

## **JOINT DECLARATION**

Of

Mr Fernando Haddad, Minister of Education

Government of the Federative Republic of Brazil

and

Mr. Jan Figel, Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth

European Commission

The European Commission and the Government of Federative Republic of Brazil wish to reinforce co-operation and dialogue in the fields of education and training.

European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth, Mr Ján Figel', and Minister of Education, Mr Fernando Haddad, 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 fields of education and training. 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 education and training to the development of knowledge-based societies and economies and the key role they play in boosting growth and jobs. They also recognise the importance of education and training for the personal development of their citizens and social cohesion in their societies.

Both sides consider that enhancing co-operation and dialogue on education and training is instrumental to improve mutual understanding and to strengthen their respective position with regard to the challenges facing them in an ever-globalising knowledge-based society and economy.

Commissioner Figel', and Mr Fernando Haddad, Minister of Education of the Federative Republic of Brazil, recalled the EC-Brazil framework co-operation

agreement signed in 1992 and in particular its article 27 which stresses the mutual benefit of enhanced contacts and exchanges in the field of training.

They highlighted the importance given to education in the 2007 – 2013 Country Strategy Paper (CSP) for Brazil, subject of a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federative Republic of Brazil and the European Commission on 05 July 2007, which encourages cooperation in the field of higher education and the development of a sectoral policy dialogue on education related issues.

In reference to the Joint Statement adopted at the first 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 on the launch of a new sectoral policy dialogue on education.

Finally, Commissioner Ján Figel' and Minister of Education Mr Fernando Haddad 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 education.

They noted the importance of promoting the use of existing instruments in order to foster the mobility of students, researchers and academic staff, develop links between institutions and organisations active in the fields of education and training, strengthen vocational education and training, promote the use of languages and increase non-formal learning opportunities, especially for young people.

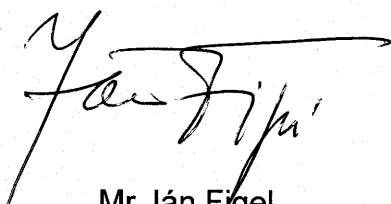
Taking into account these positive developments, Commissioner Figel' and Minister for Education, Mr Fernando Haddad, jointly declared the following intentions:

- 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 and the Ministry of Education of the Federative Republic of Brazil, will set up a sectoral policy dialogue on education and training, which will cover jointly identified issues of common interest, such as, in a first stage, Efficiency and Equity of education systems; Means of promoting the transferability of qualifications and furthering the recognition of non formal and informal learning outcomes; Internationalisation of education (mobility of students, researchers and academics, joint study programmes); Modernisation of Higher Education; Principles and mechanisms for quality assurance; Performance measurement methods; Non-formal learning opportunities, especially for young people; Vocational education and training.
- 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 co-operation. 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 occasional 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 Brasília on the 18th of May 2009, both in English and Portuguese.



Mr Ján Figel  
European Commissioner for  
Education, Training, Culture and Youth



Mr Fernando Haddad  
Minister of Education