

De: BRASEMB OSLO
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De Brasemb Oslo para Exteriores em 09/06/2021 (TMMAF)

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Nr. 00174

Reproduzo os apontamentos que utilizei para minha
apresentação ao Conselho da Câmara de Comércio
Brasil-Noruega (BNCC), por ocasião da Assembleia Geral
realizada por videoconferência, ontem, 9 de junho:

"MESSAGE FROM AMBASSADOR ENIO CORDEIRO TO BNCC
(June 8th. 2021)

- I want to recognize the strong partnership that exists between the Embassy and the Chamber of Commerce and assure you of my firm commitment to strengthen even further this long-standing collaboration.
- Brazil is a leading investment destination for Norway in so many strategic sectors and the companies that you represent are the very actors that forged this intense partnership.
- Norwegian companies found in Brazil a dynamic platform to expand their business, in association with Brazilian production chains. As more opportunities for investments and trade continue to emerge, they represent an interesting possibility for the Chamber to explore further expanding its membership and welcome aboard Brazilian companies (not only large ones, but also small and medium enterprises) with current and prospective interest in the Norwegian market. I

would be happy to share ideas with you in this respect.

- We live in no ordinary times as the world is hardly hit by one the most dreadful tragedies in recent history.

- As you know, Brazil is still facing a toll of around 1.600 lives lost every day to the pandemic, and its social and economic effects have gone even deeper, increasing unemployment rates and poverty and stalling growth.

- As we start to see the signs of light at the end of the tunnel, the good news on the productive side is that the Brazilian economy is already showing its resilience.

- Economic growth resumed during the last three quarters at a pace that suggests that GDP will post an increase of nearly 4% at the end of this year, offsetting the losses of 2020 and thus recovering the pre-pandemic level of activity.

- Good signs also come from the external sector with a trade surplus expected to reach US\$ 60 billion this year and a strong rebound in foreign investments which are also poised to reach the level of US\$ 60 billion. Agricultural and mining exports are benefiting from both a higher value and a higher external demand. And domestically, the Brazilian industry is beginning to warm up as the sector rebuilds its inventories, prompted by the prospect of a stronger domestic demand by the end of the year.

- For their part, the main challenges continue to be the risks of inflation, structural unemployment which affects around 14% of the labor force, and the narrowing of fiscal space for additional government expenditures. Another great challenge (but also an opportunity for growth) is the fact that the Brazilian GDP is still below the levels of ten years ago, given the profound recession of 2015-16 and sluggish recovery thereafter, followed by the pandemic.

- International cooperation and strong partnerships to promote growth and development are crucial to overcome the effects of the pandemic. In this context, I think it is very important to note that trade and investment relations between Brazil and Norway kept their pace and continued to grow during the past two years despite the adversities of the pandemic. And it is this achievement that I really wanted to celebrate with you today.

- Let me now turn briefly to the political side of the bilateral relations.

- Although physically distant from each other, Brazil and Norway share very strong political ties.

- Brazil and Norway share the values of democracy and multilateralism, respect for human rights, peace building, conflict resolution, and international cooperation for the promotion of sustainable development. Both governments and the private sector of our two countries built a network of common interests in key sectors for our economies. Our

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research institutions developed also an important and ever-growing network of cooperation.

- Brazil and Norway also have a history of bilateral cooperation in projects aimed at environmental protection in the Amazon region. Recently, there was an interruption in the transfer of resources for projects carried out under the Amazon Fund. The two countries are yet to agree on ways for its resumption, but we can rest assured that our authorities will not fail to work together to make it possible.

- Last but not least, we are currently engaged in common efforts for resolving the pending issues and eventually approve the free trade agreement between Mercosul and EFTA.

- As you can see, Brazil and Norway have an intense agenda of dialogue, exchange of experiences and cooperation on all these matters. On top of that we are looking forward to strengthening even further our political dialogue on multilateral issues, as our two countries might sit together as members of the Security Council of the United Nations during the year of 2022.

- I will be delighted to hear from you on the experiences of your companies in Brazil."

Enio Cordeiro, Embaixador

PRRG

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