



EUROPEAN COMMISSION

Ursula von der Leyen
The President

Brussels, 22. 12. 2022
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Dear Honourable Member,

Thank you, and your cosignatories, for your letter.

On 30 October, Brazilians elected their new president, showing a clear, albeit narrow, victory for Mr Lula da Silva. Following the official announcement by the Superior Electoral Court, I congratulated him as President-elect and Mr Geraldo Alckmin as the Vice President-elect on their victory.

The electoral process has been managed in a transparent and efficient manner through all stages of the process, which also shows the solidity of Brazil's democratic institutions.

Yet, it is also clear that President-elect Lula inherits a divided country, with conservative and centre-right parties obtaining a majority in Congress. Going forward, building dialogue and unity will be important.

We also very much welcome Lula's commitments on climate change and deforestation. Both the EU and Brazil have a critical role to play in this area. There are, however, many other areas where we have to step up our dialogue and cooperation, including in the area of food security, strengthening our trade relations, promoting a clean energy transition, tackling inequalities, and safeguarding our common values and the rules-based international order. We stand ready to deepen our strategic partnership with Brazil and look forward to working with the newly elected authorities.

I also take this opportunity to thank the European Parliament for its continuous support in promoting our common values, which underpin EU relations with Brazil.

Yours faithfully,

Ursula von der Leyen

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