



Valdis Dombrovskis
Executive Vice-President of the European Commission
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Belgium



Follow Up to the Business Europe Mercosur event on 30 April 2021

Dear Commissioner Dombrovskis,

I would like to thank you for your support and commitment at the BusinessEurope event 'The EU-Mercosur Agreement EU and Brazilian Business committed to Sustainability' on 30 April 2021.

Operating across 87 countries worldwide, we at Bayer strongly believe in the value of open markets and rules-based global order. Fair and free trade fosters economic growth, entrepreneurship, efficient use of resources, and can improve livelihoods. Increased competition through trade can accelerate the pace of innovation.

The EU-Mercosur Agreement consolidates geopolitically significant partnerships at a time when multilateral trade rules are often disregarded. The agreement shapes the rules for good trade relations, promotes the multilateral principles of transparency, and strengthens international agreements to promote social and environmental standards.

Bayer fully agrees with the sustainability commitments of the EU-Mercosur Agreement: sustainability is a key element in production practices and international trade and is embedded in our policies and culture. By understanding that we are part of the solution, we for example take concrete action to promote sustainability in agricultural production.

We will ensure 100 % compliance with the Brazilian Forest Code in our production fields. We also recognize climate change as an impacting factor on biodiversity. As a company, we therefore have a clear goal to jointly with our customers reduce field greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in the



May 18, 2021

Member of the Board of Management of Bayer AG and President Crop Science

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most emitting cropping systems that Bayer serves by 30 % by 2030. Working towards that goal we recently have initiated a carbon farming pilot project in Brazil.

Given your comments on the role of the industry, I would be very interested in further discussing what the industry could do to move the agenda in the right direction on the EU-Mercosur agreement and to support your work.

In addition, the European Commission has recently launched its updated industrial strategy where companies like Bayer have a key role to play in leading the transition to a green and more resilient economy. Innovations in the life sciences as well as new digital applications can make a strong contribution to achieving the goals of the Green Deal.

I would therefore be delighted if you would find the time for a virtual meeting to discuss these important developments and jointly evaluate how the industry could further contribute.

If you would be open to such an exchange my team in Brussels will be happy to align with your staff on a suitable date.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

[Redacted]
Bayer AG

[Redacted]
Member of the Board of Management



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27. 07. 2021

Brussels,

Dear [REDACTED]

I would like to thank you once again for organising the important BusinessEurope event entitled "The EU-Mercosur Agreement and Brazilian Business: committed to sustainability" on 30 April. Indeed, it was a valuable opportunity to showcase how European companies are already engaged in Mercosur fostering a responsible business model and pioneering clean technologies. I am convinced that events like this one play a crucial role in sending the right message to stakeholders on both continents and providing clear real-life examples of the responsible business practices that could be developed further once the agreement is in place.

As I outlined in my intervention at the event, in order to prepare the ground for a successful ratification, it is vital to advance on the sustainability agenda. Mobilising European and Mercosur businesses to intensify engagement and dialogue not only with each other, but also with European and Mercosur stakeholders and authorities, is paramount. Business has a crucial role to play on the ratification path: it can help to shape a more positive narrative around the agreement, especially regarding sustainability. Moreover, businesses can themselves set the example by engaging first-hand in sustainable development business projects and investments, including on green technology and renewable energy.

In addition, the European Commission has recently launched its updated industrial strategy where companies like Bayer have a key role to play in leading the transition to a green and more resilient economy. Innovations in the life sciences as well as new digital applications can make a strong contribution to achieving the goals of the Green Deal.

My team is at your disposal to discuss trade-related concerns relevant for your sector.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]
Valdis Dombrovskis

