

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-001872/24
to the Commission
Jordan Bardella (PPE)
(30 September 2024)**

Subject: Continuation of the negotiations on the Mercosur-EU free trade agreement, soon to be finalised behind farmers' backs

At the start of September 2024, a new round of negotiations between the EU and Mercosur was launched with a view to finalising the trade agreement between the two parties by the end of 2024.

In addition to its devastating environmental aspects, this agreement will foster additional unfair competition for French farmers, who are once again to be sacrificed at the altar of free trade and exports by German manufacturers ⁽¹⁾.

According to the *Financial Times* ⁽²⁾, the Commission's negotiators are keen to move forward with the agreement, sidelining the positions of France and Austria so that they will be outvoted, despite the French Government having assured farmers that France would oppose the deal.

In fact, the events in Brussels in the coming weeks will no doubt equate to a further betrayal of farmers, culminating in the conclusion of a free trade agreement with dire consequences for French agriculture.

1. Does the Commission currently have a mandate from France to finalise the negotiations on the Mercosur agreement?
2. What are the main conclusions on the items that were on the agenda of the negotiations of 4, 5 and 6 September and discussed at the last negotiators' meeting?

Submitted: 30.9.2024

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

In line with the EU Treaties, the Commission has received a mandate from the Council to negotiate an agreement with Mercosur. It informs all Member States and the European Parliament regularly during the negotiations.

The last meeting of Chief Negotiators took place on 7-9 October 2024 in Brasilia. Technical negotiations continue, with a view to finding mutually acceptable landing zones.

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.

The Commission is requesting Mercosur a clear commitment to stop deforestation and to have the Paris Agreement ⁽¹⁾ as an essential element of the agreement.

¹ <https://www.euractiv.fr/section/economie/news/les-industriels-allemands-poussent-lue-a-conclure-de-nouveaux-accords-de-libre-echange/>

² <https://www.ft.com/content/cae11511-f279-4466-9267-d978dfde6f6a>

⁽¹⁾ <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement>