

**Priority question for written answer P-000442/2021
to the Commission**

Rule 138

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Subject: Mercosur: the need to reopen negotiations owing to environmental concerns

Important concerns about the EU-Mercosur deal are being raised by environmental organisations, indigenous peoples and experts, as well as heads of state and parliaments. There is a wide consensus on the need to fully integrate environmental and social objectives into the core of the agreement and Parliament has stated that the deal cannot be ratified in its current form.

Experts have determined that beef exports resulting from the EU-Mercosur trade deal will increase deforestation in the Mercosur region by a total of 25 %¹ within six years following its ratification. Legal experts have also concluded that 'as it stands, the TSD chapter lacks clear and effective policies regarding environmental protection and sustainability assurances', which shows the need to reopen the negotiations.

Recently, Commission officials stated that they were in talks with Mercosur countries, in particular with the Government of Brazil, to negotiate additional commitments on deforestation and climate. We therefore have the following questions:

1. How will the Commission ensure that these 'additional commitments' include enforceable and sanctionable obligations for sustainability?
2. What form and legal status will these commitments have? What will their legal link to the main text be?

1

https://www.gouvernement.fr/sites/default/files/document/document/2020/09/rapport_de_la_commission_devaluation_du_projet_daccord_ue_mercosur.pdf (page 134).