

Joint Declaration by European Farmers

No to EU-Mercosur agreement Peasants and farmers in Europe want

a fresh start for a trade policy that enables fair prices, protects the climate and secures human rights, instead of just trying to fix the current model!

18 September 2020

On 28 June 2019, the EU Commission reached a political agreement with the Mercosur countries on the EU-Mercosur FTA. This would increase the import volumes of beef, poultry and pork, as well as sugar, agrofuels and soya from these countries into the EU. Mutual market opening is also envisaged for some dairy products, despite the fact that all these markets are already under enormous pressure. During its Council Presidency, Germany wants to make "rapid progress" in concluding the agreement.

In the Mercosur countries, soya, sugar and meat production, for example, is becoming increasingly industrialised, mainly in connection with the aggressive export-orientated model. The Amazon, which is central to climate and biodiversity worldwide, is forced to give way to this model. Human rights violations are also occurring in connection with this development.

Peasants and farmers in Europe are facing major challenges in producing climate-friendly and animal-friendly food, which means higher costs for farms. However, rising and cheap imports from the Mercosur countries are leading to increasing price pressure on European peasants and farmers. This trade policy and the unequal production, environmental and social standards relating to the agricultural industry are accelerating the demise of peasants and farmers on both sides of the Atlantic.

Peasants and farmers in Europe are jointly calling on their governments to reject this EU-Mercosur agreement in the EU Council.

Instead, Europe needs a trade policy which is based on:

farm structures and fair and cost-covering producer prices worldwide
high-quality, safe and predominantly regionally produced food
climate protection, animal welfare and biodiversity worldwide
the preservation and further development of European standards
human rights and fair working conditions worldwide

The signatory farmers' organisations

European and International Association

European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC)

European Milk Board (EMB)

Biodynamic Federation – Demeter International

Austria

Bio-Verband Erde & Saat

Grüne Bäuerinnen und Bauern

IG-Milch

Land & Forst Betriebe Österreich

Land schafft Verbindung Österreich

Landwirtschaft verbindet Österreich

ÖBV-Via Campesina Austria

Perspektive Landwirtschaft
SPO Bäuerinnen und Bauern
Unabhängiger Bauernverband (UBV)

Belgium

Entraide et Fraternité
Fédération Unie de Groupements d'Éleveurs et d'Agriculteurs (FUGEA)
Flemish Milk Board (FMB)
Milcherzeuger Interessengemeinschaft (MIG)
Mouvement d'Action Paysanne (MAP)

Croatia

Udruga OPGH Život (Association of Croatian family farms Life)
Udruga proizvođača agruma i povrća Neretvanska mladež

Denmark

Landsforeningen af Danske Mælkeproducenter (LDM)

España

COAG-Coordinadora de Organizaciones de Agricultores y Ganaderos
EHNE Bizkaia (Euskal Herria/País Vasco)
SLG Sindicato Labrego Galego (Galizia)

France

Association des Producteurs de Lait Indépendants (APLI)
Confédération Paysanne
Coordination Rurale (CR)

Germany

Arbeitsgemeinschaft bäuerliche Landwirtschaft (AbL)
Demeter
Land schafft Verbindung Deutschland e.V. i.G.
MEG Milch Board

Italy

Associazione Rurale Italiana (ARI)

Lithuania

Lietuvos pieno gamintojų asociacija (LPGA)

Luxembourg

Luxembourg Dairy Board (LDB)

Netherlands

Agractie Nederland
Dutch Dairymen Board (DDB)
Nederlandse Akkerbouw Vakbond (NAV)
Nederlandse Melkveehouders Vakbond (NMV)
Toekomstboeren

Norway

Bondesolidaritet
Norske bonde-og Smabrukarlag (NBS)

Portugal

CNA - Confederação Nacional da Agricultura

Switzerland

Uniterre