

14th Meeting of the Brazil-European Union Joint Committee Joint Communiqué

Brasilia, 1 June 2012

The 14th Meeting of the Brazil-European Union Joint Committee was held at the Ministry of External Relations of the Federative Republic of Brazil, in Brasilia on 1 June 2012, under the aegis of the Brazil-European Union Framework Agreement for Cooperation, signed on 29 June 1992. The Brazilian delegation was headed by the Director of the Department of Europe at the Ministry of External Relations of the Federative Republic of Brazil, Minister Santiago Mourão, and the European Union delegation was headed by the Executive Director for the Americas at the European External Action Service (EEAS), Mr. Christian Leffler.

Brazil and the European Union (EU) noted with satisfaction the consolidation and diversification of co-operation initiatives in areas of mutual interest, outlined in the Joint Action Plan for the years 2012-2014 adopted at the 5th Brazil-European Union Summit, held in Brussels in October 2011. The Parties concurred on the political impetus provided by the five Summits held thus far and by the periodical meetings between the Minister of External Relations of the Federative Republic of Brazil and the European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, as well as by the High Level Political Dialogue. They welcomed the forthcoming political dialogue meeting of Political Directors due to take place in Brasília on 28 June 2012.

Both Parties expressed satisfaction with the progress achieved in the implementation of initiatives of mutual interest and the fulfillment of the commitments undertaken in the Strategic Partnership Joint Action Plan. They concurred on the importance of the work of the Joint Committee in preparation for the VI Brazil-UE Summit.

The Parties also emphasised the importance of developing their mutual relations at the MERCOSUL-UE level and of strengthening the CELAC-EU relations. In this sense, they expressed confidence in the success of the I CELAC-EU Summit, to be held in Santiago, Chile, on 26-27 January 2013.

The 14th Meeting of the Brazil-European Union Joint Committee reviewed the multiple areas of mutual interest, in which the Parties have formalised Sectoral Dialogues or joint initiatives, as well as issues that show potential for the development of co-operation activities.

Brazil and the EU reviewed the implementation of the pilot dialogues on industrial and regulatory issues in the areas of textiles; steel, minerals and non-ferrous metals; and forest-based products and reiterated their willingness to convene meetings of the dialogues in the next few months.

The Parties noted with satisfaction the positive development of the high-level dialogue on macroeconomic and financial issues, which has been a privileged forum for discussions and exchange of information on both their respective macroeconomic situations and the discussions held at the G-20. In these terms, they hailed the outcome of the meeting of the high-level dialogue held in Paris on 23 May 2012. They further highlighted the ongoing activities of the dialogue on financial services, whose 3rd meeting was held in Rio de Janeiro in November 2011.

Brazil and the EU discussed the situation of the Agreement on Air Transport and confirmed their interest in concluding the process of signature as soon as possible, in view of the significant economic benefits that it will generate for both sides. They underlined the positive results of the 3rd meeting of the maritime transport dialogue, held in Brasilia on 28 February 2012. The meeting provided opportunity for the exchange of up-to-date information on their respective regulatory policies, as well as for the identification of new areas of convergence to further develop co-operation in this field.

The Parties reaffirmed their interest in further advancing co-operation on competition policy and in the effective implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding signed in October 2009. Moreover, they manifested interest in advancing the implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Statistical Office of the European Union (EUROSTAT) and the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) signed in June 2010, identifying priority actions.

Brazil and the EU welcomed the signing, in December 2011, of the Memorandum of Understanding on dialogues on policies in the fields of small and medium-sized enterprises, innovation, competitiveness and clusters. They further welcomed the European entrepreneurial missions to Brazil in December 2011, on the occasion of the visit by the European Commission Vice-President

and Commissioner for Industry and Entrepreneurship, Mr. Antonio Tajani, and in April 2012, headed by the Director-General of Enterprise and Industry, Mr. Daniel Calleja Crespo. Furthermore, the Parties expressed satisfaction with the activities aimed at deepening co-operation in the field of tourism and highlighted the potential of the "50,000 Tourists" pilot experience.

On science, technology and innovation, the Parties welcomed the results of the 5th Meeting of the Steering Committee responsible for the implementation of the Agreement for Scientific and Technological cooperation and for the follow up of the relevant joint actions, which was held in Brasilia, on 22 November 2011. On that occasion, the Parties made progress in the thematic discussions that had been initiated at previous meetings of the Steering Committee. The representatives of Brazil and the European Commission agreed to better focus collaboration on a limited number of key areas of mutual interest with the view of increasing the scale and scope of cooperation, namely in relation to ICT, Environment and Natural Disasters Prevention, Social Sciences and Humanities, and Food, Agriculture and Biotechnologies. The Steering Committee has thus established a series of working groups to improve the effectiveness of the cooperation. It considered simplification of cooperation pathways and harmonisation of activities a success factor for their work. Other key points discussed were enhanced mutual access to research programmes and the extension of the current dialogue to cover innovation issues, both in terms of policy and cooperation projects. The Parties also agreed on renewing for another five years the S&T Cooperation Agreement expiring on 7 August 2012. Both sides have meanwhile engaged the necessary procedures.

