JOINT DECLARATION OF MR. JÁN FIGEL’ COMMISSIONER FOR EDUCATION, TRAINING, CULTURE AND YOUTH, EUROPEAN COMMISSION AND MR. JOÃO LUIZ SILVA FERREIRA STATE MINISTER FOR CULTURE OF THE FEDERATIVE REPUBLIC OF BRAZIL

The European Commission and the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil wish to reinforce co-operation and dialogue in the field of culture.

European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth, Mr Ján Figel’, and the State Minister for Culture of the Federative Republic of Brazil, Mr. João Luiz Silva Ferreira, have declared their willingness to further strengthen co-operation and dialogue between the European Commission and the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil in the field of culture. They made this declaration on 18 May 2009 during the official visit of Commissioner Figel’ to Brazil.

The European Commission and the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil acknowledge the crucial contribution of culture towards a harmonious development of societies and mutually enriching exchanges.

Both sides consider that enhancing co-operation and dialogue on culture is instrumental to improve mutual understanding and to establish a genuine intercultural dialogue, as well as a community of views as regards questions of cultural governance at international level.

Commissioner Ján Figel’ and Mr. João Luiz Silva Ferreira, State Minister for Culture of the Federative Republic of Brazil, recalled the EC-Brazil framework co-operation agreement signed in 1992, in particular its art. 25 regarding cultural cooperation between Brazil and the European Union (EU), whose aim is to "strengthen the cultural links which already exist between Brazil and the Member States of the Community".

They emphasised the importance of culture within the framework of the 2007-2013 Country Strategic Paper (CSP) for Brazil adopted on 14 May 2007, which reinforces the cultural dimension of the relations with Brazil "as part of the overall objective of promoting cultural diversity".

In reference to the Joint Statement adopted at the first ever EU-Brazil Summit, held in Lisbon on 4 July 2007 to launch the Strategic Partnership between the parties, both
sides underlined the relevance of its conclusions, in particular as regards "their willingness to cooperate within the framework of the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions".

Commissioner Ján Figel' and Mr. João Luiz Silva Ferreira, State Minister for Culture of the Federative Republic of Brazil finally welcomed the fact that the EU – Brazil Joint Action Plan signed in December 2008 foresees the launch of a sectoral policy dialogue in the field of culture.

Taking into account these positive developments, Commissioner Ján Figel' and Mr. João Luiz Silva Ferreira, State Minister for Culture of the Federative Republic of Brazil, jointly declared the following intentions:

- The European Commission and the Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil, represented respectively by the European Commission's Directorate General for Education and Culture on the one side, and the Ministry of Culture of the Federative Republic of Brazil on the other side, will set up a sectoral policy dialogue in the field of culture, which will cover jointly identified issues of common interest, such as, in a first stage, cultural diversity and the implementation of the 2005 Unesco Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions, cooperation inside the governing bodies of the Convention, the development of the economy of culture in Brazil and Europe, policy orientations for the fostering of creativity in Brazil and Europe as well as the issue of intercultural dialogue and exchange.

- The sectoral policy dialogue will consist of regular exchanges of best practices, reviews of policy developments and challenges, and promotion of knowledge building and sharing in relation to the commonly identified issues. It will also include discussions concerning existing and future cooperation. Specific events such as seminars, workshops or expert meetings will be jointly organised for the purpose of those exchanges and discussions, with the participation of relevant stakeholders. These events could be held annually, alternately in Brussels and in Brasilia or in any other venue agreed by both sides. Joint comparative studies may also be launched on themes of common interest.

- Both sides will jointly set up a rolling work programme for conducting this sectoral policy dialogue. They will regularly review its implementation and discuss avenues for future co-operation. To this end, senior officials from both sides will meet in principle once a year with the venue alternating between Brussels and Brasilia or any other venue agreed by both sides. Other meetings may be held as necessary.

- Both sides will bear their own delegation's costs for participation in such events and meetings. All other costs linked to the organisation of these seminars, workshops and meetings will be borne by the side hosting the event, except if agreed otherwise. The costs of the joint studies will also be shared.
The provisions of this Joint Declaration express political intent and are not designed to create legal rights or obligations under international law.

This Joint Declaration is signed in Brasilia on the 18th of May 2009, both in English and Portuguese.

European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth

Minister for Culture of the Federative Republic of Brazil

Ján Figel

João Luiz Silva Ferreira