



EUROPEAN COMMISSION
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR TRADE

The Director-General

Brussels
TRADE/SW/D2(2023)5003714

Dear Petitioners,

I would like to thank you for your letter to Executive Vice-President (EVP) Dombrovskis related to the EU-Mercosur agreement. The EVP has asked me to reply on his behalf.

Please allow me to point you to my previous replies to your identical petitions from 2021 and 2022. The replies have been published on the EC Transparency portal on 28 May 2021 and 21 December 2022 respectively. My last reply can be accessed at the following link: https://commission.europa.eu/system/files/2023-01/reply-to-a-petition-addressed-to-executive-vice-president-valdis-dombrovskis-to-stop-the-free-trade-agreement-between-eu-and-mercosur_en.pdf

I would invite you to consider the explanations provided therein, where I offered comprehensive clarifications on different points, notably in relation to the precautionary principle, the risk of undermining EU food and health standards and the alleged negative impact on the EU agriculture sector. These explanations continue to remain valid.

Similar concerns were raised at the time of conclusion of the EU-Canada Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). Five years after its entry of provisional application, these concerns have not materialized and there have been no negative impacts on the EU agricultural market. This agreement is the proof that, regarding particularly sensitive agricultural products, the EU has reconciled the need to make meaningful concessions to our partners with the need to safeguard the interests of European farmers and the protection of its consumers.

I should also like to note that the geostrategic and economic importance of the EU-Mercosur agreement has become even stronger.

Indeed, the new trade framework – part of a wider Agreement between the two regions – will consolidate a strategic economic partnership and create significant opportunities for sustainable growth on both sides, while respecting the environment and preserving interests of EU consumers and sensitive economic sectors.

In short, the EU and Mercosur are better off with this deal than without it. Having an agreement gives the European Union strong tools to engage with Mercosur, on a partnership basis, on global challenges from climate change and biodiversity to labour rights. It offers an important additional platform to drive improvements in these areas together with our partners from Mercosur.

I trust that you will find the elements provided in this reply useful.

Yours faithfully,

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

Sabine WEYAND