**Time to rethink – Stop the EU-Mercosur agreement!**

Negotiations between the EU and Mercosur countries (Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay), underway for over 20 years, culminated in a political agreement in June last year. The European Commission has since been preparing the EU-Mercosur Free Trade Agreement for signature. But the agreement is highly controversial. The Austrian, Walloon and recently the Dutch parliaments even rejected the agreement in its current form, while key EU Member states (France and Ireland) have expressed clear criticisms. It is hard to identify any other trade agreement as committed to the thinking and political action of the past as the EU-Mercosur Agreement.

*The EU-Mercosur Agreement stands for:*

* **the exacerbation of environmental destruction and the climate crisis** through the expansion of car exports and the expansion of feed monocultures and grazing land. The meat and soy sectors continue to drive forward the deforestation of the Amazon rainforest, the Cerrado and the dry forests of the Chaco, which are of essential importance for the stabilisation of the world climate and for biological diversity. The agreement will reward these practices. The [Brazilian Climate Observatory](http://www.observatoriodoclima.eco.br/en/ue-precisa-rever-premissas-de-acordo-com-mercosul/) writes in a statement: “Thus, environmental safeguards within the agreement, which were already insufficient even before COVID-19, have now made the document outdated.“ The [recent **report on the Amazon prepared for the EU Parliament**](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/IDAN/2020/648792/IPOL_IDA%282020%29648792_EN.pdf)**,** states that the “current forest fire and deforestation regime in Amazonia put at risk the world’s richest biodiversity.”
And yet, the agreementdoes not contain any innovative mechanism to ensure the Parties will respect the international commitments they have listed in provisions related to sustainable development.
The report further adds: “In case violations persist, it only adds a channel of diplomatic discussions, with ***no possibility to impose material penalties*** (emphasis added).” While the environmental consequences of the agreement will be very concrete, the mechanisms to avoid them are insufficient. The situation described in the EP report alone should make clear the agreement cannot be ratified as it stands.
* **the increase in human rights violations with impunity**, including physical violence and the expulsion of small farmers and indigenous people from their lands. Many indigenous leaders and environmental defenders in the Mercosur have been murdered, [five in Brazil alone](https://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-52135362) between November 2019 and April 2020. Under the Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro in particular, human rights violations against minorities and members of the opposition, as well as the curtailment of workers’ rights, are the order of the day. By concluding a trade agreement with governments that promote policies of conflict and plunder, the EU is rewarding human rights violations and contradicting its own democratic values. The additional market access driven by this agreement is also likely to add further incentives to commit such abuses.
* **an export-oriented agricultural policy** that has a detrimental effect on agricultural producer prices on which farmers in Mercosur and EU countries depend. It will bring more harm to animals and damage local food production.Stronger animal welfare and sanitary standards in the EU compared to Mercosur countries make farming more expensive in the EU. Rather than strengthen Mercosur rules, this agreement will reward greater access to cheap meat exports to European markets, creating downward pressure on agricultural producer prices on both sides of the Atlantic. Rising meat exports, increased soy and sugar cane cultivation for livestock feed exported to the EU and agrofuels are intensifying the destruction of the environment, leading to more genetic engineering, massive antibiotics and pesticides use, and soil and water pollution. Moreover, many of the pesticides used in Mercosur are prohibited in the EU.

The COVID-19 crisis should be a wake-up call that biodiversity destruction and the pursuit of unfettered economic and globalized growth has exposed humanity to major threats. Business as usual is no longer an option. The Mercosur deal takes us backwards. Trade policy must, instead, support localised and shorter value chains less susceptible to disruption and greater ability of governments to create resilient and decentralized food and health systems with greater capacity to produce medicines and medical equipment at the regional level. The EU must transform its trade policy objectives towards multilateral trade rules that support and are subservient to ecological, social, human rights and development policies that keep us within planetary boundaries and promote peace. Instead, this agreement will deepen trade asymmetries between the blocs, increasing unemployment, environmental destruction and puts the health of the people on both sides of the Atlantic at risk.

