



JRC signs agreement for closer cooperation with Brazilian Ministry of Science

Brussels, 4 October - The JRC and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTI) of Brazil have signed a Letter of Intent for closer cooperation. The signature took place on the occasion of the 5th EU-Brazil Summit covering global, regional and bilateral issues.

The Letter of Intent sets out the basis for further cooperation between the JRC and the MCTI in several priority areas, including disaster prevention and crisis management, climate change and sustainable management of natural resources, energy, food security, biotechnologies, ICT and nanotechnologies.

The first result of the collaboration will be to assist the Brazilian National Centre for Monitoring and Early Warning of Natural Disaster, in Sao Paulo. With its expertise in monitoring systems and disaster prevention, the JRC will provide support and exchange information with the MCTI on flood forecasting and monitoring.

The JRC and the MCTI will work together to elaborate a technical roadmap on priority cooperation activities. They will also propose joint initiatives in view of Rio+20 in 2012.

Dominique Ristori, Director-General of the JRC, said: "We are extremely pleased that the JRC is contributing to this important strategic partnership for the EU. The JRC's support to the Brazilian National Centre for Monitoring and Early Warning of Natural Disaster will be the first successful step of our enhanced collaboration".

Background:

About the JRC

The Joint Research Centre (JRC) is the European Commission's in-house science service. Its mission is to provide customer-driven scientific and technical support for the conception, development, implementation and monitoring of European Union policies. The JRC serves the common interest of the Member States, while being independent of special interests, whether private or national.

About the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTI) of Brazil

The competences of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTI) of Brazil include: national policy on scientific and technological research and innovation; the planning, coordination, supervision and control



of scientific and technological activities; policies for developing information technology and automation; national policy on biosecurity; space policy; nuclear policy and control of exports of sensitive goods and services.

EU-Brazil scientific cooperation

Over the last few years, Brazil and the European Union have sought to strengthen scientific cooperation through the EU-Brazil Scientific and Technological (S&T) Agreement. Signed in 2004, this Agreement provides a broad framework for cooperation and is based on the principles of mutual benefit, exchange of information, reciprocal access to each others' activities and programmes and the effective protection of intellectual property rights. It enables scientists and research institutions to cooperate and initiate joint activities in a wide range of scientific areas.

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