

## Press release

19-05-2023

D-BR

# Brazil: MEPs visit Brazil to deepen the Strategic Partnership and to discuss the EU-Mercosur Agreement

From 15 October to 17 November, a delegation of MEPs led by the Chair of Parliament's Delegation for relation with the Federative Republic of Brazil (D-BR), José Manuel Fernandes (EPP, Portugal), visited Brazil. During their visit, the first of a European Parliament Delegation since 2017, MEPs met with Members of Congress, the Vice-President, the President of the Senate and the Congress, the ministers for environment and for human rights and other government officials, representatives of civil society and the indigenous communities, the business community, academia and think tanks.

After the visit, Delegation Chair José Manuel Fernandes (EPP, Portugal) said:

"The visit of our Delegation to Brazil came very timely. Since the inauguration of President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva commonly known as Lula, on 1 January 2023, Brazil and the European Union are working hard to revitalise the EU-Brazil Strategic Partnership, established in 2007. The EU Commissioners Frans Timmermans, Margrethe Vestager and Virginijus Sinkevičius have already come to Brasilia for intensive talks. The visit of our Delegation and the parallel visit of the International Trade Committee is a strong signal that we want to strengthen also the parliamentary component of the bilateral partnership.

The visit allowed the Delegation Members to get a comprehensive picture about Brazil's current political, economic and social situation. The 8 January rioters' massive attack on the Brazilian democracy was successfully repelled and the Brazilian institutions emerged from this confrontation strengthened.

The Brazilian Government and Congress are committed to conclude the negotiations of the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement in the second half of this year under the Brazilian Mercosur and the Spanish EU Presidencies. We listened carefully to their concerns regarding the "additional instrument" or "side-letter" proposed by the EU Commission. Both side remain committed to support all efforts to arrive at a fair and balanced agreement.

Our delegation conveyed to all interlocutors our deep concern about the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, which is ultimately a war of dictatorships against democracies. All Brazilian institutions we met reaffirmed their condemnation of the Russian invasion of Ukraine and emphasised that Brazil supported all UN General Assembly resolutions on the subject. At the same time, they stressed the need to negotiate a peace agreement as soon as possible.

We welcome the new Brazilian government's strong commitment to halting deforestation and protecting indigenous communities. The European Parliament supports all initiatives in this area, in particular the Amazon Fund, which – as our partners have signalled to us – plays a crucial role in saving the tropical forests."

The delegation, led by D-BR Chair José Manuel FERNANDES (EPP, Portugal) was composed of João ALBUQUERQUE (S&D, Portugal, 1st Vice-Chair, Anna CAVAZZINI (Greens/EFA, Germany), 2nd Vice-Chair, Herbert DORFMANN (EPP, Italy), César LUENA (S&D, Spain), Ibán GARCÍA DEL BLANCO (S&D, Spain), Elzbieta RAFALSKA (ECR, Poland), Enikő GYÖRI, (NI, Hungary).