

EUROPEAN EXTERNAL ACTION SERVICE



Joint Communiqué of the 13th EU-Brazil Joint Committee

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Brussels, 1 July 2011

The 13th meeting of the EU – Brazil Joint Committee, held under the aegis of the EC-Brazil Framework Agreement for Cooperation signed on 29 June 1992, was held in Brussels on 1 July 2011. The previous meeting of the Brazil–EU Joint Committee was held in Brasília, on 15 June 2010.

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Tomás Duplá del Moral, Director for the Americas at the European External Action Service (EEAS), on the side of the EU, and by Minister Santiago Mourão, Director of the Department of Europe at the Ministry of External Relations, for the Federative Republic of Brazil. Talks took place in an open and constructive spirit and in an atmosphere of mutual trust and confidence.

Brazil and the EC hailed the excellent state of the bilateral relationship and its significant consolidation and diversification since the launch of the EU-Brazil Strategic Partnership at the 1st EU-Brazil Summit in Lisbon in July 2007. They highlighted the excellent progress made in the implementation of Brazil-EU Joint Action Plan 2009-2011 adopted at the 2nd Summit in Rio de Janeiro in December 2008. Both parties concurred on the major political impetus given to the relationship by the yearly EU-Brazil Summits and the High-Level Political Dialogue meetings and look forward to a successful 5th EU-Brazil Summit in Brussels on 4 October 2011. Furthermore, the two Parties emphasised the importance to develop the relationship at EU-Mercosur level and recalled the importance of the negotiations for a EU-Mercosur Association Agreement which were relaunched at the IV EU-Mercosur Summit, held in Madrid on 17 May 2010. They also underlined the importance to strengthen the EU-LAC Strategic Partnership by implementing the Joint Action Plan adopted at the VI EU-LAC Summit in Madrid in 2010.

The Joint Committee meeting allowed for a review of the numerous areas of common interest in which bilateral sectoral dialogues and/or joint activities have been established in the framework of the EC-Brazil Framework Agreement for Cooperation. It was preceded by consultations of experts on trade and trade-related matters on 30 June 2011 in which the parties reviewed the state of bilateral trade relations.

The Parties had a productive exchange on **economic and financial issues**. They welcomed the regular holding of the high-level dialogue on **macroeconomic and financial issues** established through the Brazil-EU Joint Action Plan. They stressed the usefulness of the dialogue to exchange information on their respective macroeconomic situations and ahead of G-20 meetings. They reported on the outcomes of the third session of the dialogue held in Brasília on 15 June 2011. The EU and Brazil also reviewed progress in the implementation of the **pilot industrial policy and regulatory dialogues** in the fields of textile and clothing, forest-based products and steel, non-ferrous metals and minerals, and agreed to hold new sessions of the dialogues in the coming months. They noted with satisfaction the regular contacts between their experts on **financial services-related issues**; they also reiterated their commitment to continuing their cooperation in the field of **competition policy** and to giving effective implementation to the Memorandum of Understanding signed in October 2009. Finally, they discussed the effective cooperation

established in the field of **statistics** through the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT) and the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE).

The EU and Brazil reiterated their commitment to advancing the **maritime transport dialogue**, whose last session was held on 6 July 2009. Both sides held a constructive exchange on **air transport** policies and hailed the conclusion of the negotiations of a comprehensive civil aviation agreement (Agreement on Air Transport between the EU and the federal Republic of Brazil) in March 2011. Both sides look forward to signing the agreement during the 5th EU-Brazil Summit in October 2011.

Discussions on **Science, Technology and Innovation issues** highlighted the excellent cooperation in the Framework of the bilateral **Science and Technology Agreement** which has led to the launch of coordinated calls on bio-fuels and new therapeutic approaches in health under the 7th Framework Programme on Research and Development. The parties stressed that a detailed analysis of the joint activities, including 186 successful FP7 proposals so far and new areas for future cooperation, will be carried out at the next meeting of the Steering Committee of the Science and Technology Agreement that will be held in Brasilia on 9 and 10 November 2011. The Parties decided to establish specific cooperation on disaster prevention and risk management with a view to strengthening national early warning systems for natural disasters.

The Joint Committee provided also the opportunity to take stock of progress of cooperation in the field of **information and communication technologies**. The EU and Brazil expressed satisfaction with the formalisation of the EU-Brazil Information Society dialogue through the signature of Terms of Reference at the session held in Brussels in September 2010 and agreed to hold the next meeting in November 2011 in Brasilia. The event will provide an opportunity for further discussions on research, regulatory and policy issues of mutual interest. The parties hailed the coordinated call which was successfully launched in September 2010 with a €5 Million funding from each side and covering the following priority ICT areas: Microelectronics/Microsystems, Networked Monitoring and Control, Future Internet – experimental facilities, Future Internet – security, and e-Infrastructures. They also reiterated their satisfaction for the signature of a **Co-operation Agreement (CA) between Euratom and the Federative Republic of Brazil in the field of Fusion Energy Research** and expressed their commitment to developing cooperation activities upon entry into force of the agreement following the completion of the ratification procedure by Brazil.