**Need for more, not less cooperation: The rejection of the EU-Mercosur deal should not be misconstrued as a rejection of constructive cooperation with the region.**The EU must be a respectable and a respectful partner in the fight against hunger and poverty, climate change and the enforcement of ILO core labour standards, the rights of peasants and other persons working in rural areas as defined in the respective UN Declaration, human rights and strong animal welfare standards! Such cooperation must be transparent, inclusive and support the active engagement of civil society organisations. Instead, the EU’s planned agreement with Mercosur goes in exactly the opposite direction.

We therefore call on the Federal Governments and the EU Commission and EU-Parliament to reject this agreement!

Signed by:

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| Asamblea Argentina mejor sin TLC | Argentina |
| ATTAC Argentina | Argentina |
| Casa Rio Lab | Argentina |
| EcoLeaks | Argentina |
| FUNDACION CAUCE: CULTURA AMBIENTAL, CAUSA ECOLOGISTA | Argentina |
| Nodo UTT San Cristobal, Buenos Aires | Argentina |
| Asociacion Bienvnturados los Pobres  | Argentina  |
| Anders Handeln | Austria |
| Attac Austria | Austria |
| Coordination of the Austrian Bishops Conference for international Development and Mission | Austria |
| DKA Austria | Austria |
| GLOBAL 2000 / Friends of the Earth Austria | Austria |
| ÖBV-Via Campesina Austria | Austria |
| Welthaus Diözese Graz-Seckau | Austria |
| VIER PFOTEN – Stiftung für Tierschutz | Austria  |
| ELA | Basque Country |
| 11.11.11 | Belgium |
| A Contre-Courant | Belgium |
| INTAL | Belgium |
| Mouvement DEMAIN | Belgium |
| Wervel | Belgium |
| Centro de Documentación e Información Bolivia - CEDIB | Bolivia |
| Central de Cooperativas Unisol Brasil  | Brasil |
| Justiça Global | Brasil |
| Movimento ODSejo | Brasil |
| Justiça nos Trilhos  | Brasil  |
| REBRIP | Brazil |
| Eurogroup For Animals | Brussels |
| Lafede.cat - Organitzacions per a la Justícia Global | Catalonia |
| ODG | Catalonia |
| Pascuum SCCL | Catalonia |
| Hablemos de Derechos Humanos | Costa Rica |
| La Cadejos, Comunicación Feminista | Costa Rica |
| European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC) | Europe |
| foodwatch international | Europe |
| Seattle to Brussels Network | Europe |
| EHNE BIZKAIA | EUSKAL HERRIA |
| ETXALDE Nekazaritza Iraunkorra | EUSKAL HERRIA |
| Aitec | France |
| alofa tuvalu | France |
| Amis de la Terre | France |
| Attac France | France |
| CADTM France | France |
| Collectif Ethique sur l'étiquette | France |
| Comité Pauvreté et Politique | France |
| Confederation paysanne | France |
| Diagonal France | France |
| foodwatch France | France |
| France Nature Environnement | France |
| reseau Roosevelt IDF | France |
| Veblen Institute | France |
| Aktion 3.Welt Saar e.V. | Germany |
| Arbeitsgemeinschaft bäuerliche Landwirtschaft | Germany |
| FDCL – Center for Research and Documentation Chile-Latin America  | Germany |
| foodwatch Germany | Germany |
| Greenpeace Germany | Germany |
| Kooperation Brasilien | Germany |
| Netzwerk Gerechter Welthandel | Germany |
| PowerShift e.V. | Germany |
| Society for Threatened Peoples | Germany |
