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Brazil Lawmaker Brizola Says 'No Chance' Country to Impose Oil Moratorium

By Peter Millard - Jun 7, 2010

[Petroleo Brasileiro SA](#), Brazil's state-controlled oil company, doesn't run a risk that the government will impose a moratorium on deepwater drilling after the [BP Plc](#) oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, a lawmaker said.

Brazilian lawmakers have no plans to take similar steps to a U.S. drilling ban as they debate a bill that will make Petrobras the operator of all new oil projects in the so-called pre-salt area, said [Carlos Brizola](#), a Brazilian lower-house representative.

"There's no chance of this in Brazil," Brizola, who led a committee in the lower house to set up a new regulator for deepwater projects, said in an interview in Rio de Janeiro today. "Petrobras has consolidated its know-how and technology, no company can offer better safety than Petrobras."

Petrobras, the world's biggest oil producer in waters deeper than 1,000 feet, made the largest discovery in the Americas since 1976 in deep waters off Brazil's coast. Senators this week will start debating legislation to make the company the sole operator of new fields sitting below a layer of salt in deep waters of the Atlantic Ocean, Brizola said.

Rio de Janeiro-based Petrobras plans to more than double oil production to 5.7 million barrels a day by 2020.

President [Barack Obama](#) extended a deepwater drilling ban on May 27 and halted work on 33 exploratory wells while the government investigates the worst spill in U.S. history. The spill has dumped as much as 19,000 barrels a day into the Gulf, according to U.S. government scientists, after the April 20 explosion killed 11 workers and sank a \$365 million rig.

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