

Mr Jean-Claude Juncker
President
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
BE - 1049 Brussels
Belgium

9 July 2018

Dear President,

BusinessEurope is becoming increasingly concerned that we may miss the opportunity to conclude the negotiations for what would be a breakthrough trade agreement with Mercosur. In the many years of the negotiating process, never have we felt so close to the objective as in the last weeks. We hope that the final step of the journey will be made shortly.

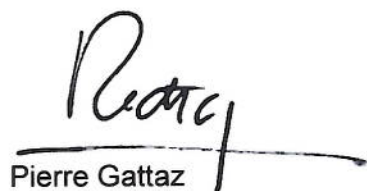
With only a few weeks left before the national election campaigns in Brazil will start and catalyse attention and political capital, we want to reiterate our support to the efforts that the European Commission will deploy in the little time left.

In these unpredictable times in international trade, the MERCOSUR market would provide European companies with increased opportunities in a region so far relatively closed to foreign access. An EU-MERCOSUR agreement would help diversify our trade and investment flows and continue building strong ties with countries that share our goals of rules-based, fair and open trade.

We are well aware of the remaining difficulties and of the need to iron out the remaining aspects in key areas including market access and rules. We know the final balance will be difficult but we are confident this agreement will be ambitious and in line with the European Union's objective of building a new generation of free trade agreements to address 21st century needs.

A deal is within reach. Should the opportunity not be seized now, it may not present itself again for the foreseeable future, much to the regret of European businesses of all sizes. You can count on our support for your efforts to bring home this important agreement.

Yours sincerely,


Pierre Gattaz