

Letter of Intent

Co-operation between the Joint Research Centre (JRC) of the European Commission and the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTI) of Brazil

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 our scientists and research institutions to cooperate and initiate joint activities in a wide range of scientific areas.

Brazil and the EU agree on the importance of evidence-based policy and science advice for policy making.

In the context of the EU-Brazil S&T Agreement, the European Commission Joint Research Centre (JRC) and the Brazilian Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MCTI) intend to establish a more specific relationship for strengthening cooperation in areas of common interest consistent with the missions of the two organisations.

MCTI's competences 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.

The JRC's mission is to provide customer-driven scientific and technical support for the conception, development, implementation and monitoring of European Union policies.

Following an exchange of letters in May-June 2011 between the MCTI's Secretary for R&D Policies and Programmes and the Director-General of the JRC, the two organisations committed to undertake internal reviews to identify priority areas and means for potential cooperation. Based on these internal reviews, MCTI and the JRC intend to take the following steps:

- Further explore and identify cooperation activities in the following broad areas of mutual interest:
 - Disaster prevention and crisis management, building on the newly launched JRC-MCTI sectorial dialogue on flood forecasting and monitoring which will provide support to the setting-up of the Brazilian National Centre for Monitoring and Early Warning of Natural Disaster;
 - Climate change and Sustainable management of natural resources (including forests, land use, water, soils, desertification);
 - Energy, including bioenergy, smart grids, renewables and nuclear safety and security;
 - Food security;

- Biotechnologies (including genetically modified organisms);
 - ICT, including geoinformation and space applications;
 - Nanotechnologies.
- Explore options and make a recommendation with regard to the appropriate framework and governance structure for carrying out the proposed activities, including resource implications.
 - Establish a small MCTI-JRC task force to follow up on the activities provided for in this letter of intent, in particular elaborate a technical roadmap on priority cooperation activities and means, including staff exchanges, the mutual opening of research facilities and technology transfer. This task force will report back to the signatories in time for the 2012 EU-Brazil Summit.

We believe that there is a great potential for cooperation between our two organisations and that expanded cooperation between our research institutions and scientists can yield great benefits for the advancement of evidence-based policy and for our citizens.

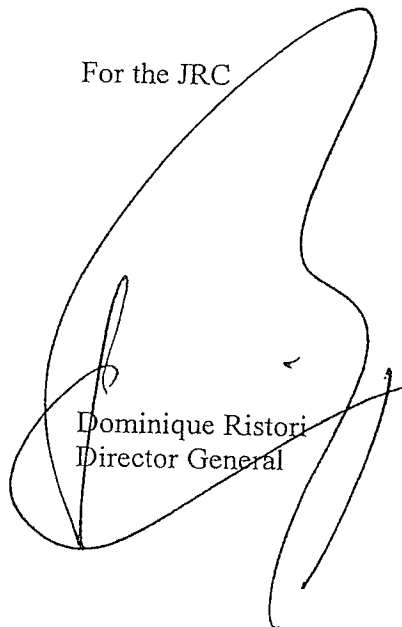
This letter of intent is not intended to create international legal obligations binding on the Federative Republic of Brazil or the European Union and does not constitute an agreement under international law.

For the MCTI



Ricardo Neiva Tavares
Permanent Representative of Brazil to
the European Union

For the JRC



Dominique Ristori
Director General

4 October 2011

MCTI's Focal Point: Carlos Nobre, Secretary for Research and Development Policies and Programmes.

JRC's Focal Point: Dominique Ristori, Director-General.