The Parties noted with satisfaction the outcome of the 4th Brazil-EU dialogue on Information Society, held in Brasilia on 7-8 November 2011. The meeting allowed for the continued exchange of information in various fields related to Information Society, as well as the analysis of new opportunities for bilateral co-operation and experience sharing in the fields of Cloud Computing/Software, Internet Governance, Internet Security, Information and Communication Technologies for Society and Media, and new business models, general regulatory policies and broadband. The Parties also expressed satisfaction for the strengthening of Research & Development cooperation in the ICT field, notably on the agreement to prepare a new coordinated call to be launched this year on common priority ICT areas with joint funding.

The Parties recalled the progress made at the 5th Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Science and Technology Agreement on nuclear research. On that occasion, the Brazilian side reaffirmed the importance attached by the Fusion National Network (RNF) to the co-operation with the EU. Such co-operation shall allow for enhanced participation of Brazilian researchers in experiences carried out by European laboratories, through the sharing of research infrastructures and the exchange of scientists, engineers and experts. They hailed the development of a draft programme for strengthening co-

operation, which may be implemented as soon as the Agreement on Co-operation in the Field of Fusion Energy Research enters into force. The Brazilian side noted that the Agreement is currently at the National Congress for approval. Based on the programme, the Committee responsible for coordinating the bilateral activities will be ready to promote the following main initiatives in the future: i) convergence between the Brazilian and EURATOM fusion programmes, by means of co-operation for the establishment of the new fusion laboratory (LNF); ii) Brazilian participation in the Joint European Torus (JET) activities and potential Brazilian partnership in the programme for JET operation and exploration; and iii) follow-up on the ongoing co-operation activities in the nuclear energy field between Brazilian and European institutions.

As regards the dialogue on capacity building in disaster prevention and risk management, the Parties highlighted the signing of the Letter of Intent between the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTI) of the Federative Republic of Brazil and the European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC), during the 5th Brazil-European Union Summit. In this framework, the EU's Joint Research Centre Ispra Institute (Italy) provided training on flood forecasting and monitoring of soil moisture using remote sensing, in March and April 2012, for two Brazilian scientists from the National Centre for Natural Disaster Surveillance and Alert (CEMADEN). The two sides also hailed the organization of an MCTI-JRC joint exhibition on natural disaster prevention and surveillance, in the margins of the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20).

By the same token, the Parties hailed the establishment, by the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTI) and the European Commission, of a structured dialogue on space co-operation involving the Brazilian Space Agency (AEB) and the European Space Agency (ESA), with a view to erecting a system for partnership and co-operation on space activities between Brazil and the European Union. The relationship in this field, formalised through the signing of a Letter of Intent on the Dialogue on Space Policies, shall contemplate the establishment of a Steering Committee set to convene once a year. The Steering Committee shall seek to develop co-operation activities in the following overriding issues: Earth observation and Earth sciences; contributions to the Group on Earth Observation (GEO) and the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS); global satellite navigation systems; satellite communications; space science; and space exploration.

On environment and climate change, Brazil and the UE expressed satisfaction with the continued strengthening of contacts between experts from both sides such as a technical mission of EU experts to Brazil on forest management in October 2011 and workshops held in Brussels (March 2012) and in Brasilia (May 2012) on the Nagoya Protocol, its ongoing ratification and legislation processes. They also hailed the workshop on payment for ecosystem services held in Rio

de Janeiro in April 2012. They committed to continuing their contacts and exchanges in the future and agreed to hold the next session of the dialogue on the environmental aspects of sustainable development in Brussels in the second half of 2012. The Parties reiterated their willingness to continue their mutual consultations with a view to ensuring a successful outcome of the Rio+20 Conference, as well as the full implementation of the outcomes of Durban. Both Parties hailed the progress made in the Dialogue on Energy Policy, which held its third annual meeting in July 2011, and concurred on exploring possible dates for convening its fourth meeting in the second half of the year. They took stock of discussions taking place at technical level regarding renewable energy sources and sustainable biofuels, as well as the interest in cooperation on offshore oil and gas safety, notably through the possible organisation of experts' exchanges in the future.

