



EU and Mercosur reach political agreement on groundbreaking partnership

Brussels, 6 December 2024

Today, the President of the European Commission Ursula **von der Leyen** and her counterparts from four Mercosur countries (Brazilian President Lula, Argentinian President Milei, Paraguayan President Peña, and Uruguayan President Lacalle Pou) **finalised negotiations for a groundbreaking EU-Mercosur partnership agreement**.

President of the European Commission, Ursula **von der Leyen**, said: *"This is a win-win agreement, which will bring meaningful benefits to consumers and businesses, on both sides. We are focused on fairness and mutual benefit. We have listened to the concerns of our farmers and we acted on them. This agreement includes robust safeguards to protect your livelihoods. EU-Mercosur is the biggest agreement ever, when it comes to the protection of EU food and drinks products. More than 350 EU products now are protected by a geographical indication. In addition, our European health and food standards remain untouchable. Mercosur exporters will have to comply strictly with these standards to access the EU market. This is the reality of an agreement that will save EU companies €4 billion worth of export duties per year."*

This agreement comes at a critical time for both sides, presenting **opportunities for major mutual gains** through strengthened geopolitical, economic, sustainability and security cooperation.

- It will **boost strategic trade and political ties** between like-minded and reliable partners.
- It will **support economic growth, boost competitiveness and strengthen resilience** on both sides by opening up trade and investment opportunities and securing sustainable access and processing of raw materials.
- It represents a major milestone in **fighting climate change** with strong, specific and measurable commitments to **stop deforestation**.
- It considers the interests of all Europeans, including the critically important EU **farming sector**. It will help increase EU agri-food exports while protecting sensitive sectors.
- It **upholds the EU's standards on animal health and food safety**, preventing unsafe products from entering our market.

A boost for EU and Mercosur competitiveness and economic security

This landmark deal will:

- **Secure and diversify our supply chains**.
- Create **new opportunities** for all kind of businesses, by removing often prohibitive tariffs on EU exports to Mercosur.
- **Save EU businesses €4 billion worth of duties** per year.
- Ensure trade preferences in strategic net zero industry sectors such as **renewable energy technologies**, and low-carbon fuels.
- **Help small and medium enterprises** export more by cutting red tape.
- Secure an efficient, reliable and sustainable flow of **raw materials** critical for the global green transition.

An enhanced commitment on sustainability

This deal takes the EU-Mercosur sustainability commitments to the next level through:

- Making the **Paris Agreement an essential element** of the EU-Mercosur relationship.
- Concrete commitments to **halt deforestation**.
- Clear and **enforceable commitments on sustainable development**, including on **labour rights** and sustainable management and conservation of forests.
- An active role for civil society organisations to overview the implementation of the agreement, including human rights or environmental concerns.

Moreover, €1.8 billion in EU support will facilitate the fair green and digital transition in Mercosur countries, as part of the Global Gateway.

Next steps

The proposed EU-Mercosur agreement is composed of a political and cooperation pillar, and a trade pillar. The end of negotiations constitutes the first step in the process towards conclusion of the agreement. The official documents will be published online over the next days.

Following final legal scrubbing by both sides, the text will be translated into all official EU languages, and then submitted to the Council and Parliament.

For More Information

[Questions and answers](#)

[Factsheet key facts about the agreement](#)

[Factsheet on Agriculture](#)

[Factsheet on Food Safety](#)

[Factsheet on Sustainable Development](#)

[Factsheet on Critical Raw Materials](#)

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Quote(s):

"This is a win-win agreement, which will bring meaningful benefits to consumers and businesses, on both sides. We are focused on fairness and mutual benefit. We have listened to the concerns of our farmers and we acted on them. This agreement includes robust safeguards to protect your livelihoods. EU-Mercosur is the biggest agreement ever, when it comes to the protection of EU food and drinks products. More than 350 EU products now are protected by a geographical indication. In addition, our European health and food standards remain untouchable. Mercosur exporters will have to comply strictly with these standards to access the EU market. This is the reality of an agreement that will save EU companies €4 billion worth of export duties per year."
Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission - 06/12/2024

"Today, we sealed a historic agreement that creates the world's biggest free trade zone. At a time when we need positive news, this is a great development between long-standing partners. For Europeans, it opens up a vast region to freely trade with, including access to critical raw materials, and diminishes the risk of competitors replacing us in our absence. The deal creates a market for over 700 million people and saves businesses in Europe billions in EUR annually in tariffs. For both sides, it will lead to many more jobs and opportunities. This is good foreign policy and a good day for the EU and our partners in Latin America."
Kaja Kallas, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission - 06/12/2024

"This landmark agreement paves the way to new export opportunities for EU companies, including our SMEs and agri-food exporters, while saving over 4 billion euros in customs duties per year. It can also boost our economic security, notably by developing resilient value chains in strategic sectors, such as raw materials, and contribute to our shared, ambitious sustainability commitments. Overall, rule-based partnerships with like-minded countries are both geopolitical and economic necessity – I am therefore proud that EU trade policy continues to deliver."
Maroš Šefčovič, Commissioner for Trade and Economic Security; Interinstitutional Relations and Transparency - 06/12/2024

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