



European Apparel and Textile Organisation

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PRESS RELEASE

TOP EU and BRAZILIAN TEXTILE AND APPAREL Manufacturers And High Level Officials discuss globalisation and closer co-operation

Top Brazilian and EU Textile and Apparel leaders met with high-level Brazilian and EU Officials in Brussels on Thursday December 11th 2008. Talks focussed on the challenges facing both industries arising from globalisation and the strengthening of bilateral partnerships between them.

An ambitious memorandum of understanding was signed by Aguinaldo DINIZ FILHO, President of ABIT (The Brazilian Textile and Apparel Industry Association) and by (Mr.) Michele TRONCONI, President of EURATEX, the European Textile and Apparel Association.

In signing the Memorandum the two bodies commit themselves to encourage the expansion of trade and investment between the partner areas, and to explore initiatives to foster competitiveness job creation, social inclusion and technological development. This closer dialogue will include a search to eliminate tariffs and non-tariff barriers which restrict bilateral trade and support for an early conclusion of a free trade agreement between the EU and Mercosur.

Speaking after the signature of the Memorandum, ABIT President Aguinaldo DINIZ FILHO stated: “We view this signature as a **further** vital step on a road which fosters greater understanding, a growth in bilateral trade and co-operation in achieving common positions in international trade agreements of mutual concern. The channels of communication now established will enable us to examine and resolve trade facilitation and other barriers and to develop strong ties in the fields of training and science.”

EURATEX President, Michele TRONCONI warmly welcomed this significant move forward: “Our two industries and administrations play vital roles in the world trading system and it is crucial that we work closely together to ensure that we reach consensus on issues facing WTO and other bodies. The willingness of so many of our Brazilian colleagues and their high-level officials to join here in Brussels with their counterparts from the EU is real proof of our joint commitment, and that of our authorities, to co-operate to the benefit of this important manufacturing sector.”

