

This document contains the consolidated text as it stands at the end of the XXXIInd round of negotiations (21 February – 2 March 2018) on Cooperation in agriculture in 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.

Consolidated text following Asuncion round of 19 February – 2 March 2018

Article

Cooperation in agriculture

[Note: combined articles on bilateral and multilateral cooperation]

1. The Parties aim at developing a fruitful cooperation and dialogue on agricultural issues, recognising the prominent role of sustainability in agriculture in its economic, social and environmental dimensions.
2. The areas of cooperation may include, inter alia:
 - sharing knowledge and experience in developing sustainable agricultural production methods, ~~including in organic production~~;
 - measures, initiatives or agricultural policies aimed at the improvement of agricultural productivity, [MCS: technologies], sustainable management of resources, climate change impact, nutrition, and any research activities in this field;
 - sharing information and analysis about policy developments, in particular those that affect bilateral agricultural trade, including for the purpose of preparation of an agricultural markets outlook;
 - sharing information and experience about the development and promotion of geographical indications, without prejudice to the relevant provisions in the [Chapter on Intellectual Property], other quality policies, as well as organic production, [EU: recognising their role in sustainable agriculture and rural development, and in the sector of small and medium-sized enterprises] ,
 - collaboration on research and innovation and sharing of best practices to secure food production in the face of growing world food demand and at the same time ensure sustainable management of natural resources.
[MCS (*subject to overall text on cooperation*): organisation of capacity building activities including conferences and technical seminars in subjects of interest identified by the Parties; and human resources training and exchange of officials.]
3. [EU: The Parties recognise that nothing in this Agreement will restrain the Parties from taking measures in conformity with GATT Article XX.]
4. The Parties shall work together to promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, advance agriculture negotiations in the WTO and promote any new disciplines facilitating trade.

5. [EU: The Parties also recognise that export prohibitions, export restrictions or export taxes may exacerbate volatility, increase prices and have a detrimental effect on critical supplies of agricultural goods to the Parties and to other trading partners. In this respect, the Parties acknowledge the importance of establishing relevant disciplines in appropriate international fora and will aim to enhance their cooperation in this field.]

[EU Alt: The Parties also recognise that measures such as export prohibitions or export restrictions may exacerbate volatility, increase prices and have a detrimental effect on critical supplies of agricultural goods to the Parties and to other trading partners. In this respect, the Parties acknowledge the importance of promoting relevant disciplines in appropriate international fora and will aim to enhance their cooperation in this field.]