



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR TRADE

The Director-General

Brussels  
TRADE/D2/SW (2024)712660

Dear Petitioner,

Thank you for your e-mail regarding the EU-Mercosur Trade Agreement. The European Commission shares your view that increased trade under the agreement should not be at the expense of the environment and sustainability concerns.

The EU-Mercosur Agreement reflects the EU's policy that trade agreements should work for sustainability. Despite being long time in the making, the agreement which we finally negotiated is a modern one. Its provisions on trade and sustainable development are at the same level of ambition as those of other recent EU trade agreements, with strong obligations to protect the environment and respect core labour standards.

In addition, we are currently in discussions with the Mercosur partners to further reinforce the environmental provisions to halt forest loss and to make the respect of the Paris Agreement combating climate change a key obligation of the trade agreement. We will not conclude the negotiations without these additional points having been addressed. Furthermore, last year the European Union adopted the Deforestation Regulation. From 2025, the regulation will prohibit the import into the EU of several commodities, such as soy and beef, grown in recently deforested areas. This means that, irrespective of the Mercosur Agreement, the EU has acted upon and built a strong safeguard against imported products contributing to deforestation.

Lastly, I wish to note that the proposed agreement with Mercosur also covers important commitments on political dialogue and cooperation. These commitments will allow the EU to engage with and support Mercosur countries in the transition to a more environmentally sustainable future. The EU is linked to Mercosur not only by trade and investment – European companies are the largest investors in the block – but also by shared values, cultural and people-to-people contacts. We firmly believe that the best means for the EU to contribute to overcoming the sustainability challenges and deforestation concerns is to deepen our partnership and use the agreement as a platform to engage with government, businesses and civil society in Mercosur countries.

I hope these elements are addressing your concerns.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Weyand', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sabine WEYAND