

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

2004



2009

Committee on Development

2008/2288(INI)

22.1.2009

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee on Foreign Affairs

on a proposal for a European Parliament recommendation to the Council on the
EU-Brazil Strategic Partnership
(2008/2288(INI))

Rapporteur: Juan Fraile Cantón

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Development calls on the Committee on Foreign Affairs, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions in its motion for a resolution:

1. Welcomes Brazil's increasing role on the international stage, the growth of its economy and the strong EU-Brazil economic relations;
2. Considers the first EU-Brazil Summit held in Lisbon on 4 July 2007, where Brazil and the EU agreed to enhance their longstanding bilateral relationship and to engage in a strategic partnership, to be a political step of the utmost importance;
3. Supports the view expressed in the Commission Communication of 18 September 2008 entitled "Multilingualism: an asset for Europe and a shared commitment"(COM(2008)0566), which underlines the strategic value for the EU of "the external dimension of multilingualism" in today's globalised world; reaffirms the fact that "some EU languages are also spoken in a great number of non-Member States in different continents", that they "constitute an important link between peoples and nations" and "a valuable communication tool for business" namely in "emerging markets such as Brazil", and that they are a relevant cooperation and development asset as well;
4. Notes that in spite of economic development and accumulation of wealth, Brazil still has a high number of poor people; Stresses the need to support the Brazilian government in its efforts to tackle poverty in the poorest regions and the poorest layers of society, taking into account the fact that 65 % of the poorest Brazilians are black or of mixed ethnicity, while 86 % of those in the most privileged class are white;
5. Welcomes Brazil's efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and congratulates it on the positive developments in areas such as poverty alleviation, reduction of child malnutrition and basic education; Stresses that Brazil still needs to undertake considerable efforts to reach all MDGs by 2015, for example in ensuring sufficient quality in basic education for all girls and boys and in continuing the decrease in under-five mortality; Points out that the promotion of gender equality is a fundamental human right and an instrument to achieve the MDGs which needs to be present in the EU-Brazil Strategic Partnership;
6. Recalls the unsolved human rights problems in Brazil and calls on both the Brazilian authorities and the European Union to increase and coordinate their efforts to stop illegal labour conditions, particularly in sugar cane production and to protect those seeking to prevent illegal logging and other threats to rainforest communities;
7. Supports Brazil's efforts to combat AIDS with low-cost medicines, and calls on the EU to further investigate in compulsory licensing for medicines addressing neglected pandemic illnesses poor people suffer from;
8. Highlights the fact that deforestation and the expansion of large-scale agriculture have led to a loss of biodiversity in vast areas; notes that global climate change and deforestation may lead to potentially catastrophic consequences for the rainforest and the whole region

and therefore insists on the importance of integrating global climate change into the cooperation strategies while ensuring the rights and participation of indigenous and other forest-dependent people;

9. Calls on the Brazilian authorities to keep a balance between new renewable energy sources and global food security; stresses therefore that it is essential to involve the country in a long-term strategy for sustainable development and production of advanced agrifuels for local consumption, avoiding monocultures with destructive effects for the environment;
10. Insists that the amount available under the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI) for Brazil should be used for measures supporting Brazil in its fight against poverty and to achieve the MDGs and other measures that can be considered as genuine development assistance, for instance in the environmental sector;
11. Considers that actions in favour of the EU-Brazil political partnership, mutual awareness and understanding and exchange programmes should be financed from an instrument other than the DCI.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

Date adopted	21.1.2009
Result of final vote	+: 28 -: 0 0: 0
Members present for the final vote	Margrete Auken, Thijs Berman, Josep Borrell Fontelles, Danutė Budreikaitė, Marie-Arlette Carlotti, Thierry Cornillet, Corina Crețu, Koenraad Dillen, Beniamino Donnici, Fernando Fernández Martín, Juan Fraile Cantón, Alain Hutchinson, Filip Kaczmarek, Maria Martens, Luisa Morgantini, José Ribeiro e Castro, Toomas Savi, Frithjof Schmidt, Jürgen Schröder, Feleknas Uca, Anna Záborská, Jan Zahradil, Mauro Zani
Substitute(s) present for the final vote	Maria Berger, Raymond Langendries, Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez, Manolis Mavrommatis, Anne Van Lancker