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Cc: [REDACTED] (TRADE); [REDACTED] (TRADE); [REDACTED] (TRADE); [REDACTED] (TRADE)
Subject: Brazil: Report of the Meeting of the Indigenous Peoples - 6 Nov 2019

Meeting with the Articulation of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil (APIB) – 6 November 2019

Representatives of the Indigenous Peoples of Brazil met with DG TRADE and DG ENV to present their position on the agreement with Mercosur and raise awareness about the situation of the indigenous peoples at the moment.

DG TRADE gave an overview of the state of play of the negotiations, highlighting the benefits of the agreement, including in terms of the trade and sustainable chapter, the dialogue with civil society and also on the rights of indigenous people.

APIB representatives included three leaders of various regions of Brazil (Mato Grosso Sul, Para, Cerrado). The visit was part of a campaign across Europe (12 different countries) (*"Journey indigenous blood not a single drop more"*) during which the leaders try to raise awareness about the challenging situation of indigenous peoples in Brazil and problems stemming from the agricultural and other use of indigenous lands (notably soya beans, timber and beef). The APIB leaders argued that the ratification of the EU-Mercosur agreement would lead to further problems, deforestation and loss of indigenous territories. The leaders called for the suspension of the process towards concluding agreement. They were arguing that the current Brazilian government is violating the Constitution and international agreements and cannot be expected to respect the EU-Mercosur agreement. They argued that the agreement needed to be substantially reformulated, ensure sustainable trade and contain a strong mechanism to protect the rights and lives of indigenous people. They also suggested that the EU should adopt a law that should not allow the importation of goods that were produced at the cost of indigenous people's rights.

DG TRADE invited the APIB representatives to reconsider their definite negative position on the agreement and reflect on whether the situation would be better with or without the agreement. In particular, TRADE pointed to significant benefits of increased dialogue, channels of communication and scope for cooperation on sustainability aspects which the agreement would bring and the important space created for civil society in the implementation of the Agreement. In addition, it highlighted the difficult international context in which the rule of law and multilateralism are threatened and where international cooperation is necessary to ensure important policy objectives like the protection of human rights, climate change and the environment. DG ENV informed about the Commission's recent Communication (23/07/2019) on deforestation and forest degradation (*"Stepping up EU Action to protect and restore the World's forests"*) in which the Commission recognized the contribution that EU consumption makes to the deforestation and announced it would explore possible legislative measures to address it. DG ENV invited APIB to take part in planned consultations on these measures, as these consultations were open to EU and third countries' stakeholders.

Participants:

DG TRADE: [REDACTED]

DG ENV: [REDACTED]

Best

