



Press Release



uniting dairy excellence & ambition

Brussels, 6 December 2024

European Dairy Association applauds EU-Mercosur Free Trade Agreement

The European Dairy Association (EDA) applauds the landmark trade agreement between the European Union and Mercosur (comprising Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay), marking a significant milestone after two decades of negotiations. This agreement, involving over 780 million citizens, highlights the EU's commitment to fostering robust international trade and mutual economic growth.

"We commend the exceptional efforts of the EU Commission," stated Alexander Anton, EDA Secretary General. *"In today's troubled international environment and trade arena, this is a real breakthrough that underscores the EU's trade ambitions and the remarkable performance of its negotiation teams."*

The EU-Mercosur agreement embodies modern principles and sets the stage for significant progress in critical areas essential to our shared prosperity. This milestone agreement reinforces a commitment to free, fair, and sustainable trade, delivering enhanced market access, diversifying supply chains, and fostering investments. It also strengthens cooperation on sustainable development, addressing global priorities such as climate change and forest preservation, ensuring mutual benefits rooted in responsibility and partnership.

From a dairy perspective, all 4 countries forming the Mercosur area have a great dairy culture, with a self-sufficiency rate between 98 % and 281 %. So far, dairy trade has mainly taken place within the Mercosur region. The cheese and powder imports from the EU have not reached a significant volume. But this is where opportunities lie. The signing of this deal will allow both parties to work on the final implementation and secure unhindered access for our European dairy exports, including the reduction and abolishment of tariffs as well as nontariff 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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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