

Press Release

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EU-Mercosur Free Trade Agreement Eppur si muove / Tamensi movetur!

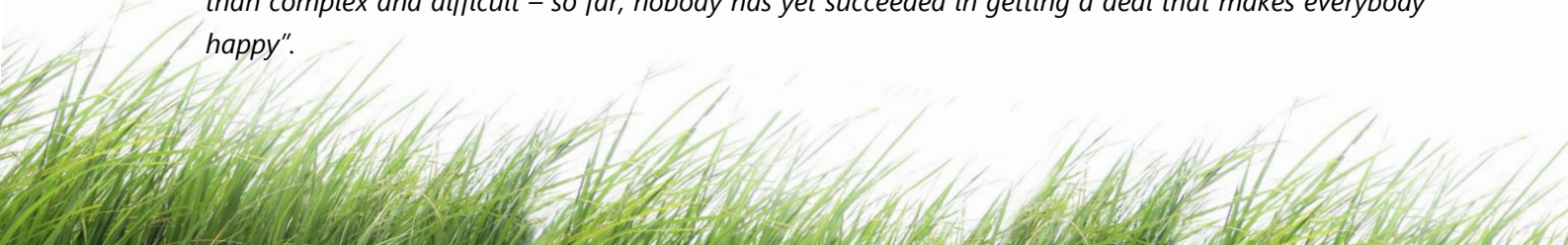
The European Dairy Association (EDA) welcomes the comprehensive trade agreement as concluded between the EU and Mercosur. After two decades, finally the Mercosur (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) and the European Union have reached an agreement on the trade environment for more than 780 million citizens.

A lot of work has been done since the beginning of the negotiations and EDA acknowledges the efforts of EU Commissioner for Trade Cecilia Malmström and EU Commissioner for Agriculture & Rural Development Phil Hogan in supporting our dynamic sector. The future implementation of this new trade framework, part of a wider Association Agreement, will be beneficial for the two economies.

"In today's troubled international trade arena, this is a real breakthrough that underlines the trade ambitions of the European Union ('Trade for All') and the performance focus of the negotiation teams. The clear commitment of the negotiation partners to the Paris Agreement (COP21) and its objectives is – in today's world – a milestone." says EDA secretary general Alexander Anton.

"The Mercosur trade agreement will basically allow to uncork some of the potential of these markets. The agreed TRQ volumes of 30,000 tons of cheese is about ten times the quantities we export today. This additional market access will also help to underpin the diversification of our EU dairy export destinations and hence, make the dairy sector more resilient when it comes to trade distortions".

"It is not a secret that we would have expected higher TRQ volumes for cheeses, milk powders and infant formula, and a shorter phasing period than 10 years. On the other hand, trade negotiations are more than complex and difficult – so far, nobody has yet succeeded in getting a deal that makes everybody happy".





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From a dairy perspective, all 4 countries forming the Mercosur area have a great dairy culture, with a self-sufficiency rate between 90 % and 193 %. So far, dairy trade has mainly taken place within the Mercosur region. The cheese and powder imports from the EU (mainly from the Netherlands, France, Italy and Germany) have not reached a significant volume.

"Now, the issues come – as always – in the details", adds Alexander Anton. It is essential that the details of the agreement and the final implementation can secure an unhindered access for our European dairy exports, including the reduction and abolishment of tariffs as well as non-tariff barriers.

The adopted legal safeguards to protect over 350 high-quality European food and drink products like Fromage de Herve (Belgique) or Comté (France), from imitation in Mercosur countries will also strengthen the well-deserved high-quality reputation of all European dairy products.

Alexander Anton

Secretary General, European Dairy Association

ABOUT THE EUROPEAN DAIRY ASSOCIATION

The European Dairy Association is the voice of dairy processors in the European Union. The membership of EDA consists of the associations of dairy processors in EU Member States.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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