

Brazil Wishes a Closer Relation to Algeria

Contributed by Ana Paula Marra
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Brazil wants to export airplanes and manufactured goods to Algeria. The Brazilian Minister of Foreign Relations, Celso Amorim, presented this proposal recently to the Algerian Minister of Foreign Affairs during a visit to the Algerian capital, Algiers.

The main purpose of the visit was to discuss bilateral relations between the two countries. The Brazilian Chancellor explained that Brazil is interested in intensifying commercial relations with Algeria, because the trade balance between the two countries currently favors Algeria.

For Amorim, prospects for cooperation between the two countries in the spheres of science, technology, and agriculture are also encouraging and should be exploited.

The Brazilian Chancellor proposed convening a new meeting of the Brazil-Algeria Mixed Commission to discuss the bilateral relationship.

During the meeting between the two Foreign Ministers, an agreement was signed establishing a permanent mechanism of political consultation between Brazil and Algeria.

Amorim also met with the President of Algeria, Abdelaziz Bouteflika. At the request of the President of Brazil, the Brazilian Chancellor delivered two letters.

In the first, Lula reiterated the importance of the Summit Meeting of South American and Arab Countries, scheduled to occur in May, in Brasília, and, in the second, Lula extended an invitation to his Algerian counterpart to pay an official visit to Brazil, on a date to be determined, to discuss bilateral issues.

The invitation, according to the press office of the Ministry of Foreign Relations, was accepted. The President of Algeria also confirmed that he will attend the South American-Arab Summit Meeting.

Amorim and Bouteflika also conversed about United Nations Security Council reform, the campaign to combat world hunger and extreme poverty, the regional situations in Latin America and the Arab world, and Algeria's entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Last month Amorim embarked on a trip to ten Arab countries for the purpose of strengthening Brazil's trade relations with the region and making preparations for the summit meeting between the two regions.

Translation: David Silberstein
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