

**Question for written answer E-002287/2022
to the Commission**

Rule 138

Benoît Lutgen (PPE)

Subject: State of play on the EU-Mercosur free trade agreement

An agreement in principle was reached on 28 June 2019 on the free trade agreement between Mercosur and the European Union. However questions raised by civil society concerning the environmental effects of this agreement, and Brazil's failure to give assurances regarding protection of the Amazonian rainforest meant that a joint declaration still needed to be negotiated with the Mercosur partners.

The European Union's ambassador in Argentina said he expected progress to be made in the negotiations in the months to come.

Given the objections expressed by civil society and parliamentarians, can the Commission say what progress has been made in negotiations on this declaration, and also explain what legal value this declaration will have in relation to the free trade agreement?