Read out of the meeting between ARG Minister Cafiero and EVP Dombrovskis and HRVP Borrell
1/2/2023

ARG: Minister Cafiero, Cecilia Todesco, State Secretary, Ambassador Grinspun, Subsecretario Federico Gonzalez Perini.


EVP: We value our solid relationship with Argentina and other Mercosur countries as reliable partners. The EU-Mercosur trade and political agreement will be an excellent framework to work together on the challenges of the green and digital transitions, the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic and the fallout from the Russian war of aggression against Ukraine.

The Commission President Ms von der Leyen underlined in the European Parliament on 18 January that we now have a unique window of opportunity to finally take forward the EU-Mercosur agreement. We remain fully committed to finalizing the EU-Mercosur Agreement and we hope that this year will bring us an opportunity to progress decisively. Look forward to engaging with the Argentinian Presidency as well as with the other Mercosur countries to bring the ongoing process to a successful conclusion.

HRVP: Mercosur is seen as an opportunity and treated as a priority. – EU needs trusted partners. The agreement between the EU and Mercosur is strategic. The agreement is an instrument of political dialogue and cooperation, that would selo the strategic alliance. We consider the EU-Latin America Countries Summit in July 2023 an excellent occasion to mark such progress.

ARG: thanks for granting the opportunity to explain our challenges in ARG and MCS – this is a stressing situation: invasion of Russia, COVID, and repetitive economic crisis since 2008 – the context is important. We have a constructive spirit, we wish the agreement to move ahead, we understand its political and strategic value, not just trade and economic one. , we want to have solid relations with the EU. Still, our stakeholders and citizens need to see the material effect of the agreement and this has a trade and economic component. Thanks HRVP for the cooperative attitude in laying relations with LAC and ARG.

Looking forward to a successful summit which should show that diversity is an asset and can contribute to a fair and just society. LAC is not homogeneous in multilateral fora but it is overall aligned with the EU values. ARG and MCS wishes to be part of a sustainable and safe value chain – we are working on the biggest green hydrogen project in the world we are now exporting gas to Chile again, after 20 years, from Vaca Muerta. Not just a food supplier, but energy as well. In MCS, we need a regional value chain that should be safe and fair.

EVP: . We look forward to engaging with the Argentinian Presidency as well as with the other Mercosur countries to bring the ongoing process to a successful conclusion. In the context of the Argentinian Presidency and the willingness to bring the ongoing process to a successful conclusion with the other Mercosur countries, the EU Chief Negotiator plans to travel to the region at the earliest opportunity to discuss the way forward.
To make sure we seize the opportunity to progress with the Agreement, we need to finalise all the outstanding technical issues as soon as possible. We are prepared to discuss possibilities of cooperation on the implementation of the agreement in Mercosur. The Agreement will support the local industrial development, for example by encouraging EU investment in green technologies (such as green hydrogen) in Mercosur.

**ARG:** ARG and MCS will is to advance in a concrete and firm fashion with the agreement.

**EVP:** Art.4(1)(a)

. We believe that we should stick to the current text;

**ARG:** definitely useful that the negotiating team continue to work. As to then balance of the agreement, there were since 2019 different pieces of legislation in the EU that have affected such balance; e.g. green deal -

**EVP:** We have always been careful to designing our measures in a WTO compatible manner; right to regulate remains;

- I remain available to discuss with you at any given occasion.