Address given by José Sócrates at the press conference of the EU-Brazil Summit (Lisbon, 4 July 2007)

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[José Sócrates] We must acknowledge the role Brazil now plays in the world as a global political actor. It has always been clear to us in Portugal that cooperation between Europe and Latin America needed a cornerstone, and that cornerstone has to be Brazil.

This strategic cooperation that we are now defining at this historic Summit represents a very powerful contribution to the strengthening of relations between the European Union and Latin America.

We were never alone in wanting a Summit, the first Summit with Brazil, with a view to strategic cooperation. And I would like to say here and now that I am grateful for the support we have always received from the Commission and its President, Mr Durão Barroso, and for the support we have always received from all European Union Member States.

I believe that at the end of this Summit, European Union foreign policy has clearly been strengthened. It has been strengthened in depth, in coherence and in scope. A gap that existed in that foreign policy has now been filled.

I am also very pleased that this Summit has allowed us to achieve a major priority that we have always nurtured and defined for our Presidency: to hold a first Summit with Brazil. This has now been accomplished, and strategic cooperation between the European Union and Brazil and the holding of regular meetings have been institutionalised. The next Summit will be held under the French Presidency next year.

I believe that this Summit clearly shows that we share a common vision, particularly on the more global issues. I would like, if I may, to stress three fundamental aspects of the discussions held at this Summit and the results achieved.

Firstly, we are committed to effective multilateralism and to the role of global institutions as essential instruments of that multilateral world, in seeking to realise our hopes for peaceful conflict resolution and in seeking a fairer and more balanced world based on our multilateral institutions.

Secondly, one of the areas to which we pay the utmost attention and which has the greatest potential in developing the strategic partnership between Europe and Brazil is without doubt the world's response to climate change, and not only to climate change but also to the use of biofuels as an essential tool for reducing CO2 emissions and as an alternative to fossil fuels.

I believe that this Summit has clearly identified an area of strategic cooperation in this field in response to one of the most serious environmental challenges facing the entire planet.

Thirdly, I would also like to stress the discussion on world trade and on the Doha Round. This Summit has sent out a positive message that neither the European Union nor Brazil will falter in striving to make these negotiations successful. Our objective is naturally to strike a balance between greater economic freedom to the benefit of the whole world, and at the same time a development process and a larger forum in which the developing countries can assert themselves.

I believe that this balance has been sought over these last two years of negotiations, but neither party will abandon its efforts to achieve that balance and to ensure that the outcome will be beneficial for a measured and just regulation of globalisation.

Ladies and gentlemen of the press, ladies and gentlemen, I would like to conclude by thanking President Lula most sincerely for being in Portugal today. He knows how honoured we are to have hosted this Summit and to have hosted his visit here. As he knows, it is always a pleasure to welcome him to this, his brother country. I would also like to thank Mr Durão Barroso and the Commission for all their support in allowing this historic Summit, as he put it, to take place.

Thank you very much.