



EUROPEAN COMMISSION  
DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR TRADE

The Director-General

Brussels  
TRADE/SW/D2 (2022) 9373242

Dear petitioners,

I would like to thank you for your letter and for expressing your interest in the EU-Mercosur agreement.

Allow me to point you to my previous reply to an identical petition last year. The reply has been published on the EC Transparency register on 28/05/21 and can be accessed at the following link [EU Petitions](#).

I invite you to look at my previous answer and consider the detailed explanations provided, which continue to remain valid and completely relevant. I will not repeat here the same arguments, notably in relation to the reaffirmation of the precautionary principle, the guarantee on the respect of EU food and health standards and the balanced outcome for the EU agriculture sector which safeguards EU farmers' interest in sensitive sectors, while providing new opportunities for our competitive exports. In my detailed reply, I have offered comprehensive clarifications on all these points.

Since the reply was published more than one year ago, if anything, the relevance and geostrategic and economic importance of the EU-Mercosur agreement has become even stronger. The Agreement can help support the economic recovery post-COVID-19, promote the green transition, and on top of that also help mitigate the impacts of the Russian invasion in Ukraine. As the EU faces the challenge of diversification of energy and raw material supplies, it is important to consider the role that Mercosur countries could play in this context as well.

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 Mercosur 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,

Sabine WEYAND