

WRITTEN QUESTION E-6286/07
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to the Commission

Subject: International regional cooperation

On 29 November, the Commission signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Brazil to set up a structured dialogue on regional policy. Europe can through this channel provide information on how it focuses on the innovation of its regional policy and engage in the exchange of best practices with international partners.

Last month, the Forum of Global Associations of Regions (FOGAR) was founded in New York on the initiative of the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) in March 2007. FOGAR represents regions from all continents. Since the very beginning the Association of European Border Regions (AEBR) has been involved.

Within the United Nations Development Programme, a strategic vision of the role of regional authorities is being developed. This could lead to a permanent recognition of the regional dimension in UN work. The status of a UN-approved intergovernmental organisation is being considered.

- Does the Commission plan to extend to other partners its international dialogue on the innovation of regional policy, as discussed during the 'Open Days' in October 2007, and how will this affect its future communications on cohesion policy in 2008?
- How does the Commission directly support the FOGAR initiative and other initiatives to strengthen cooperation between regions and cities on a world scale?