

## Joint Communiqué of the 11<sup>th</sup> EC-Brazil Joint Committee

Brussels, 7 July 2009

**The 11th meeting of the EC – Brazil Joint Committee was held in Brussels on 7 July 2009.** The meeting, held under the aegis of the EC-Brazil Framework Agreement for Cooperation signed on 29 June 1992, took place at the headquarters of the European Commission. The previous meeting of the Brazil – EC Joint Committee was held in Brasilia, on 21 March 2007. The European Community Delegation was chaired by Mr. Stefano Sannino, Deputy Director General for External Relations at the European Commission whilst the Brazilian Delegation was chaired by Ambassador Maria Edileuza Fontenele Reis, Director of the Department of Europe at the Ministry of External Relations. 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 following the launch of the EU-Brazil Strategic Partnership at the 1<sup>st</sup> EU-Brazil Summit in Lisbon in July 2007 and the adoption of the related Joint Action Plan at the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> EU-Brazil Summit in Stockholm on 6 October 2009. They underlined their shared values, such as the respect of democratic principles and human rights and reiterated their commitment to strengthening multilateralism in defence of international peace and security and the promotion of development and social justice.

To reflect the strengthening of the relationship, **Brazil and the EC decided to hold Joint Committee meetings on an annual basis.**

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. It was preceded by several technical consultations of experts and sectoral dialogue meetings on 6 July 2009.

The Parties had a productive exchange on **economic and financial issues**. They welcomed the establishment, through the EU-Brazil Joint Action Plan, of a high-level dialogue on **macroeconomic and financial issues** whose first session will be held on 16 July 2009 in Brasilia. The EC and Brazil also formalised the establishment of **pilot industrial policy and regulatory dialogues** in the fields of textile and clothing, forest-based products and steel, non-ferrous metals and minerals, on the basis of an agenda aiming at creating a favourable industrial and regulatory environment for stakeholders from both sides. The two parties agreed to hold their inaugural sessions in the second half of 2009.

The second dialogue on **maritime transport**, held on 6 July, allowed for a fruitful exchange of views and information on international, EU and Brazilian shipping market developments and maritime transport policies as well as possible areas of cooperation.

Specific issues affecting shipping operations were also addressed. Both sides held a constructive exchange on **air transport** policies and welcomed the advances made towards the conclusion of a horizontal air transport agreement and the opening of aviation safety negotiations.

The Parties signed terms of reference establishing **the EC-Brazil Consultation Mechanism on Sanitary and Phytosanitary issues** which aims at developing the coordination and the cooperation between both sides on such matters on a more regular basis.

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 a coordinated call on bio-fuels under the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme on Research and Development. The Joint Committee provided also the opportunity to take stock of progress of cooperation in the field of **information and communication technologies research**. The second session of the **EU-Brazil Information Society Dialogue** in September 2009 in Brasilia will provide an opportunity for further discussions on research, regulatory and policy issues of mutual interest. They welcomed the results of the special session of the Information Society Technologies Advisory Group (ISTAG) of the EU on the 18<sup>th</sup> of June, when representatives of industry and research institutions from Brazil and the EU exchanged ideas on future joint initiatives in this field. The parties also welcomed **the conclusion of the negotiations of a Co-operation Agreement (CA) between Euratom and the Federative Republic of Brazil in the field of Fusion Energy Research** and reiterated their interest in cooperating in the field of **satellite navigation**.

On **environment and energy matters** the EC and Brazil expressed satisfaction for the outcome of **the high-level Dialogue on the Environment Dimension of Sustainable Development and Climate Change** held in Brazil on 30 April 2009. The meeting resulted in a wide exchange of views on key international environmental issues and a constructive discussion on the respective policy approaches. Six main topics were discussed: forests, biodiversity, ozone, mercury, RIO+20, and climate change. 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 Copenhagen Climate Conference in December 2009.

With regard to **energy**, the Parties expressed their great satisfaction with the EC-Brazil energy cooperation enhanced by the successful inaugural session of the bilateral dialogue in November 2008. They agreed to hold the second session of the dialogue at Senior Officials level in the second half of 2009. Both Parties recalled the importance they attach to a close EC-Brazil cooperation on energy matters and outlined its very good prospects notably on the trilateral EC-Brazil-Africa cooperation on sustainable bio-fuels and bioelectricity.

The EC and Brazil highlighted the establishment of **a sectoral dialogue on employment and social issues** through the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding in April 2008. The Parties agreed to start discussions on contributive and non contributive social protection schemes, and reiterated their commitment to working jointly to promote full, freely chosen and productive employment for both women and men, to strengthen the



decent work agenda and to combat child and forced labour. They 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.

The EC and Brazil also continued discussions with a view to establishing a **dialogue on institutional strengthening and state modernization**.

Both parties welcomed the establishment of sectoral dialogues in the fields of **education and culture** through the signature of Joint Declarations in May 2009 in Brasilia and agreed to hold sectoral policy dialogue activities in the course of 2010.

The meeting allowed for a fruitful exchange of views on the **bilateral trade relations**. Both sides expressed their satisfaction on the positive developments of trade flows between the EU and Brazil in 2008. They expressed their interest in further intensifying and diversifying their trade relations. Both sides expressed their strong commitment to a successful conclusion of the Doha Round. They also reiterated their commitment to bringing negotiations of a Mercosur-EU Association Agreement to a satisfactory conclusion. The EC and Brazil also welcomed the advances made in the negotiations of a Memorandum of Understanding on **administrative cooperation on competition matters**.

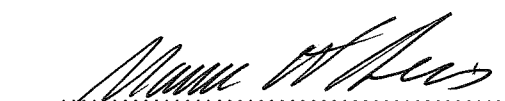
The meeting gave the opportunity to evaluate progress of the current **Co-operation programme** and both parties reiterated their commitment to accelerating the execution of the various programmes under implementation. They reaffirmed the continued relevance of the current cooperation priority sectors identified in the Country Strategy Paper 2007-2013 and pledged to continue the mutual consultations during the mid-term review process.

They also advanced their joint preparatory work towards the development of **triangular cooperation** projects between Brazil, the EU and interested developing countries, such as the Portuguese speaking developing countries (PALOP) and Haiti in the sectors of health, energy, agriculture, education and others as appropriate.

Finally, 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 3<sup>rd</sup> EU-Brazil Summit.



For the European Community  
Deputy Director General for External  
Relations, European Commission  
Stefano Sannino



For the Federative Republic of Brazil  
Director of the Department of Europe at the  
Brazilian Ministry of External Relations  
Ambassador Maria Edileuza Fontenele Reis