

**THIRTEENTH MEETING OF THE
MERCOSUR - EUROPEAN UNION
BI-REGIONAL NEGOTIATIONS COMMITTEE**

3 – 7 May 2004

Brussels - Belgium

FINAL CONCLUSIONS

The thirteenth meeting of the EU-MERCOSUR Bi-regional Negotiations Committee took place in Brussels from 3 to 7 May 2004. Negotiators proceeded with their ongoing discussions on the political, cooperation and trade aspects of the Interregional Association Agreement between the European Union and the MERCOSUR.

Delegations were welcome by the European Commission Deputy Director for External Affairs, Mr Jouanjean, on behalf of the European Union. MERCOSUR delegation was headed by the Secretary of International Trade of Argentina, Ambassador Martin Redrado, on behalf of the Pro Tempore Presidency of MERCOSUR.

Mr Jouanjean expressed its satisfaction to open this XIIIth round of EU-Mercosur negotiations and recalled that these negotiations are of utmost importance for the EU and a top political priority for 2004. He also recalled that according to the Brussels programme, this round was a key to discuss the exchange of improved offers on services, investment, government procurement and goods including agriculture. The objective was therefore to achieve good progress during this round in order to establish the right spirit and ensure critical mass prior to the Guadalajara Summit in order to launch the final phase of these important negotiations leading to an ambitious and balanced agreement by October 2004.

Secretary of Industry, Trade and Small and Medium Sized Enterprises of Argentina, Ambassador Alberto Dumont agreed that these negotiations must be ambitious and balanced. To reach this objective and to achieve good progress in this round, MERCOSUR stressed the need to know in detail the EU offer on agriculture and processed agriculture products. He also recalled that special and differential treatment must be taken into account.

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

- Political dialogue
- Co-operation
- Trade:
 - Goods: tariffs, customs, rules of origin, trade defense, wines and spirits and sanitary and phytosanitary measures;
- Intellectual Property Rights
- Dispute Settlement

- Services
- Investment
- Government Procurement
- Business Facilitation:
- Customs
- E-commerce
- TBT
- SPS
- Sustainable development

The parties agreed to work towards exchanging improved offers within the very next days.

The next Trade Negotiators meeting at Ministerial level will take place on 27th May, 2004 in the margins of the next EU-LAC Summit in Guadalajara-Mexico.

The next BNC meeting will take place from June 7 to 11th, 2004 in Buenos Aires.

The fifteenth meeting will take place from July 19 to 23rd, 2004 in Brussels.

Parties confirmed their commitment, as expressed in the Brussels workprogramme, to conclude negotiations by October 2004