



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**



Madrid, 17 May 2010

**IV EU-Mercosur Summit
Joint Communiqué
Madrid, 17 May 2010**

The European Union-Mercosur Summit was held in Madrid on May 17, 2010, The European Union was represented by Mr. Herman van Rompuy, President of the European Council, and Mr. Jose Manuel Durão Barroso, President of the European Commission, with the participation of the President of the Spanish Government and President in turn of the Council of the European Union, Mr. Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero. Mercosur was represented by Mrs Cristina Fernández de Kirchner, President of the Republic of Argentina and President pro tempore of Mercosur; Mr. Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, President of the Federative Republic of Brazil; Mr. Danilo Astori, Vice-President of the Oriental Republic of Uruguay; Mr. Héctor Lacognata, Minister for External Relations of the Republic of Paraguay and Mr. Francisco Arias Cárdenas, Vice-Minister for Latin America and Caribbean of the Bolivarian republic of Venezuela, in the process of acceding.

1. The Heads of State and Government discussed the situation in both regions and informed their counterparts of the latest developments in their respective integration processes and economic situations. Leaders emphasized the close cultural, economic and political values which bond the two regions together.

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The leaders underlined that, with a combined population of more than 700 million people, high combined GDP and bioregional trade close to €100 billion annually, cooperation between the two blocks generates reciprocal advantages and positive spillovers at global level.

2. At the occasion of the relaunch of the negotiations for an EU Mercosur Association Agreement, the Heads of State and Government recalled their importance in view of reaching an ambitious and balanced agreement between the two regions, which would deepen relations and offer great political and economic benefits to both sides. The leaders are aware that substantial efforts will have to be made, and underlined their full commitment to engage in these negotiations. Both sides stressed their commitment to strive for a conclusion of the negotiations without delay. A first negotiating round will take place by early July at the latest.
3. The EU and Mercosur leaders expressed their commitment to rapidly reach an ambitious, comprehensive and balanced conclusion of the Doha Development Round, and keeping in mind the crucial role of international trade as an engine of economic growth and development, reaffirmed their commitment to avoid protectionism in all its forms.
4. The Heads of States and Government stressed the importance of the political dialogue between the two regions. They agreed on the importance of intensifying consultations in international fora.
5. In line with the conclusions of the EU-LAC Ministerial Conference on Science, Technology and Innovation 2010 in Madrid, and in view of the already strong ties between the two regions in research and technological development, the parties agreed to explore concrete ways to deepen and intensify cooperation in innovation and technology for the mutual benefit.
6. Both sides highlighted the progress achieved within Mercosur-EU cooperation and the mid-term review of the Regional Indicative Programme.

