

European Parliament
60, rue Wiertz
B-1047 Brussels

21 November 2025

Re: Plenary vote on the EU-Mercosur trade agreement

Dear MEP,

I am writing on behalf of Chambers Ireland, Ireland's largest business network with a network of 36 affiliated Chambers of Commerce in every major town and region in the country. Our broad geographical reach means that we are uniquely positioned to understand the needs and concerns of about 10,000 Irish businesses and to represent their views.

We urge your support for the prompt ratification of the EU-Mercosur trade agreement and to request that you vote against the anticipated plenary resolution which would delay this vital process.

As you will know, a cross-party resolution is likely to come up at the November plenary (24th to 27th). The resolution will call for the European Parliament to refer the EU-Mercosur trade agreement to the Court of Justice. If the resolution passes, the Parliament must wait for the CJEU's legal opinion before voting to approve the agreement.

This would delay ratification by approximately two years and postpone the creation of one of the world's largest free-trade areas, it would be detrimental for our economy at a time of significant geopolitical and trade uncertainty. Over 25 years of negotiations have brought the agreement to its current form. Businesses simply cannot afford further delays.

The Mercosur agreement has been revised numerous times and the latest version introduces significant safeguards for agriculture into its current form. In particular these will protect the EU market against sudden import surges, sharp price drops, and potential harm to sensitive sectors like beef, poultry, dairy, sugar, and other agri-food products. We are confident in the ability of the EU to enforce these safeguards effectively if required.

Irish businesses need access to new markets to sustain revenue, drive growth, and stay competitive. Reducing overreliance on any single market is therefore crucial, and developing new trading opportunities is key to achieving that. The Mercosur agreement delivers exactly this by offering a strategic lifeline for companies at a time of shifting global trade dynamics.

We cannot afford to underestimate the importance of trade or to ignore the significant benefits of such Agreements to our economy. Since CETA's provisional application in 2017, Irish exports to Canada have surged by over 160% for goods and 164% for services, while

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Canadian investment in Ireland has grown by 131%. Today, 98% of bilateral trade is tariff-free and this has provided our farmers and businesses a vital foothold in a €10 billion market.

The Mercosur agreement is expected to increase EU trade with Mercosur countries by up to 39% and will inject over €49bn into the European economy. Specifically, Irish exporters will benefit from reduced tariffs on key sectors such as machinery and pharmaceuticals, currently set at 14–20% and up to 14%, respectively. In addition, EU agri-food exports to Mercosur are projected by the European Commission to grow by almost 50% which will open new opportunities for farmers and producers. Furthermore, the agreement will liberalise the services sector and present significant opportunities for sectors such as drinks and food which have been impacted severely by US tariffs over the past year.

As a country we have to be consistent in the policy positions we espouse and on this basis I am urging you to vote in favour of the agreement. Our strength lies in being a small, open economy committed to free trade; to remain credible and competitive, we must uphold those principles and firmly oppose protectionist measures.

We urge you to vote against the resolution that would delay ratification and instead support the Mercosur agreement as a means to secure our economic future, create jobs and reduce our exposure to geopolitical events as they arise.

Since joining the EU in 1973, Ireland has evolved into a dynamic, open economy thriving on the opportunities brought by free and fair trade. Now is not the time to turn away from the principles that have underpinned our prosperity by voting against Ireland's continued growth and future potential.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require further information.

Yours sincerely,



Ian Talbot
Chief Executive

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