

Flash report of the 5th EU-Brazil Joint Committee meeting,

Brasilia 22nd November 2011

The fifth Joint Committee meeting with Brazil under the bilateral S&T Cooperation Agreement took place on 22 November in Brasilia. The meeting was co-chaired by Ambassador Benedicto Fonseca Filho of the Department of Scientific and Technological Themes, Ministry of External Relations of Brazil, and Mr. Isi Saragossi, Director of International Cooperation, DG Research and Innovation of the European Commission.

Recent Developments in R&I

Both sides exchanged information on recent developments in policy and programmes relating to research and innovation.

- The EU side provided information on Europe 2020 and the Innovation Union, the preparation of the Commission proposal for Horizon 2020 and the timescale for the decision making on the programme.
- The Brazilian side provided information on the structure of the research base in Brazil, including the recent re-organisation of the Ministry of research and innovation (MCTI); information was also provided on the Brazilian priorities for science and technology and their strategic directions for innovation activities.

Current Cooperation

Discussion focused on a report of current cooperation shared in advance of the meeting with the Ministry of External Relations of Brazil (Itamaraty) and the Ministry of research and innovation (MCTI).

- Brazil is currently the 6th most active international partner in FP7 involved in 113 signed grant agreements. The highest levels of cooperation are in Marie Curie, Environment, ICT, Health and Food, agriculture and biotechnology.
- We discussed how to make better use of the Brazilian national programmes to promote cooperation in areas of mutual interest. A workshop will be organised in the first trimester of 2012 on ways to facilitate access to relevant programmes which are already open to international partners. Conditions of access and funding of Brazilian subsidiaries of European organisations were also discussed. The two sides discussed regional and bi-regional (EU-LAC¹; EU-MERCOSUR) cooperation in areas where a broader geographical approach would be particularly effective.

Increasing Cooperation

The two sides discussed arrangements for improving the efficiency of cooperation by using thematic working groups involving the relevant departments on both sides to explore, define

¹ European Union – Latin America & Caribbean

and implement concrete actions for cooperation. The Commission stressed that cooperation should be developing along three main principles:

1. Make better use of the "general opening" of the Framework Programme, facilitating the networking of research organisations between Brazil and the EU in areas of common interest;
2. Make better use of Brazilian research programmes to promote cooperation with the EU; and,
3. Promote cooperation at bi-regional level in areas requiring cross border cooperation.

Following these principles, both parties 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. Discussions in the areas of **Innovation, ICT, Environment, Social Sciences and Humanities and Food, agriculture and biotechnologies** provided the following outcomes:

- Improve cooperation on the **environment and climate change** by linking research networks especially in fields such as the mitigation and adaptation to climate change, prevention of natural hazards and the green economy.
- In the area of **food, agriculture and biotechnology**, the EU is developing a partnering initiative on biodiversity in agriculture with several Latin American countries to which Brazil may contribute.
- Improve co-dissemination of programmes for **researcher mobility**, including 'Science without borders' and the EU Marie-Curie, Erasmus Mundus and Euraxess programmes. The joint seminar that will be organised in the framework of the platform for exchange and cooperation, as decided at the first EU-Brazil meeting of the Political Dialogue on education which took place on 21 November. The seminar will provide an occasion to discuss the implementation and options for the future of these programmes, and mechanisms for developing cooperation between Brazilian and EU institutions of higher education.
- Explore the possibility of creating networks between European and Brazilian research funders and agencies on social sciences and humanities.
- Deepening cooperation in Information and Communication Technologies, including the development of a second coordinated call, building on the coordinated call launched last year.

Following a first workshop on innovation, it was agreed to further explore possibilities for cooperation in the field of innovation, to be based on areas of interest being identified by Brazil.

Other Areas of possible cooperation presented by Brazilian Institutions

Following a specific request from the Brazilian Delegation, Brazilian representatives from various ministries and funding agencies provided information on Brazilian interest in extending collaboration in the areas of renewable energies, health, nanotechnology, space and

prevention of natural disasters. Although Nuclear research issues are discussed under the EU-Brazil Euratom Agreement, information on ongoing activities in nuclear research was also reported by Brazilian authorities.

Next Meeting

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held in Brussels in one year's time. Both parties agreed to have a videoconference in 6 month time to review the progress done.