

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-000776/25
to the Commission**

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(20 February 2025)

Subject: EU-Mercosur: EUR 1.8 billion — genuine support or leverage for negotiation?

The Commission recently announced that it has allocated EUR 1.8 billion to Mercosur countries as part of the political agreement reached in December. However, the announcement raises multiple questions as, while the funds are officially intended to support Mercosur countries' economic and environmental transition, some observers think they were possibly a bribe to smooth the way for concluding the agreement. This has cast a shadow over the transparency of the negotiations.

To clarify things, could the Commission answer the following questions:

1. What specific criteria guided the decision to allocate EUR 1.8 billion to Mercosur countries and how will this amount be distributed and used to ensure a fair transition, particularly on the social and environmental fronts?
2. How is the Commission planning to address allegations of both a lack of transparency and possible conflicts of interest, so as to reassure EU citizens about the integrity of the Mercosur talks?
3. What concrete monitoring, evaluation and control mechanisms will be put in place to ensure that these funds are used for the agreed purposes and that any risk of misappropriation or mismanagement is avoided?

Submitted: 20.2.2025

**Answer given by Mr Sikela on behalf of the European Commission
(2 May 2025)**

On 6 December 2024, on the occasion of the conclusion of negotiations of the EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement, the President of the Commission mentioned EUR 1.8 billion ⁽¹⁾ in EU support that will facilitate the fair green and digital transition in Mercosur countries.

It reflects the EU's broader commitment to invest in mutually beneficial sustainable partnerships through the EU-Latin America and Caribbean Global Gateway Investment Agenda.

Specifically, it could support: (a) developing sustainable forest value chains, particularly in the Amazon region; (b) the adaptation of economic actors (especially micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises, women, smallholder farmers, indigenous peoples, and local communities) to the evolving trade environment; (c) strengthening capacities for implementing environmental and labour laws and policies, in line with commitments under the agreement; (d) fostering investments in renewable energy and critical raw materials, including their value chains, while improving connectivity and infrastructure.

The Commission remains fully committed to ensuring transparency and integrity in all aspects of EU trade and cooperation agreements.

The package will be implemented by the Commission under the standard procedures governing the general budget of the EU. In compliance with the Neighbourhood, Development and International Cooperation Instrument — Global Europe (NDICI — GE), Member States will be formally consulted prior to the adoption of decisions by the College of Commissioners.

As usual, documents will be shared at the same time with the European Parliament to ensure its right to scrutiny. The European Parliament and the Council will also be informed of the committee proceedings.

Robust monitoring, evaluation, and control mechanisms will be in place to ensure that the funds are used as intended and that any risks of mismanagement or misappropriation are effectively mitigated.

⁽¹⁾ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_6244