Summary: The meeting was a good opportunity to exchange with the members of the Mercosur Working Group of Business Europe, gather their views and better understand the priorities of European businesses for the Mercosur negotiations. Business Europe members have confirmed their strong support and interests in the negotiations and have appreciated the update on the current state of play provided by the Commission.

The COM was invited by the Business Europe Mercosur Working Group for a discussion regarding the negotiations with Mercosur. The COM presented the context and the recent developments of the negotiations with Mercosur, focusing particularly on the changed economic and political environment. The COM highlighted the potential economic benefits for the EU and the importance of European businesses to engage and support the negotiation process and to make their priorities clear.

Business Europe informed that it has replied to the consultation with significant input from members. Several members intervened - ACEA, showing support to the negotiations and underlining the potential benefits for the EU. ACEA supported zero for zero in tariffs for the automotive sector and asked if a specific automotive annex could be negotiated covering regulatory cooperation. A position paper is currently being prepared by ACEA and will be shared with the COM.