

**To:** GALLINA Sandra (TRADE); [REDACTED] (TRADE); [REDACTED] (TRADE); [REDACTED] (TRADE)  
**Subject:** Summary, COPA COGECA Praesidia, Mercosur, 21 September 2017

**On 21 September 2017, Sandra Gallina addressed the COPA COGECA Praesidia on the EU-Mercosur negotiation**

Martin Pycha (Agricultural Association of the Czech Republic) noted the need for fair rules of production to ensure a level playing field as regards environmental and SPS rules. He also stressed the need to take account of Brexit.

[REDACTED] (COPA) argued that it should be possible to make progress without an offer on beef. The sector is structurally weak. There is a downward trend in consumption. Moreover, it was unfair competition given standards of traceability, respect for the environment and food safety in Mercosur.

Secondo Scanavino, President of Confederazione Italiana Agricoltori (CIA) stressed the need for maintaining SPS standards.

Roberto Monclavo, President of Italy's Confederazione Nazionale Coldiretti (COLDIRETTI) argued that this agreement was negative for EU agriculture. Beef was not the only defensive – also fruit and vegetables. It is vital that we do not compromise our standards.

Representatives of the sugar sector urged full exclusion of sugar arguing that Brazilian sugar was subsidised and Brazil already exported a large volume of sugar to the EU.

COM stressed that the EU has many agri-food offensives for which Mercosur is an important and as yet highly protected market, including dairy, wine, spirits and processed agricultural products. COM is committed to safeguarding the interests of farmers in sensitive sectors. EU standards will be upheld by this agreement – they will not be lowered in any FTA. It is important that we do not consider our food production and consumption model to be a factor of isolation.

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