

EC/Brazil Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation: renewal

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PURPOSE: to renew the Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and Brazil.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

BACKGROUND: the Agreement on cooperation in science and technology (S&T) between the European Community and Brazil entered into force on 7 August 2007. It provides that the Agreement shall initially be valid for a period of five years and may be renewed by agreement between the Parties after evaluation during the penultimate year of each subsequent renewal period.

The Commission considers that it is in the interest of the European Union to renew this Agreement in order to continue to facilitate cooperation with Brazil in common S&T priority areas leading to benefits for both Parties. Both Parties confirmed their intention to renew the Agreement at the fifth meeting of the EU-Brazil Joint Steering Committee, held in Brasilia on 22 November 2011.

IMPACT ASSESSMENT: no impact assessment has been undertaken.

LEGAL BASIS: Article 186 in conjunction with point (v) of Article 218(6) (a) TFEU.

CONTENT : the Commission proposes that the Council :

- approve, on behalf of the Union, and following the consent of the European Parliament, the renewal of the Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Community and Brazil **for an additional period of five years;**
- authorise the President of the Council to designate the person(s) empowered to notify the Government of Brazil that the Union has completed its internal procedures necessary for the entry into force of this renewed Agreement.

The **material content of the renewed Agreement** will be identical to that of the current Agreement.

This decision should allow both Brazil and the European Union to enhance the cooperation and develop a more strategic partnership by increasing the scale and the scope of existing cooperation addressing key societal challenges, promoting reciprocal access to programmes and funding increasing regional cooperation where appropriate.

The Agreement is based on the principles of mutual benefit, reciprocal access to programmes and activities of the other party in connection with the subject of the agreement, non-discrimination, effective protection of intellectual property and equitable sharing of intellectual property rights. The renewal of the Agreement will allow for increased scientific knowledge leading to market access opportunities.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS: the estimated impact on expenditure in commitment appropriations is **EUR 0.660 millions for the period 2012-2017.**