



## Quarterly e-News

Fall, 2017



## Policy Accomplishments in Brazil

The fourth quarter produced its share of advances in Brazil's drive for modernization and economic reforms, and Council advocacy efforts were part of that movement. There were significant accomplishments in the following policy areas:

### Oil & Gas

- On December 28, President Temer signed Provisional Measure MP 795, which thus became law 13.586/17, the Special Customs Regime for Import and Export of Oil and Gas Development Products (**REPETRO**). The law grants special tax treatment for exploration and development activities in the oil and natural gas fields through 2040. The Council lobbied for the extension of the REPETRO in the Executive and Legislative branches.
- The Council applauds Brazil's initiative to allow the operation and participation of private investors to develop its pre-salt reserves. Following ANP's 1st round bidding that raised R\$3.84 billion on September 27th for oil exploration and production blocks, on October 27th, the **Pre-Salt 2nd and 3rd Bidding Rounds** saw 6 out of 8 blocks sold, resulting in revenues of R\$6.15 billion from signing bonuses.

### Customs Facilitation

- On November 20, Federal Revenue Secretary Jorge Rachid signed a **Brazil-U.S. MOU for the Exchange of Information** on exports and imports between Brazil and the U.S., an initiative supported by the Council and a sign of increasing customs cooperation between the two countries.
- The Council and CNI requested the Federal Revenue Office to allow use of **ATA Carnets** from the U.S. and other ATA Carnet Convention member countries. In response to the request, Normative Ruling IN 1763/17 was

published on November 23, amending last year's [IN 1639/16](#).

## Progress in Key Areas

We saw progress in the following areas:

- The Brazilian Foreign Trade Council (CAMEX) established a **Foreign Trade Regulatory Agenda** for the 2018/2019 biennium to aid in planning and to promote transparency and predictability.
- **ANVISA's** Board of Directors approved a [Regulatory Agenda](#) for priority issues for the 2017–2020 period.
- On November 23, a **Decree on Governance Policy** became effective for the entire Federal Executive. It establishes guidelines and rules for good practices in public administration, with a focus on citizens, improved services and reduced costs.
- The Federal Senate approved, on December 12, House Bill ([PLC](#)) [160/17](#), which establishes a National Biofuels Policy (**RenovaBio**). The policy contributes to greater production and usage of biofuels to fulfill commitments under the Paris Agreement.

## Events & Initiatives



### Brazilian Congressional Delegation – Special Committee on Health Innovation

On October 10, the Council hosted a Brazilian Congressional delegation from the Special Committee on Health Innovation, including Rep. **Juscelino Filho** (DEM-MA), Rep. **Hiran Gonçalves** (PP-RR), Rep. **Marcelo Alvaro Antonio** (PR-MG) and Rep. **Altineu Côrtes** (PMDB-RJ), for a strategic conversation on public healthcare policies in Brazil and the private sector's role in offering innovative solutions for the public system.



## U.S.-Brazil Defense Industry Dialogue

On October 10, the Brazil-U.S. Business Council co-hosted the second U.S.-Brazil Defense Industry Dialogue, bringing together over 120 of the top government and private sector leaders from both countries including **Ken Hyatt**, Former Deputy Under Secretary for International Trade, Department of Commerce, **Sergio De la Pena**, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Western Hemisphere Affairs, Department of Defense, Ambassador **Liliana Ayalde**, Civilian Deputy to the Commander and Foreign Policy Advisor, U.S. Southern Command, **Flávio Basilio**, Brazil's Secretary of Defense Products, **Hussein Kalout**, Special Secretary to the President of Brazil, Ambassador **Nelson Tabajara**, Director for Defense and Security at the Foreign Ministry, among others. For more details, click [here](#).

## 2017 Brazil Economic Conference

Top executives from the public and private sectors met at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce on October 13, to discuss the current and future state of Brazil's economy. The conference featured H.E. **Henrique Meirelles**, Minister, Ministry of Finance of Brazil, **Ilan Goldfajn**, President, Central Bank of Brazil, Ambassador **Sergio Amaral**, Brazilian Ambassador to the U.S., Embassy of Brazil, **Jane Fraser**, CEO, Citi Latin America, and many other authorities. For more details, click [here](#).





## Council Meetings in Brasilia

From November 6–8, the Council completed a series of meetings with Brazilian government officials in Brasilia, where substantive public-private discussions on economic and commercial issues took place. The Council and members engaged with: **Fernando Coelho Filho**, Minister of Mines and Energy, **Marcelo Caetano**, Social

Security Secretary, **Jorge Rachid**, Federal Revenue Office Secretary, **Ernesto Araújo**, Director of the U.S. Department at the Ministry of Foreign Relations, and two representatives from the Executive Office of the President: **Marcelo Guarany**s, from the Department of Policy Analysis and Monitoring, and **Marcelo Souza**, from the Department of Economic Policy. Council staff also held working meetings with several agencies to advance actions on trade, environmental and public health policies and with its partners, CNI and Apex.

## Letter to USPTO & INPI

On November 10, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and its affiliates, the U.S. Section of the Council and the Global Intellectual Property Center along with Brazil's National Confederation of Industry, which chairs the Brazilian Section of the Council, and the Brazil Industries Coalition, delivered a letter ([English](#) and [Portuguese](#)) to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) and Brazil's National Institute of Industrial Property (INPI), recommending the renewal and expansion of the scope of the Patent Prosecution Highway agreement. On December 5, USPTO's [response letter](#) acknowledged the Council's recommendations and stated that an agreement will soon be signed.



## Private Breakfast with Brazilian Minister of Defense Raul Jungmann

On November 17, the Council hosted Brazil's Minister of Defense, **Raul Jungmann**, for a private breakfast with the U.S. private sector, weeks after the second U.S.-Brazil Defense Industry Dialogue (DID) held in Washington on October 10. The meeting served as platform for a conversation on the Minister's priorities, including both near and long-term opportunities. For photos of the event, click [here](#).

### Council's Meeting with IBAMA

On November 28, the Council met with a group of officials from the Brazilian Institute of Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA), which is the Brazilian Ministry of the Environment's administrative arm and responsible for the environmental licensing process in the country. The Council supported a more transparent and efficient licensing process and offered to be the platform for U.S.-Brazil bilateral cooperation in the areas of licensing and response to emergencies in the oil and gas industry.



### New Energy Policy Agenda

The Council launched its new [Energy Policy Agenda](#), which recognizes energy as a high-potential sector for trade and investment between Brazil and the U.S., endorsing a number of actions in both domestic and bilateral settings that are relevant to member companies.



## Council Welcomes its Newest Member

