

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001772/24
to the Commission
Anna Bryłka (NI)
(20 September 2024)**

Subject: Mercosur agreement

In a letter to the President of the Commission the governments of 11 EU countries (Germany, Spain, Portugal, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Croatia, Estonia, Latvia, Luxembourg and Czechia) recently called for the swift conclusion of a trade agreement with Mercosur. What arguments have been used to accelerate and complete the agreement, and is it expected to be finalised by the end of the year?

One of the reasons for the recent mass protests by EU farmers was opposition to the EU-Mercosur free trade agreement. Signing this agreement will expose European farmers to unfair competition. Producers of beef, poultry and sugar will be the most vulnerable. What tools for safeguarding European farmers were included in the negotiations?

What if any commitments concerning Amazon deforestation and climate change have been enforced vis-à-vis the South American partners?

Submitted: 20.9.2024

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Dombrovskis on behalf of the European Commission
(29 November 2024)**

The EU-*Mercado Común del Sur* (Mercosur) Agreement will make the EU and Mercosur privileged geopolitical and geoeconomic partners.

It will help secure markets and access to raw materials, thereby strengthening the EU's economic security, and reducing its dependencies.

For Mercosur, it will be by far the most far-reaching trade agreement to date, reinforcing the EU's longstanding alliance with the Latin American region, and providing EU companies with a competitive edge vis-à-vis companies from other regions that will not enjoy such privileged partnership.

In the technical ongoing discussions, the EU is seeking assurances from Mercosur concerning deforestation and climate change. The EU focus remains on ensuring that the agreement delivers on the EU's sustainability goals, while respecting the EU's sensitivities in the agricultural sector.

Regarding sensitive EU agriculture products, such as beef, poultry, or sugar, the EU negotiated limited concessions in the form of tariff rate quotas that represent a small fraction of EU consumption.

In addition, these partial openings will be introduced in stages (usually over six years) to allow the sectors to adjust. They will be coupled with safeguard clauses to protect the EU market in case of serious injury caused by Mercosur imports.

The Commission believes that those mechanisms will allow to protect the interests of EU farmers. In case that the implementation of the deal would result in market disturbances, beyond the safeguard clauses, the Commission stands ready to support the agriculture sector.