On **environment and climate change matters** the EU and Brazil expressed satisfaction for the outcome of the **high-level dialogues on Climate Change and on the Environmental Dimension of Sustainable Development** held in Brazil on 27 and 28 June 2011 respectively. The meetings resulted in a wide exchange of views on key international environmental issues and a constructive discussion on the respective policy approaches. Both parties stressed the importance they attach to a continued and close cooperation in particular with a view to contributing to a positive outcome of the Durban Climate Conference in November 2011 and the Rio +20 Conference on Sustainable Development in May 2012.

With regard to **energy matters**, both parties recalled the importance they attach to a close EC-Brazil cooperation. They discussed the preparations for the third session of the dialogue

to be held on 6 July 2011, whose agenda will focus on issues related to energy efficiency, regulation of the oil sector, biofuels, and triangular cooperation on bioenergy.

On employment and social issues, the parties reiterated their commitment to continuing their cooperation under the Memorandum of Understanding signed in April 2008, and recalled with satisfaction the outcomes of the joint seminar held in Brasilia in June 2010 in which they exchanged experiences and best practices on labour, employment and social issues. They identified job creation and decent work as areas for possible future cooperation. The EU congratulated Brazil on the recent launch of the “Brasil sem miséria” (Brazil without poverty) programme and hailed the important efforts made by Brazil in recent years to reduce poverty and social exclusion. The EU and Brazil also indicated that the reduction of regional disparities are a central plank of their respective agendas and reaffirmed their willingness to continue their very successful and intense cooperation through the **dialogue on regional development policy** established in November 2007 through a Memorandum of Understanding. In this respect, they welcomed the agreement on an agenda of work for the years 2012-2015 focusing on three main priorities: technical support to strengthen institutional capacities and governance of the Brazilian National Policy for Regional Development; support to bilateral partnerships, projects, best practises, and recommended experiences in regional and territorial policies; support to projects and joint actions to widen **cross-border cooperation**.

The EU and Brazil also reaffirmed their commitment to advancing their informal **dialogue on institutional strengthening and state modernization**.

With respect to their dialogues in the fields of **education and culture** both parties welcomed the visit to Brazil of European Commissioner for Education and Culture, Mrs. Androulla Vassiliou in April 2011. They discussed the political impetus it generated towards the implementation of the Joint Declarations signed in May 2009 in Brasilia and about convening a Senior Officials' Meeting to explore the establishment of a Joint Work Programme for future cooperation. They also agreed to develop a Joint Work Programme on Culture for the years 2011-2014 and confirmed their decision to organise, alongside the opening of the Europolia.Brasil festival, a conference of artists and experts on cultural cooperation between the EU and Brazil..

The EU and Brazil agreed to launch in the coming months **new dialogues in the fields of Small and Medium Enterprise policy, Tourism, and Civil Space Cooperation**.

Both sides expressed their satisfaction on the positive developments of trade flows between the EU and Brazil and exchanged information on the development of their trade relations with third countries. The meeting also allowed for a fruitful discussion and exchange of views on specific bilateral trade and investment issues and steps were taken to seek to advance in the solution of several of these issues.

Both sides expressed their interest in further intensifying and diversifying their **trade relations** and noted with great concern the delay in the Doha Development Agenda negotiations. The two sides agreed on the importance of continued efforts to conclude the DDA, building on the progress already made. They also reiterated their commitment to conclude a balanced and ambitious EU-Mercosur Association Agreement.

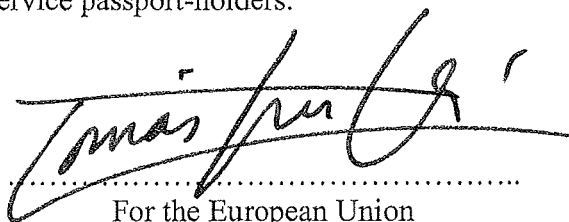
The meeting gave the opportunity to evaluate progress of the current **Co-operation programme** and both parties expressed satisfaction with the various programmes under implementation.

They also reiterated their commitment to working on the development of **triangular cooperation** projects between Brazil, the EU and interested developing countries, such as the African Portuguese speaking countries (PALOP), Haiti and East Timor in the sectors of health, energy, agriculture, education, electoral processes and others as appropriate. They noted with satisfaction the launch of a feasibility study on the production and use of biofuels in Mozambique in February 2011, and the continued work to develop analogous joint projects in other interested countries.

Both sides expressed their satisfaction with the progress made in a vast array of areas of common interest, most of which are directly relevant to the implementation of the commitments taken under the Joint Action Plan and concurred on the importance that the works of the Joint Committee will have in informing the preparations for the 5th EU-Brazil Summit.

They also took stock of the preparations for the forthcoming EU-Brazil Summit and hailed the progress made in their joint work on the EU-Brazil Joint Action Plan 2012-2014 to be endorsed by the leaders in October.

The EU and Brazil signalled the importance of a rapid entry into force of the agreement for ordinary passport holders signed in October 2010, upon the conclusion of the internal ratification process to which Brazil is committed. Both sides expressed satisfaction for the entry into force on 1 April 2011 of the short-stay visa waiver agreement for diplomatic and service passport-holders.



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