

# Joint Declaration on political dialogue between the European Union and Mercosur

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## Preamble

THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE MERCOSUR PARTY STATES,

- conscious of their historical, political and economic ties, their common cultural heritage and the bonds of friendship between their peoples,
- mindful that political and economic freedoms are fundamental to society in the European Union and the Mercosur countries,
- reaffirming human dignity and the promotion of human rights as cornerstones of a democratic society, in accordance with the United Nations Charter,
- reaffirming the essential role of the principles and democratic institutions based on the rule of law, respect for which governs the internal and external policies of the Parties,
- desiring to strengthen international peace and security in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter,
- sharing an interest in regional integration as a means of enabling their citizens to achieve sustainable and harmonious development predicated upon social progress and solidarity between their members,
- building upon the preferential relations formalized by the framework Cooperation Agreements which the European Community has signed with each of the Mercosur Party States,
- recalling the principles set out in the Solemn Joint Declaration signed by the Parties on 22 December 1994,

HAVE DECIDED to develop relations on a long-term basis.

## Objectives

- Mercosur and the European Union solemnly reaffirm their commitment to progressing towards the establishment of an interregional association and to establishing greater political dialogue for that purpose,
- regional integration is one means of achieving sustainable and socially harmonious development, and a tool for ensuring competitiveness in the world economy,
- this dialogue is also intended to ensure closer consultation on issues affecting both regions and on multilateral issues, in particular by allowing the positions of the respective parties to be coordinated in the relevant multilateral organizations.

## Mechanisms of the dialogue

- The parties will conduct this political dialogue by means of contacts, information exchanges and consultation, especially meetings at the appropriate level between the various Mercosur and European Union bodies as well as by making full use of diplomatic channels,
- in particular, with the aim of establishing and developing this political dialogue on bilateral and international issues of mutual interest, the Parties agree to hold:
  - (a) regular meetings, the detailed arrangements for which will be decided on by the Parties, between the Heads of State of the countries of Mercosur and the highest authorities of the European Union;
  - (b) an annual meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Mercosur and of the Member States of the European Union, attended by the European Commission. These meetings will be held at a venue to be determined on each occasion by the Parties;
  - (c) meetings of other Ministers responsible for matters of mutual interest where such meetings are deemed necessary by the Parties in order to strengthen mutual relations;
  - (d) periodic meetings of senior officials from both Parties.