ARGENTINA - Meeting HRVP-EVP Dombrovskis-FM Cafiero - 1 Feb 2022

HRVP introduced the meeting by emphasizing the importance of the EU-MCS agreement in the new geopolitical context: MCS is a partner, an opportunity and a priority for the EU. Both the EU and MERCOSUR want to strengthen our autonomy(ies), avoiding forced dependencies. But autonomy does not mean isolation. It requires cooperation and reliable partners.

FM Cafiero started by stating AR wanted the agreement and fully understood that the scope is beyond trade.

He then spoke of AR in the multilateral context and the values they defend, plus their engagement on UA.

On MCS, FM Cafiero mentioned the new value chains and the focus on energy and raw materials (lithium, copper, green hydrogen). With Lula, AR has a shared vision focused on generating reliable and fair regional value chains. He also mentioned the last Joint Commission where progress was made on energy and raw materials.

Ensued a more specific discussion on the Agreement between EVP and FM Cafiero. EVP talked about the window of opportunity to conclude, mentioning the interpretative additional instrument (AI), GIs and the possibility of cooperation and support to local development.

FM Cafiero mentioned that the balance reached in 2019 when the agreement was closed has been upset by new EU legislation.
EVP responded that we are ready to discuss to fix punctual issues, but that the legislation is in line with the fight against Climate Change and is non-discriminatory.