



Montevideo, 3 March 2021

You Excellency Mr.
David-Maria Sassoli
President of the European Parliament

Your Excellency President,

On behalf of the Eurocámara Uruguay and the eight bilateral Chambers of Commerce associated at the institution, which gather more than four hundred European companies operating in Uruguay employing thousands of workers, we welcome the pro-tempore Presidencies of the European Union and MERCOSUR and state our unconditional support to the process of signature and ratification of the Association Agreement between European Union and MERCOSUR.

Eurocámara Uruguay, integrated by the Chamber of Commerce of France in Montevideo; the German-Uruguayan Chamber of Commerce and Industry; the Chamber of Commerce Uruguay-Nordic Countries; the Official Chamber of Commerce of Spain in Uruguay; the Chamber of Commerce Uruguay-Italy; the Chamber of Commerce Uruguay-Portugal; the Chamber of Commerce Uruguay-Czech Republic; and the Chamber of Commerce Uruguay-Poland, is firmly dedicated to attend common European interests in Uruguay and to contribute to the enhancement of trade, industrial, economics, financial and cooperation relations between the European Union and Uruguay, and the facilitation of linkages among institutions in the European Union and Uruguay.

The European Union is of great significance for the countries member of MERCOSUR and ratifying this agreement would further develop ties and facilitate the coordination in the economic, political and cooperation fields between the two blocks. Moreover, it will not only boost the economic development of the member countries through the creation of jobs and favouring trade and investment, but it will also serve as a platform through which good practices can be exchanged, and hence, helping the post-pandemic green economic recovery of the blocks.

For MERCOSUR companies, and therefore, Uruguayan companies, the Agreement will allow exports to the European Union at lower prices and enable the integration to the innovative European value chains, resulting in the improvement of competitiveness and the production of goods and services of higher quality and with more added value. In addition, doing business



among MERCOSUR countries under the Agreement will be easier, with more transparent and predictable procedures, attracting greater European and world investment, and allowing citizens to offer their services abroad.

The European Union is the first investor in Uruguay, with 35% of the stock of total foreign direct investment, which have helped the country's development in sectors such as, services, logistics, forestry, energy efficiency, and others. In addition, Uruguay leads the example of green practices in the region thanks to private sector collaboration and European investment. For example, by 2011, 100% of the livestock was registered due to the Law on Mandatory Individual Traceability, and, in 2019, 97% of electricity in Uruguay was generated by renewable sources.

Uruguay has reassured its commitment with the protection of the environment through ratifying the Paris Agreement as one of the first countries in October 2016 and creating the Ministry of Environment in July 2020. Currently, Uruguay is working on a Long-Term Climate Strategy seeking to achieve, among other objectives, CO2 neutrality by 2050. The strategy will complement the long-lasting process to mitigate climate change that led to the adoption of the National Climate Change Policy, the positively evaluated National Adaptation Plan for Climate Change or the Metropolitan Climate Action Plan of Uruguay compared to similar actions developed by European capitals such as Lisbon or Copenhagen.

It will also promote the process of creating a National Sustainable Urban Mobility Policy, with the support of the EU-funded program, Euroclima+, and the *Moves* project a joint action of the Ministry of Industry, Energy and Mining, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Economy and Ministry of Housing, to develop efficient and low-emission mobility. In this context, four of the European Chambers of Commerce associated at Eurocámara Uruguay organised in October 2020 the I Sustainable Mobility Forum. Uruguay, in fully collaboration with its partners, has become a reference for decarbonization, energy transition, sustainable production and government-led initiatives to promote green living.

We understand that debates are needed prior to the signature and ratification of an agreement as important as this, and that the chapter of Trade and Sustainable Development is currently on the spot for lack of commitment. Yet, we suggest that debates should also take into account the geopolitical relevance of the Association Agreement and the benefits it will bring to a market of 750 million inhabitants.



In this sense, Eurocámara Uruguay is working in favour of the ratification. We consider this to be a unique opportunity that cannot be missed. With this purpose, in a joint effort with the National Chamber of Commerce and Services, and co-financed by the European Union, we are implementing the project InsPYraME UE. This project seeks to improve the environment in which SMEs operate in Uruguay, strengthening capabilities for the creation and management of companies by promoting the empowerment of women and young people, reinforcing the capacities of companies to take advantage of the opportunities linked to the agreement, and enabling them to know its content.

As part of this project and in the framework of the Association Agreement, we have recently executed the III European Investment Forum in Uruguay with focus on Services and Green Economy that took place on November 18-19, 2020 in Montevideo, Uruguay. The speakers included high-level representatives of the government of Uruguay and the European Commission, important European and Uruguayan companies, representatives of the Chambers of Commerce of Europe and Uruguay, as well as guest experts.

We thank you for all your efforts made by the governmental officials for enduring the 20 years of negotiations. We recognize that it is important to keep the positive momentum and take the steps needed in order to ratify the European Union – MERCOSUR Association Agreement.

Your Excellency Mr. President, we are sending a letter of equal content to His Excellency Mr. Luis Lacalle Pou, President of Uruguay; His Excellency Mr. António Costa, President Pro-Tempore of the Council of the European Union; His Excellency Mr. Alberto Fernández, President Pro-Tempore of the Mercosur; Her Excellency Ms. Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission; His Excellency Mr. Charles Michel, President of the European Council; His Excellency Mr. Francisco Bustillo, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay; His Excellency Mr. Josep Borrell Fontelles, High Representative and Vice President of the European Commission; His Excellency Mr. Valdis Dombrovskis, Executive Vice President of the European Commission; His Excellency Mr. Bernd Lange, Chairman of the Committee on International Trade of the European Parliament; His Excellency Mr. Manfred Weber, Chairman of the European People's Party; Her Excellency Ms. Iratxe García Pérez, President of the Progressive Alliance of Socialists and Democrats in the European Parliament; His Excellency Mr. Dacian Cioloș, President of the Renew Europe Group; His Excellency Mr. Marco Zanni, Chairman of the Identity and Democracy Group; Her Excellency Ms. Ska Keller, Co-President of the Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance; His Excellency Mr. Philippe Lamberts, Co-President of the Group of the Greens/European Free Alliance; His Excellency Mr. Ryszard Antoni Legutko, Co-chairman of the European Conservatives and Reformists



Group; His Excellency Mr. Raffaele Fitto, Co-chairman of the European Conservatives and Reformists Group; Her Excellency Ms. Manon Aubry, Co-President of the Confederal Group of the European United Left – Nordic Green Left; His Excellency Mr. Martin Schirdewan, Co-President of the Confederal Group of the European United Left – Nordic Green Left; His Excellency Mr. Lorenzo Mannelli, Head of Cabinet of the President of the European Parliament; His Excellency Mr. Álvaro Delgado, Secretary of the Presidency of Uruguay; His Excellency Mr. Karl-Otto König, Ambassador of the European Union to Uruguay.

Yours very truly,

Luis Martínez

President of the Eurocámara Uruguay and President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry France-Uruguay

Willie Tucci

Secretary of Eurocámara Uruguay and President of the German-Uruguayan Chamber of Commerce and Industry