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Sustainability Transition: Theories, Approaches and Perspectives from Europe and Latin America

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Sustainability in Divided Brazil: Who Is The More Powerful Between Conservatives and Reformist?
Economic, social and political forces oriented toward a sustainable society have been growing in importance in Brazil in the last decade. The most important arena between 2005 and 2009 was about controlling deforestation in the Amazon. After more than one decade (1989-2004) of failure pro-sustainability forces were capable of a dramatic shift in the period 2005-2010 reducing deforestation from 25,000Km ² to 6,000Km ² . The peak of the reformist advance was in 2009/2010: the Brazilian Congress passed a law on climate change, -the first one constraining carbon in a non-OECD country -; the Brazilian government announced a commitment to an stabilization of emissions between 2005 and 2020; and, the presidential candidate of the Green Party won 19% of the votes. In the last two years there has been a backlash of conservatives forces: blocking the implementation of the climate change law; approving a new big impacting hydropower damming in the Amazon; passing a conservative reform of the Forest Code; passing an old fashion "new" industrial policy contradictory with the climate change law; and, conservative Brazilian position in the Rio +20. The paper will discuss the fluid and uncertain arena where conservatives and reformist fight on the future of the Brazilian society, trying to assess which are the possibilities of progress of the reformist in the next years.
KEY WORDS: Sustainable society, low carbon, Brazil, conservative, reformist, deforestation, industrial policy