| CADTM  | International |
| CIDSE | International |
| GRAIN | International |
| Greenpeace | International |
| Sonairte - The National Ecology Centre | Ireland |
| Zero Waste Alliance  | Ireland |
| IZcSA | Ireland  |
| A Sud, Ecologia e Cooperazione Onlus | Italy |
| A titolo personale | Italy |
| Acqua bene comune Valle Telesina | Italy |
| ARCI | Italy |
| Associazione Botteghe del Mondo Italia | Italy |
| Associazione Cooperazione Nord-Sud "Il Chicco di Senape"  | Italy |
| Associazione Culturale Musica in Corso  | Italy |
| Associazione Medici per l'Ambiente - ISDE Italia | Italy |
| Associazione Natura Cavalli e Carrozze | Italy |
| Associazione USICONS | Italy |
| ATTAC ITALIA | Italy |
| CGIL - Confederazione Generale Italiana del Lavoro | Italy |
| CiLLSA | Italy |
| Civica. | Italy |
| comitato acqua pubblica di Salerno  | Italy |
| COMITATO STOP TTIP UDINE | Italy |
| Coordinamento nazionale no triv | Italy |
| Coordinamento Nord Sud del Mondo | Italy |
| Cospe | Italy |
| Fairwatch | Italy |
| FONDAZIONE CAPTA ONLUS | Italy |
| Fridays For Future Pisa | Italy |
| Greenpeace Italia | Italy |
| HempRevolution APS | Italy |
| Italian Forum Water Movement | Italy |
| LAV | Italy |
| Legambiente | Italy |
| Meetup Andora in Movimento | Italy |
| MOVIMENTO CONSUMATORI | Italy |
| Movimento Umanista Popolare | Italy |
| Navdanya International | Italy |
| proDES FVG - ASP | Italy |
| Salviamo il Paesaggio Casalasco | Italy |
| Slow Food Cremonese | Italy |
| SOBREVIVENCIA, amigos de la Tierra Paraguay | Italy |
| Stop TTIP Italia | Italy |
| Terra! | Italy |
| transform! italia | Italy |
| VerdiEuropaVerde Milano | Italy |
| Bionext | Netherlands |
| Both ENDS | Netherlands |
| Centre for Research on Multinational Corporations (SOMO) | Netherlands |
| FNV- Dutch National Trade Union | Netherlands |
| foodwatch Netherlands | Netherlands |
| Handel Anders! coalitie | Netherlands |
| Hivos | Netherlands |
| Milieudefensie | Netherlands |
| Nederlandse Melkveehouders Vakbond (NMV) | Netherlands |
| Platform Aarde Boer Consument | Netherlands |
| Transnational Institute (TNI) | Netherlands |
| TTIP, CETA and agriculture coalition | Netherlands |
| Women's International League for Peace and Freedom dutch section | Netherlands |
| The Norwegian Solidarity Committee for Latin America | Norway |
| Comunidad y Desarrollo Sustentable (CODES) | Paraguay |
| FIRE Paraguay | Paraguay |
| Fundación Hugo Daniel Ramírez Osorio | Paraguay |
| ACI - Centro InterCulturaCidade | Portugal |
| Associação de Combate à Precariedade - Precários Inflexíveis | Portugal |
| CIDAC - Centro de Intervenção para o Desenvolvimento Amílcar Cabral | Portugal |
| Climáximo | Portugal |
| Cooperativa Mula | Portugal |
| Fruta Feia CRL | Portugal |
| LPN - Liga para a Protecção da Natureza | Portugal |
| Palombar - Conservação da Natureza e do Património Rural | Portugal |
| TROCA- Plataforma por um Comércio Internacional Justo | Portugal |
| ZERO - Association for the Sustainability of the Earth System | Portugal |
| MOVIMENTO GAIO | Portugal  |
| Internacional de Servicios Públicos- Isp Americas  | Regional Americas  |
| Plataforma América Latina mejor sin TLC | Regional Americas  |
