



## PETROBRAS ADOPTS LEGAL TAX PRACTICES

Rio de Janeiro, May 11 2009 – PETRÓLEO BRASILEIRO S/A - PETROBRAS, [Bovespa: PETR3/PETR4, NYSE: PBR/PBRA, Latibex: XPBR/XPBRA, BCBA: APBR/APBRA], a Brazilian international energy company, would like to state publicly that it categorically denies insinuations regarding accounting “maneuvers” or “tricks” aimed to reduce taxes, as stated in stories published by the "O Globo" newspaper on May 10 and 11 2009.

Petrobras has always observed the legal rules, in line with its commitment to transparency and respect for the Brazilian society. In fact, a recent survey published by the Reputation Institute (RI), headquartered in New York, rated the company the world’s fourth most reputable company.

Petrobras accounts for a very substantial volume of taxes and government take – Petrobras contributes with upwards of 20% of the total revenue in 17 states in the form of ICMS and government take. In 2008, it paid in some R\$94 billion as taxes and government take nationwide.

### CHANGE OF THE EXCHANGE RATE VARIATION TAXATION SYSTEM

Pursuant to the taxation legislation in effect (Provisional Measure # 2158-35/2001 and Normative Instruction 345/2003 of the Brazilian Internal Revenue Service), for PIS/COFINS, Income Tax, and Social Contribution on Profit purposes, there are two ways to tax the exchange variation, which is the oscillation in the values between domestic and foreign amounts relative to trade and financial operations, as follows: (i) cash basis (standard) and (ii) accrual basis (optional). This very same legislation allows the taxpayer to choose one system or the other, as long as doing so for the entire fiscal year.

The purpose of this rule is to soften the tax impact derived from variations in the domestic currency in situations of international crises and, thus, when calculating and paying federal taxes, since such variations can lead to the taxation of revenues that do not represent actual profit.

In this regard, in strict compliance with the tax law, Petrobras, which until then had been taxing the exchange rate variation revenues pursuant to the accrual basis, opted to use the cash basis for the 2008 fiscal year. It must be emphasized that this tax option in no way changes the company’s accounting. Therefore, there is no reason to discuss accounting “maneuvers” or “tricks.”

Also regarding the way Income Tax and Social Contribution on Profit are calculated, it must be clarified that Petrobras has always used the annual taxation system, making its payments based on monthly balance sheets and undertaking the annual adjustment when it delivers its Corporate Income Tax Returns (DIPJ), unlike the companies that do so quarterly.

[www.petrobras.com.br/ri/english](http://www.petrobras.com.br/ri/english)

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That way, although due to systemic reasons the criterion change was made operational in the second half of 2008, it was in effect for the entire fiscal year because of the choice made for annual calculation. Therefore, there are no quarterly divisions, as mentioned in error in the stories published by the newspaper. Rather, there is a single calculation in the year, i.e., on 12/31.

This option is made formal, annually, when Petrobras delivers its DIPJ. For the 2008 fiscal year, such delivery will only take place on June 30 2009.

### **COMPENSATIONS MADE**

In December 2008, Petrobras had credits to compensate in the order of R\$3.97 billion, corresponding to R\$2.14 billion in the Income Tax and Social Contribution on Profit balance for the exchange variation paid in excess in the year and R\$1.83 billion for credits for interest on equity, which was used as follows in the months of December/2008 to March/2009:

#### **Sources and Uses of Tax Credit (R\$ billion)**

<b>Sources</b>			
<b>Period</b>	<b>Exchange Variation</b>	<b>Equity Income</b>	<b>Total</b>
2008	2,14	1,83	3,97
<b>Uses</b>			
Dez/08	-0,87		
Jan/09	-1,18		
Feb/09	-0,10	-1,03	
Mar/09	0,00	-0,77	
<b>Total</b>	<b>-2,14</b>	<b>-1,80</b>	<b>-3,94</b>
<b>Credit Available</b>			<b>0,03</b>

#### **Detailed Use of Tax Credit (R\$ billion)**

<b>Period</b>	<b>PIS/COFINS</b>	<b>CIDE</b>	<b>Total</b>
Dez/08	0,87	0,00	0,87
Jan/09	0,81	0,37	1,18
Feb/09	0,80	0,33	1,13
Mar/09	0,47	0,29	0,76
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,95</b>	<b>0,99</b>	<b>3,94</b>

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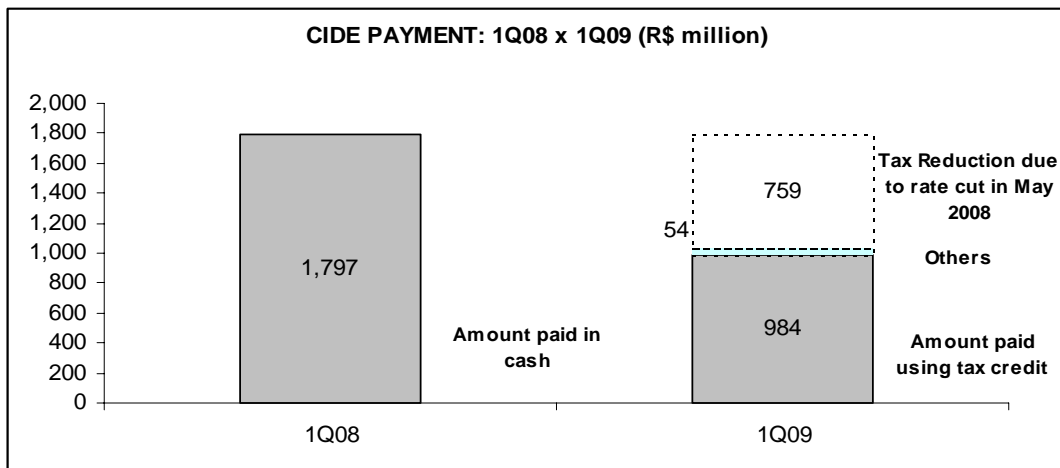




## REDUCTION IN THE AMOUNT PAID IN FOR CIDE

The calculation of the amount owed as CIDE is made based on the volumes of products sold (gasoline, diesel fuel, etc.) multiplied by aliquots set by the Government that are not dependent on these products' sales prices. As such, Petrobras' choice for the cash basis for the exchange rate variation taxation had no impact on the amount of CIDE owed. What happened was a change in the way CIDE was paid in, which instead of being in cash was liquidated using the tax credits derived from Corporate Income Tax and CSLL payments made in excess. Therefore, it can be stated that the States should not experience any reduction in their revenues derived from CIDE on account of Petrobras' option, since the Union's constitutional obligation to pass the resources on to the States, based on the amounts owed, i.e., regardless of how it will be liquidated, remains.

The lower collection levels of this tax in 2008 is due solely to the fact that a reduction was made in the gasoline (R\$0.28/liter to R\$0.18 liter) and diesel fuel aliquots (R\$0.07/liter to R\$0.03/liter).



## SPECIAL PARTICIPATION IN THE MARLIM FIELD

With regard to this issue, Petrobras clarifies that the matter is currently under discussion at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Region's Federal Court. The suit involves the controversy regarding expense deductibility criteria as a result of the interpretation of the federal law that regulates the issue. The company will never deny to pay whatever is determined as owed, but as any other company incorporated in Brazil, it will resort to the Courts to have its legitimate constitutional right to adversarial proceedings and to the full right to defense observed.

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