To: GALLINA Sandra (TRADE); (TRADE);

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Subject: Metting between TRADE C.3 and the Values Foundation on EU-Mercosur

negotiations, Brussels, 18.10.2018

Today I met at their request with and from the Values Fundation (VF), a Christian EU NGO, to discuss the EU-Mercosur negotiations.

VF explained that they are an EU-level NGO with activities also in Argentina and therefore they are interested in and supportive of the EU-Mercosur negotiations. They informed of their contacts with MEPs and EU MS ministers and asked about the state of play of the negotiations, next steps, how will the Brazilian general elections influence the negotiation process and whether the next Civil Society Dialogue is already scheduled as they would like to participate.

I gave an update on the state of play of the negotiations and recent contacts between the Commissioner and Mercosur ministers in September and answered the questions posed. I recalled that while very significant progress had been made since the relaunch of the process in May 2016, it is vital to make progress on the EU's key outstanding issues and movement in this regard from Mercosur is indispensable. I thanked the VF for their support and both parties agreed to stay in touch on further developments and in particular as regards the next Civil Society Dialogue.



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