

Jean-Claude Juncker
President
European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
BE – 1049 Brussels
BELGIUM

19 June 2019

Dear President, *Jean-Claude Juncker*

On behalf of BusinessEurope, we would like to express our strong support for an EU-Mercosur Association Agreement.

This agreement has an extremely important strategic dimension at times when international trade suffers from volatility and is negatively affected by increasing protectionism and unilateral measures. European businesses look forward to the benefits of the liberalisation of trade and integration between our two regions and hope for a positive conclusion of the negotiations during this Commission's term.

For full potential benefits to materialise, it would be necessary that the chapters on services, public procurement, and intellectual property are sufficiently ambitious and that the phase-out of industrial goods tariffs and certain export taxes and restrictions, the remaining rules of origin, geographical indications and sanitary and phytosanitary measures address long term requests from European business. The final agreement should take into account the interests of all the sectors affected by negotiations in a balanced way.

Overall the European economy would clearly benefit from an EU-Mercosur Association Agreement. We should not miss the opportunity to gain a first mover advantage in a very closed market of more than 260 million consumers.

Therefore, we encourage you and your team to work towards solving the last outstanding elements with high priority and urgency. We are confident that you will find a composition that will allow the two sides to successfully conclude the negotiations and reinforce the economic ties between the two blocs.

Yours sincerely,

Pierre Gattaz
Pierre Gattaz
President

Copy to:
Commissioner for Agriculture Phil Hogan
Commissioner for Trade Cecilia Malmström

Markus J. Beyrer
Markus J. Beyrer
Director General