MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
of 09/04/2024
between the
Sustainable Economic and Social Development Council of Brazil
and the
European Economic and Social Committee

THE SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL OF BRAZIL (CDESS) AND THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE (EESC),
hereinafter referred to jointly as ‘the parties’ or ‘the institutions’

Whereas:

(1) A Framework Agreement for Cooperation was signed between the European Economic Community and the Federative Republic of Brazil on 29 June 1992. In it the parties already recognized the importance of greater environmental protection coupled with the need for sustainable economic and social development;

(2) Already in 2003, the EESC and the then newly created Economic and Social Development Council (CDES) signed a first Memorandum of Understanding paving the way for a structured dialogue and cooperation between both institutions. This Memorandum materialized in regular meetings of the EU-BR Civil Society Round Table and other important joint initiatives, until the dissolution of the CDES in 2018.

(3) In 2023, the newly appointed Government of Brazil has recreated the Council strengthening its environmental dimension, in the form of the Sustainable Economic and Social Development Council of Brazil (CDESS). Both parties would like now to update the existing Memorandum of
Understanding in order to revive their cooperation and bring back together civil society on both sides to discuss the issues of mutual interests and formulate joint recommendations in a structured, regular manner.

(4) There is a common desire to strengthen and consolidate environmental, economic and social relations and a recognition that cooperation in this domain needs additional stimulus to help foster and promote measures of common interest; and

(5) It is important to consolidate democratic tools for consulting society, in particular civil society consultative councils in the environmental, economic and social spheres,

CONCLUDE THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING:

1. **Purpose and scope**

   This Memorandum of Understanding concerns cooperation activities and commitments between the Parties in areas of common interest within their fields of competence, without prejudice to the competences legally conferred on any other national or European Union's institutions and bodies.

2. **Cooperation activities and commitments**

   2.1 The Parties shall practice mutual sincere cooperation, in a spirit of mutual trust.

   2.2 The Parties shall promote the exchange of information, publications and databases which may help to improve activities of common interest and enrich debate between and within our respective institutions.

   2.3 The Parties shall encourage exchanges of experts and members of the two institutions within the context of their activities, such as training, conferences, colloquia, seminars, congresses and research on, and joint examination of, matters of common interest.

   2.4 The Parties may take initiatives within their fields of competence to strengthen cooperation between the EU and Brazil, on the one hand, and the EU and regional integration structures (such as Mercosur), on the other.
2.5 The Parties shall undertake to maintain their institutions as legitimate and democratic instruments for consulting society, and as an essential element in public support for organised civil society and a regulatory framework for debate on domestic and international issues.

2.6 The Parties are willing to engage in a dialogue on the role and experiences of economic and social councils as bridges between civil society and public authorities, involving the economic and social councils of the countries and regions with which they maintain relations.

3. General provisions

3.1 The Parties undertake to use the information received solely and exclusively for the purposes for which it was shared and shall not reveal it to third parties without the other party’s consent, except as provided for by law.

3.2 The Parties also undertake to comply with existing legal provisions on the protection of personal data and to implement the necessary technical and organisational measures to ensure the protection and security of personal data against any unlawful or unauthorised access or processing, including after termination of this Memorandum.

3.3 Each party shall bear its own costs in respect of the implementation of this instrument.

4. Final provisions

4.1 The Parties shall each take all the measures necessary to ensure implementation of this Memorandum of Understanding.

4.2 This Memorandum of Understanding shall enter into force on the date of its signature and shall be valid for an indefinite period; it may be terminated by either Party upon a minimum of 90 days’ written notice to the other Party. It cancels the Memorandum of Understanding adopted in 2003.

4.3 Amendments may be made to this Memorandum, provided that they are approved by both Parties.

Done at Brasilia/Brazil on 09 April 2024 in two originals, one in Portuguese and one in English, both texts being equally authentic.
For the Sustainable Economic and Social Development Council of Brazil:

Alexandre Padilha, Chief Minister of the Secretariat of Institutional Relations of the Presidency of the Republic of Brazil

For the European Economic and Social Committee:

Oliver Röpke
President of the European Economic and Social Committee