Chihuahua: from 102 to 132 (+29.4%) Baja California: from 99 to 128 (+29.3%) Morelos: from 82 to 102 (+24.4%) Guerrero: from 52 to 101 (+94.2%) Estado de México: from 73 to 95 (+30.1%) Oaxaca: from 72 to 94 (+30.6%)

The starkest figure: Guerrero nearly doubled its homicides in a single month, while key states such as Estado de México and Chihuahua show increases above 30%.

 [Reforma: Homicides rise in the 7 most violent states](#)

Pro-4T profiles advance; experts are shut out of the INE

The process to renew councilors at the National Electoral Institute is moving forward under suspicion: profiles close to the ruling party have sailed through the filters while specialists and critical voices were eliminated early. Candidates with ties to the government of Claudia Sheinbaum or Morena received near-perfect scores — such as Ernesto Isunza Vera, identified for his closeness to the 4T — raising doubts about the transparency of the Technical Evaluation Committee and possible exam leaks.

The controversy is significant: electoral experts are denouncing a "purge" disguised as a technical evaluation, in which independent or inconvenient profiles were rejected in early stages. The result is a process that, rather than strengthening the electoral arbiter, feeds the narrative of institutional capture, on the eve of the 2027 elections. The final decision will rest with the Chamber of Deputies, but the suspicion is already in motion: the new INE could respond more to political power than to the autonomy that defines it.

 [Excélsior: Purge in the INE exam: ruling-party profiles advance while experts are discarded](#)

Avoiding a fuel price hike by tightening public spending

The government of Claudia Sheinbaum has opted to maintain gasoline subsidies to prevent consumer price increases, in a context of international pressure on oil costs. To sustain these supports, the Finance Ministry — led by Edgar Amador Zamora — implemented cuts to public spending, with the aim of offsetting the fiscal impact generated by the IEPS supports. According to official information, the adjustment is being applied across various areas of the federal budget to maintain fiscal balance while containing inflation. The measure reflects the government's priority of avoiding fuel price increases, even when this means reshuffling expenditure and pressuring the public accounts in a complex economic environment.

 [El Universal: Government cuts spending to inject gasoline subsidies](#)

Progressive summit in Barcelona: Sheinbaum enters the global stage

The meeting convened in Barcelona by Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, together with Brazilian President Lula da Silva, brings together around a dozen progressive leaders — including President Claudia Sheinbaum — under a common banner: defending democracy against the global advance of the right, with Donald Trump as the symbolic reference point. The gathering is part of the so-called "Global Progressive Mobilisation," which seeks to coordinate a common agenda among left-wing governments in the face of international polarization. For Mexico, Sheinbaum's participation is significant: it marks her first major positioning within an international progressive bloc, at a moment when her government is seeking a balance between diplomatic pragmatism and ideological narrative. The president has indicated she will carry messages of "peace" and the motto "first the poor," at a summit that also serves as a platform to reposition Mexico after years of distance with Spain during the previous administration.

 [El País: Sánchez and Lula gather a dozen progressive leaders in Barcelona in defense of democracy against Trump](#)

Ebrard's son occupied the best room at Mexico's London embassy

The son of current Economy Secretary Marcelo Ebrard, Marcelo Patrick Ebrard Ramos, lived for approximately six months in the residence of Mexico's Embassy in London between October 2021 and April 2022, while pursuing a master's degree. According to the investigative report published by Latinus, the young man occupied the main bedroom of the diplomatic residence, one of the largest and best-appointed spaces within the property located in Belgrave Square.

The report notes that during his stay he had access to full residential services included in the property, such as cleaning, laundry, and meal preparation, in a context where his father headed the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs under the government of Andrés Manuel López Obrador. The case has generated public questions about the use of diplomatic facilities and possible benefits derived from the then-foreign minister's position, though no additional official statement has been issued on the matter.

 [Latinus: Ebrard's son lived six months at Mexico's London embassy: he stayed in the best room](#)

Opinion express

• A center-left party — Alberto Aguirre

Aguirre describes the attempt to build a global social-democratic response to the advance of the far right, with a gathering in Barcelona driven by leaders such as Pedro Sánchez and attended by Sheinbaum, Lula, and Petro. More than a symbolic summit, it is framed as an effort to coordinate progressive agendas internationally at a time when the political pendulum has swung rightward in Latin America. However, the author warns that the

progressive bloc faces a structural weakness: fewer solid leaderships, internal fragmentation, and a narrative that has not fully connected in the face of the new right's advance. The challenge is not only to organize globally, but to demonstrate political effectiveness.

[El Economista: A center-left party?](#)

- **Necessary corrections — Denise Maerker**

Maerker lays out an uncomfortable dilemma for the government of Claudia Sheinbaum: the need to make pragmatic decisions on energy, even if they imply contradicting previous ideological positions such as the rejection of fracking. With Mexico importing between 70% and 75% of its natural gas, the discussion has moved from doctrinal to urgent. The column underscores that "corrections" are not optional, but the consequence of past decisions, such as the cancellation of renewable energy projects. The underlying problem, she warns, is that governing requires adjusting the narrative to reality — and that inevitably strains the 4T's political messaging.

[Milenio: Necessary corrections](#)

- **Cronies and quotas — Sergio Sarmiento, *Reforma***

Sarmiento argues that the selection process for three new INE councilors represents the culmination of the so-called 4T's colonization of electoral institutions. The most illustrative case: María del Carmen Alanís — former president of the Electoral Tribunal, director of electoral training, and executive secretary of the IFE — was eliminated, while Arturo Manuel Chávez, with no electoral experience but a track record as an advisor to Sheinbaum, scored 99 out of 100 on the exam. The process, he notes, was tainted from the start. The result, he warns, citing consultant Arturo Espinosa Silis, is an INE "commanded by government militants" where the logic of "cronies and quotas" prevails.

[Reforma: Cronies and quotas](#)

- **The VIP guests at the London embassy — Claudio Ochoa** Ochoa exposes the discretionary use of Mexico's London embassy as a space of privilege for those close to power, particularly in the context of the Marcelo Ebrard's son case. A prolonged stay in diplomatic facilities — far from being a minor matter — raises questions about opacity, the use of public resources, and preferential treatment. The deeper point of the criticism is not the episode itself, but what it reveals about the practices of power: a political elite that, despite the discourse of austerity and the fight against privilege, reproduces dynamics of favoritism. The contrast between narrative and reality is once again at the center of the debate.

[El Universal: The VIP guests at the London embassy](#)

- Claudia Sheinbaum will be out of the country from April 16 to 19, traveling to Barcelona, Spain, to attend the global summit of left-wing progressive leaders, which will include politicians such as Pedro Sánchez, Lula da Silva, Gustavo Petro, and Gabriel Boric, among others.
- Attorney General Ernestina Godoy will present the Strategic Justice Prosecution Plan 2026-2029 on April 17.