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*This document contains the consolidated text as it stands at the end of the XXXIIIrd round of negotiations (04 June – 08 June 2018) on the Trade Part of the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement. This is without prejudice to the final outcome of negotiations. Both sides reserve the right to make subsequent modifications to their proposals.*

*For the purposes of the negotiation of this chapter, the term "Parties" should be understood, on the side of Mercosur, as each of the individual Mercosur Signatory Member State and on the EU side, the Party should be understood as the EU. In case commitments are undertaken by Mercosur, Mercosur will be expressly mentioned. This is without prejudice to the horizontal discussion on the definition of the Parties. The text will be revised in light of the outcome of the discussion of the Institutional group.*

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## Dialogues

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### ARTICLE 1 OBJECTIVES

The Parties aim to strengthen their mutual confidence and agree to establish dialogues and exchange information to improve their common understanding on the following subjects:

1. Animal welfare matters.
2. Issues related to the application of agricultural biotechnology.
3. Combating antimicrobial resistance (AMR).
4. Scientific matters related to food safety, animal and plant health.
5. [MCS: Issues related to private standards.]<sup>1</sup>

### ARTICLE 2 THE SUBCOMMITTEE

1. The Parties hereby establish a Subcommittee on Dialogues in animal welfare, in agricultural biotechnology, in combating antimicrobial resistance and in food safety, plant and animal health [MCS: and private standards], hereinafter referred as the Subcommittee.

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<sup>1</sup> Negotiators note: Private Standards are subjected to negotiation by chiefs.

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2. The Subcommittee shall be comprised of representatives of the Parties with responsibility on matters covered by this Chapter.
3. The Subcommittee will appoint ad-hoc working groups to conduct the Dialogues. It will also establish the scope, mandate and agendas of these working groups.
4. The working groups will be composed of representatives of the Parties with technical expertise on the matters subjected to dialogue. They will be co-chaired by the representatives of the Parties.
5. The Subcommittee and the working groups may meet by video or audio-conference and may also address issues electronically.
6. The co-chairs of the working groups shall report to the Subcommittee on the work of the group.
7. The Subcommittee may review the task assigned to a working group.

**ARTICLE 3  
ANIMAL WELFARE**

Recognizing that animals are sentient beings, the Parties will conduct a dialogue that will cover, inter alia:

1. Specific topics on animal welfare that may affect mutual trade;
2. Exchange of information, expertise and experiences in the field of animal welfare to improve their respective approaches on regulatory standards related to breeding, holding, handling, transportation and slaughter of animals to their mutual benefits.
3. Strengthen the research collaboration.
4. Collaboration in international fora with the aim to promote the further development of international standards on animal welfare by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and best animal welfare practices and their implementation.

**ARTICLE 4  
AGRICULTURAL BIOTECHNOLOGY 2**

This dialogue will cover, inter alia:

1. To exchange information on policies, legislation, guidelines, good practices, and projects of agricultural biotechnology products.

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<sup>2</sup> EU negotiator note - The EU-Argentina dialogue of the Mutually Agreed Solution of 15 July 2009 following the WTO dispute WT/DS293, will be hereinafter included in this dialogue EU-MCS and replace by it.

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2. To discuss specific topics on biotechnology that may affect mutual trade, including cooperation on GMO testing.
3. To exchange information on topics related to asynchronous authorisations of genetically modified organisms in order to minimize possible impact on trade.
4. To exchange information on the economic and trade outlook of authorisations of genetically modified products;
5. To exchange information on cases of low level presence of GMOs non-authorised by the importing Party, but authorised by the exporting Party.

## **ARTICLE 5 COMBATING ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE**

This dialogue will cover, inter alia:

1. The collaboration to follow up existing and future guidelines, standards, recommendations and actions developed in relevant international organisations, initiatives and national plans aiming to promote the prudent and responsible use of antibiotics and relating to animal production and veterinary practices.
2. The collaboration in the implementation of the recommendations of OIE, WHO and Codex, in particular CAC-RCP61/2005.
3. The exchange of information on good farming practices.
4. The promotion of research, innovation and development.
5. The promotion of multidisciplinary approaches to combat antimicrobial resistance, including the *One Health* approach of WHO, OIE and Codex Alimentarius.

## **ARTICLE 6 SCIENTIFIC MATTERS RELATED TO FOOD SAFETY, ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH**

1. The Parties should foster the cooperation between their respective official scientific bodies responsible for food safety, animal and plant health science. This cooperation will aim to deepen the scientific information available to the Parties in order to support their respective approaches on regulatory standards that may affect mutual trade.
2. This dialogue will cover, inter alia:

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- a. Exchange of scientific and technical information on food and feed safety, animal and plant health areas, including risk assessment and the scientific information supporting the establishment of Maximum Residue Levels (MRL).
- b. The collection of data.
- c. Collaboration in the building of a common understanding regarding OIE, IPPC and Codex Alimentarius standards.

**[MCS: ARTICLE 7  
PRIVATE STANDARDS**

1. The Parties agree to establish a dialogue on issues related to Private Standards. This dialogue will cover, inter alia:

- b) Exchange of information on guidelines, practices and projects of private standards developed and applied by private entities and in use within their territories that may conflict with WTO measures in force.
- c) exchange information on products marketed under private standards in their territories that may misguide the consumer, distort market competition or generate unnecessary barriers to trade]

**ARTICLE 8  
ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS**

1. The Parties shall ensure that the work carried out by the working groups referred in article 2 will not endanger the independency of their respective national or regional agencies. The Subcommittee shall establish the rules of conflict of interest for the participants of the working groups.

2. Nothing in this Chapter shall affect the rights and obligations of each Party to protect confidential information, according to each Party's relevant legislation. Each Party shall ensure that procedures are in place to prevent the disclosure of confidential information that is acquired during the process established in this Chapter.

3. Fully respecting the Parties' right to regulate, nothing in this Chapter shall be construed as to oblige a party to:

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- a) Deviate from domestic procedures for preparing and adopting regulatory measures, or
- b) Take actions that would undermine or impede the timely adoption of regulatory measures to achieve its public policy objectives, or
- c) Adopt any particular regulatory outcome.