| 8 M Guadarrama Feminista | Spain |
| Acció Ecofeminista | Spain |
| Acció Ecologista-Agró | Spain |
| Actúa por un Mundo Sostenible | Spain |
| Agro Can Genover | Spain |
| Amigos de la Tierra | Spain |
| Asociación Cultural Brasileña Maloka | Spain |
| Asociación Restauración Paisaje Tradicional Verato | Spain |
| asociacion vuelta al campo | Spain |
| Attac Acordem | Spain |
| ATTAC ESPAÑA | Spain |
| Boza Sur | Spain |
| Campaña No a los Tratados de Comercio e Inversión | Spain |
| Campanya Catalunya No als Tractats de Comerç i Inversió | Spain |
| Campanya per una Justícia Fiscal | Spain |
| CCOO | Spain |
| CCOO - CS de Comisiones Obreras | Spain |
| CCOO ARAGON | Spain |
| CCOO de CATALUNYA | Spain |
| Centro de Estudios Rurales y de Agricultura Internacional | Spain |
| CGT (ESPAÑA) | Spain |
| CIDES | Spain |
| Ciudadana | Spain |
| ClimAcció | Spain |
| COAG. Coordinadora de Organizaciones de Agricultores y Ganaderos.  | Spain |
| Comisión de migración y antirracismo 8M | Spain |
| Comité Antinuclaer y Ecologista de Salamanca | Spain |
| Comité por la paz de Colombia en Madrid | Spain |
| Coordinadora de ONGD | Spain |
| Coordinadora Ecoloxista d'Asturies | Spain |
| Ecologistas en Acción | Spain |
| Ecologistas en Acción Ciudad de Almería | Spain |
| Ecologistas en Accion federacion de Almeria | Spain |
| ECOLOGISTAS EN ACCIÓN-ADEPA | Spain |
| Economistas sin Fronteras | Spain |
| Enginyeria Sense Fronteres | Spain |
| Equo | Spain |
| Feminismos Sierra Noroeste Madrid | Spain |
| FEMINISTAS POR EL CLIMA | Spain |
| Fundación ENtrnetantos | Spain |
| Ganaderas en Red | Spain |
| GOB Mallorca | Spain |
| Greenpeace España | Spain |
| Grup Ecologista Maigmó(GREMA)-Ecologistas en Acción San Vicente del Raspeig | Spain |
| illes solidàries amb el sud | Spain |
| Kutembea na Tanzania, NGO | Spain |
| L'Etnogràfica. Antropologia per a la transformació social | Spain |
| La Garbancita Ecológica S. Coop. Mad. Consumo Responsable | Spain |
| Madrid Agroecológico | Spain |
| Marxa Mundial de Dones-Catalunya | Spain |
| Movimiento Ibérico Antinuclear | Spain |
| Observatori de l'Alimentació | Spain |
| Observatori DESC | Spain |
| Observatorio para una Cultura del Territorio | Spain |
| PENSE PENSIONS DIGNES | Spain |
| Plataforma ciudadana para una Transición Ecológica Justa | Spain |
| Plataforma contra el canciller climátic Pla de l’estany | Spain |
| Plataforma contra macroabocador de la ribera  | Spain |
| Plataforma por la Ganadería Extensiva y el Pastoralismo | Spain |
| Rebeca  | Spain |
| Recortes Cero | Spain |
| Red de Economía Social y Solidaria Madrid | Spain |
| ReHd Mad! red de huertos urbanos comunitaros de Madrid | Spain |
| Sello AgroEcoSocial zona centro | Spain |
| Sindicato ELA  | Spain |
| Sindicato Labrego Galego | Spain |
| Solidaridad Internacional Andalucia | Spain |
| Trawunche Madrid (Coordinación de Apoyo al Pueblo Mapuche) | Spain |
| TTIP-CETA-TISA Tarragona-Reus | Spain |
| Entrepueblos/Entrpobles/Entrepobos/Herriarte | Spanish State |
| Observatorio de Multinacionales en América Latina - Paz con Dignidad | Spanish State |
| FIAN Sweden  | Sweden |
| Jordens Vänner - FoE Sweden | Sweden |
| Freelance Video Producer | Switzerland |