

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002033/24
to the Commission
Anna Brylka (P/E)
(11 October 2024)**

Subject: Mercosur

Negotiators for a trade agreement between the EU and Mercosur countries held another round of meetings in Brasilia from 7 to 9 October 2024. According to press reports, an agreement is expected to be ready for the G20 Leaders' Summit in mid-November in Rio de Janeiro. In January, Mercosur negotiations were nearing the finish line, but were pushed back due to massive farmer protests ahead of the European elections.

The EU's trade agreement with Mercosur is being heavily criticised by all European agricultural associations and unions. This agreement will open up the EU market, with its heavily regulated industry and agriculture, to economies not subject to those regulations.

In light of the above:

1. What did the round of negotiations from 7 to 9 October 2024 in Brasilia cover?
2. Is it true that the agreement will be ready for the G20 Leaders' Summit in mid-November?
3. Could the Commission say which 10 EU countries appealed to the Commission to speed up negotiations and could it please provide the arguments that these countries put forward?

Submitted: 11.10.2024

**Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(3 March 2025)**

The Commission views the EU-Mercosur Agreement as politically and economically vital. The Commission's objective is to ensure that the EU-Mercosur Agreement ⁽¹⁾ delivers on the EU's sustainability goals, while respecting the EU's sensitivities in the agricultural sector.

Chief Negotiators met in October 2024 to discuss the outstanding issues. These include: the EU proposal for a Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD) Joint Instrument ⁽²⁾, inclusion of the Paris Agreement as an essential element of the EU-Mercosur Agreement and Mercosur's interests in the areas of public procurement, vehicles, export duties, a rebalancing mechanism, and a protocol on cooperation.

On 6 December at the Mercosur Summit in Montevideo, the EU and Mercosur reached a political agreement concluding the negotiations.

In September 2024, eleven Member States ⁽³⁾ addressed a letter to the President expressing strong support for a rapid conclusion of the negotiations on the EU-Mercosur Agreement.

These Member States reiterated the high geopolitical and geoeconomic importance of the Agreement and its essential role in maintaining the EU's economic and political influence in the region.

They also noted that the agreement provides a unique platform for cooperation between the EU and the Mercosur countries on trade and sustainable development matters, ensuring that we can achieve our common sustainability and climate change ambitions.

⁽¹⁾ https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/mercotur/eu-mercotur-agreement_en

⁽²⁾ <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/09242a36-a438-40fd-a7af-fe32e36cbd0e/library/da997440-4edb-437d-aa4a-3cb9a5e77930/details?download=true>

⁽³⁾ The following Member States are signatories to the letter: Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Luxembourg, Portugal, Spain and Sweden.