



To Mrs Ursula von der Leyen, President

Brussels, 5th April 2023

Subject: European Livestock farmers call on the Commission to live up to the Paris agreement and animal welfare commitments in the EU-Mercosur agreement

Dear President von der Leyen,

As EU-MERCOSUR talks resume, Europe's livestock sector sees the new momentum as a unique opportunity for the EU to live up to its commitments to consumer protection, animal welfare, and the fight against imported deforestation.

The Farm-to-Fork strategy and the Green Deal have created an unprecedented framework to ensure high standards of safety, sustainability and quality for all agri food products produced in the European Union. Our organisations have not only embraced these evolutions, but also led the way to sustainable production (economically, socially and environmentally).

Now is the time for the European Union to turn the Paris Agreement into reality and show leadership in its trade policy. Our trade partners must also act responsibly and should convincingly introduce relevant changes to protect consumer health, animal welfare, and our planet overall.

Not only do European farmers deserve it, but also European consumers and citizens.

As a result, we - respectfully, but forcefully - call for the respect of the EU's sanitary, environmental and animal welfare standards by agricultural and food exporters from third countries. **The adoption of mirror provisions (see Annex below) in the EU-MERCOSUR deal is necessary**

if the EU is serious about sustainable production, consumer protection and the fight against deforestation.

Without reciprocity, the adoption of the EU-MERCOSUR trade agreement would result in unfair competition and treatment for European farmers, and in misleading European consumers. It would be a significant setback for the Green Deal and Farm-to-Fork strategy putting our food security at risk while also sending a concerning signal to much-needed young farmers. We very much hope the Commission will take our proposals into consideration.

The undersigned organisations stand ready to work together with you.

Yours sincerely,

ANNEX

We urge the Commission to take into account the following concerns and introduce corresponding mirror provisions for products that will benefit from preferential access to the EU market:

- **PUBLIC HEALTH - Ban the use of antibiotics to promote animal growth**

The use of antibiotics as growth promoters has been forbidden for animals farmed in the Union since 2006. While Regulation 2019/6 forbids the import of meat from animals treated with growth antibiotics, European consumers can still find it on the shelves of any supermarket. Four years later, the delegated act presented in December 2022 does not fully implement this ban. The EU-Mercosur agreement must explicitly ban the import of meat from animals treated with growth antibiotics. **Not doing so would be a step backward and a blow to EU consumers who are not aware of the differences in animal treatment when buying imported meat.**

- **CONSUMER INFORMATION - Ensure complete traceability**

European traceability requirements set by Regulation 1760/2000 allow for high quality consumer information by ensuring the information on the animal's birth, slaughter and processing locations is available. In Brazil, traceability requirements only exist for the period of time between the fattening and the slaughter stage, resulting in an acute lack of information about the earlier life of the animal. **Traceability requirements must apply to all locations in which the animal was raised, from its birth to its export to the EU.**

- **ANIMAL WELFARE - Respect the pledge for enhanced animal welfare**

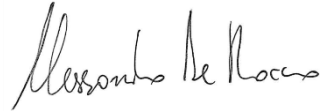
The concern for good living, transport and slaughter conditions for animals cannot be limited to the EU's borders. European farmers, citizens and decision-makers have animal welfare at heart: this concern needs to be reflected in our trade relations. **The European standards regarding**

husbandry, animal feed, allocation of space, access to the outdoors, transportation times, must apply to meat products and live animals imported to the EU.

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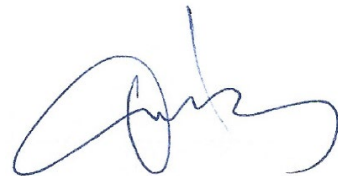
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