

Address given by José Manuel Durão Barroso at the press conference of the EU–Brazil Summit (Lisbon, 4 July 2007)

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[José Manuel Durão Barroso] I would like to stress just one aspect: this Summit has decided today to launch a long-term comprehensive strategic partnership based on shared values and interests. The European Commission is proud of its contribution to making this possible, with the Communication we published some months ago proposing precisely this strategic partnership, and it is only fair to say that this would not have been possible without the strong commitment of Portugal and its Prime Minister, Mr José Sócrates.

This represents the opening of a new chapter in relations between Europe and Brazil. It is a relationship based not only on general interests and values, but also on very specific dossiers. Brazil is now an increasingly important global power with which we wish to cooperate on the major global issues, since influence also entails greater responsibility.

Though many more could be mentioned, I would like to stress just two of the major global issues discussed today: trade and climate change. We had a very interesting exchange of views on trade. We concluded that our positions do not diverge as much as is sometimes imagined, and that Doha can still be salvaged. The European Commission and the European Union wish to salvage Doha. We believe that this is a task that must be undertaken at once: we only have a matter of weeks rather than months if we wish to prevent the Doha process, the Doha development agenda, from being frozen for a long time. We believe an agreement can be reached to that effect.

We also wish to work with Brazil on climate change, since its specialisation and the leadership it has demonstrated in connection with biofuels make Brazil a major partner in this area. As has already been said, the European Commission has organised an international conference on biofuels in Brussels tomorrow, and I have invited President Lula and Mr Sócrates, the Prime Minister and President-in-Office of the Council of the European Union, to attend the opening ceremony.

We believe that there is huge potential here. It is without doubt a major response in the battle against climate change. The European Union and Brazil wish to work together on this and on other issues, bearing in mind that a process is under way in the United Nations which we must consolidate in order to find a post-Kyoto framework without delay, thinking beyond 2012.

Ladies and gentlemen, these are some of the issues that we have examined today in terms of the global responsibility that the European Union and Brazil wish to assume. And this Summit has without doubt taken an extremely important step in that direction.