EU-Brazil strategic partnership

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The Committee on Foreign Affairs adopted an own-initiative report drafted by Maria Eleni **KOPPA** (PES, EL) with a proposal for a European Parliament recommendation to the Council on the EU-Brazil Strategic Partnership. It referred to the proposal for a recommendation to the Council by Véronique De Keyser on behalf of the PES Group on the Strategic Partnership, and made some recommendations to Council, the main points of which are as follows:

- the Strategic Partnership should form part of the bi-regional approach to relations between the EU, Latin America and the Caribbean, which are the basis of the Bi-Regional Strategic Association decided on at the EU-Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) summits;
- it should provide fresh impetus for the conclusion of the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement;
- it should provide real added value both in relation to the current Framework Cooperation Agreement with Brazil, the current Framework Cooperation Agreement with Mercosur and the future Association Agreement with Mercosur;
- the focus of its political agenda should include joint strategies to tackle global challenges, including inter alia peace and security, democracy and human rights, climate change, the financial crisis, biological diversity, energy security, sustainable development and the fight against poverty and exclusion;
- the partners should seek to align their positions by means of systematic consultation prior to UN meetings and those of other international bodies (e.g. the World Trade Organization (WTO)) and fora (e.g. the G20);
- the Strategic Partnership should be used to promote cooperation between the partners in other international fora, such as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the G20;
- the partners should demonstrate total commitment to the EU-LAC Mechanism on Drugs;
- the partners should work closely to promote the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and strengthen cooperation in the area of development aid, international terrorism, drug trafficking and crime;
- emphasis should be placed on the need to support the Brazilian government in its efforts to tackle poverty, taking into account the fact that 65 % of the poorest Brazilians are black or of mixed ethnicity, while 86 % of those in the most privileged class are white;
- a wide-ranging dialogue on migration should be set up, together with the protection of the human rights of migrants and the facilitation of remittances;
- the partners should work together to advance discussions in international fora with a view to concluding in 2009 a comprehensive post-2012 agreement on climate change, based notably on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities;
- they should strengthen international cooperation on the conservation of all types of forests, including the Amazon rainforest, and exchange best practices;
- they should develop low carbon energy technologies and ensure the sustainable production and use of renewable energies, including sustainable biofuels which do not affect the production of food crops and biodiversity;
- cooperation in nuclear research should be strengthened so that Brazil may participate in the ITER (International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor) project on thermonuclear energy generation;
- Brazil's efforts to combat AIDS with low-cost medicines should be supported;
- fresh sectoral dialogues should be launched on several sectors e.g the environment and sustainable development, energy, transport, food security, and science and technology;

- the Strategic Partnership should encourage contacts between civil society organisations, business and social partners' fora, and should promote exchanges on an educational and cultural level;
- actions in favour of the EU-Brazil political partnership, mutual awareness and understanding and exchange programmes should be financed from an instrument other than the DCI;
- the Strategic Partnership should provide for the establishment of a regular structured dialogue between the Members of the Brazilian National Congress and Members of the European Parliament;
- provision should be made for the institutions of the EU and Brazil to provide the European Parliament and EuroLat with regular information on the state of play of the Strategic Partnership.