

Spain Ready to Help Brazil Enforce Mandatory Classes of Spanish

Contributed by Nelson Motta
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The first vice president of Spain, Maria Teresa Fernandez de La Vega, says her country is confident in the Brazilian economy and intends to intensify its commercial relations with Brazil.

"I told President Lula that we recognize the good work he has been doing in the economic area and congratulate him on the way he is conducting the economy. The result is development and well-being for the citizens," she said, adding that political stability and democratic institutions were also favorable factors.

Vega went on to say that the "good phase" of the Brazilian economy has been fundamental in stimulating interest in investments by Spanish corporations. "The interest is in the areas of infrastructure, energy and tourism," she explained.

With regard to tourism, Spain intends to increase the number of flights to Brazil by Spanish carriers.

Vega praised the decision by president Lula to make the teaching of Spanish mandatory in Brazilian high schools.

"We see this as a strategic decision that will not only benefit bilateral relations, but boost regional integration," she declared.

Vega presented Lula with a plan for training Spanish teachers. She pointed out that there would be a need for 12,000 Spanish teachers over a four-year period.

"We will work together with Brazil to put this plan into action," she concluded.

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