The Parties noted with satisfaction the inaugural meeting of the Sectoral Dialogue on education held in Brazil in November 2011. They hailed the effective implementation of the "Ciência sem Fronteiras" (Science without Borders) Programme and the prospects of the "Erasmus for All" Programme, starting in 2014, and in this context further expressed their optimism about the enhancement of bilateral academic mobility. They also expressed satisfaction with the advances made in the implementation of the Joint Programme on Culture 2011-2014, signed at the 5th Brazil-European Union Summit, recalling the "Brazil-EU Cultural Dialogue" roundtable, held in Brussels on 5 October 2011. On that occasion, Brazilian and European experts and representatives from the Ministry of Culture of Brazil and the European Commission discussed challenges and opportunities in their quest to deepen artistic and cultural exchange and bilateral co-operation. The Parties also emphasised the fruitful exchange of experiences within initiatives funded through the EU-Brazil Sectoral Dialogues Support Facility, especially in the museum sector and with regard to crosscutting issues related to culture, education and communication. Furthermore, they emphasised the importance of an event that will take place in the margins of the Rio+20 Conference, on 21-22 June 2012, which will allow for exchanges in the field of creative economy.

Brazil and the European Union stressed the importance of mitigating regional disparities and of continuing their successful and intense co-operation through the dialogue on regional development policies, established with the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding in November 2007. They emphasized their commitment to the implementation of the numerous initiatives foreseen in the joint work-plan 2012-2015. On employment policy, the Parties expressed satisfaction for the high-level meeting between Commissioner Andor and Labour Minister Brizola Neto in the margins of the G20 Labour and Employment Ministerial Meeting in Guadalajara on 16-17 May 2012. They welcomed the continued G20 focus on strengthening the social dimension of globalization and creating quality employment, successful strategies to promote youth employment and options to generate green jobs. Moreover, the Parties

expressed their interest to advance the discussions in the context of the Sectoral Dialogue on Employment and Social Issues, formalised by the Memorandum of Understanding signed in April 2008, with a view to promoting joint activities focused on development and social inclusion. They also recalled the progress made at the Dialogue on Public Governance, which has allowed for the development of joint activities in various fields, such as human resources, information and communication technology, and multi-level governance.

The Parties agreed to deepen preparatory consultations on the launching of the Brazil-UE Sectoral Dialogue on Drugs. The Dialogue could contemplate concrete issues related to drug policies as well as co-operation and information sharing.

The EU and Brazil recalled their commitment to establishing a dialogue on drugs-related matters as foreseen in the Joint Action Plan 2012-2014. They pledged to advance discussions on the format and modalities of the dialogue with a view to launching it in the second half of the year.

The Joint Committee, having been preceded by consultations between both Parties' experts on trade-related issues on 31 May, allowed for the exchange of ideas and information on the progress of trade and investment flows between Brazil and the EU. The meeting also allowed for a comprehensive discussion and exchange of views on specific bilateral trade and investment issues, and steps were taken to seek to follow up on several of these issues.

As regards the ongoing MERCOSUL-EU negotiations, the Parties reaffirmed their strong commitment towards achieving an ambitious, balanced and comprehensive Association Agreement. They further emphasized the central importance of the WTO and the multilateral trade system to global prosperity, and concurred on the importance of working together for the good functioning and strengthening of the system. They underlined the need to rapidly advance the Doha Development Agenda negotiations. Finally, they agreed on the relevance of avoiding adopting protectionist measures. The parties agree to enhance their bilateral dialogue on these issues with the view to facilitating discussions in the relevant international fora.

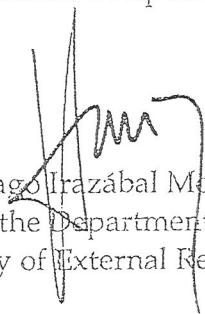
The Joint Committee took note of the ongoing initiatives enshrined in the Programme for Bilateral Co-operation 2007-2013, as well as of the changes resulting from the Agenda for Change, already implemented by the European Commission. The Parties stressed the importance of ensuring resources from both sides for the effective implementation of joint initiatives in the context of the different Sectoral Dialogues. They reiterated their commitment to advancing triangular cooperation with developing countries, in particular with Portuguese-speaking African countries (PALOP), Haiti and East Timor. They hailed, in this context, the participation of Brazil and the CPLP Executive Secretariat in the meeting of the EU/PALOP/Timor-Leste Programme, held in

Brussels on 19 March 2012. They expressed optimism about a similar meeting to be held on 4-6 June 2012.

The EU and Brazil recalled the outcome of the 4th High Level Forum on aid effectiveness that took place at the end of 2011.

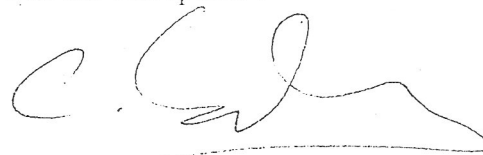
Both Parties look forward to the VI Brazil-EU Summit, to be held in Brazil.

For the Federative Republic of Brazil



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