

# MERCOSUR - EUROPEAN UNION

## BI-REGIONAL NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE

2-5 December 2003

Brussels - Belgium

### FINAL CONCLUSIONS

The eleventh meeting of the EU-Mercosur Bi-regional Negotiations Committee took place in Brussels from 2 to 5 December 2003. Negotiators proceeded with their on-going discussions on the political, cooperation and trade aspects of the Interregional Association Agreement between the European Union and the Mercosur.

Deputy Director General of the External Relations Directorate-General of the European Commission, M. Hervé Jouanjean, and Uruguayan Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs, M. Guillermo Valles, on behalf of the pro tempore Presidency of Mercosur, jointly opened the meeting. In their introductory words, both chairmen underlined the importance of complying with the ambitious work programme adopted jointly at the Ministerial meeting of 12 November. They also stressed the need to make progress in these negotiations with a constructive and creative spirit.

M. Karl Falkenberg, Director for Free-trade Agreements of the Trade Directorate of the European Commission and leading the negotiations on the Trade chapter from the EU side, underlined the importance of accelerating the pace of the negotiations in all trade issues, to overcome the remaining technical difficulties. He restated the objective to creating a deep bi-regional integration leading to the creation of a new market place where goods and services will be able to circulate freely.

Following the opening, the Parties met at the level of Technical Groups to work intensively on the agenda set out in the Brussels work-programme. This agenda included the following subjects:

- ? Political dialogue
- ? Co-operation for Development
- ? Trade:
  - ? Goods: tariffs including agricultural modalities, customs, technical barriers to trade, rules of origin, trade defense, wines and spirits and sanitary and phytosanitary measures;
- ? Intellectual Property Rights
- ? Dispute Settlement
- ? E-commerce
- ? Competition
- ? Enlargement

- ? Sustainable development
- ? Business Facilitation:
- ? Customs
- ? E-commerce
- ? TBT
- ? Others:
- ? Enlargement
- ? Sustainable development

The next meeting of the Bi-regional Negotiations Committee shall take place from 8 to 12 March 2003 in Buenos-Aires, in conformity with the Brussels Work Programme.

The offers will be exchanged by 15<sup>th</sup> of April.

The XIIIth BNC shall take place from 3 to 8 May 2004 in Brussels.