

TRADE · AGREEMENTS

The EU-Mercosur Agreement

Since May 1, 2026, the EU has been provisionally applying the trade part of the agreement with Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. Tariffs are coming down and public tenders are opening up. The EU's product and supply chain rules, however, still apply in full.

SIGNED	PROVISIONALLY APPLIED SINCE	MERCOSUR PARTIES	PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT
Jan 17, 2026 in Asunción	May 1, 2026	AR, BR, PY, UY	Ratification pending

In brief

The agreement between the EU and Mercosur was negotiated for more than 25 years. Negotiations were politically concluded on December 6, 2024 in Montevideo. The agreement consists of two legal instruments:

- The EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement (EMPA) covers political dialogue, cooperation and trade. It is a mixed agreement and has to be ratified by all 27 member states.
- The Interim Trade Agreement (iTA) contains only the trade part, which falls under the EU's exclusive competence: tariffs, rules of origin, customs procedures, services and public procurement. It expires as soon as the EMPA enters into force.

For companies, the Interim Trade Agreement is what counts right now. The Council of the EU authorized its signature and provisional application on January 9, 2026. It was signed on January 17, 2026 in Asunción. Since May 1, 2026, it has been provisionally applied between the EU and Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay.

Provisional application means the rules already apply even though ratification on the EU side is not yet complete. Customs authorities apply the preferential rates, and companies can rely on them. The political debate in some member states continues, but for now it does not change how the agreement is applied.

What applies since May 1, 2026

According to the European Commission, provisional application brings, among other things:

- the immediate removal or a sharp reduction of tariffs on key industrial goods, for example cars and pharmaceuticals;

- a first tariff cut for most agricultural and food products;
- access to the first volumes of the tariff-rate quotas for sensitive agricultural products;
- access to public tenders on both sides;
- protection for 344 EU geographical indications;
- safeguard mechanisms and tighter controls for sensitive agricultural sectors.

Many tariff cuts are phased in over several years. The rate for your product is set out in the agreement's tariff schedules. If you export soy from Paraná, beef from Uruguay, wine from Mendoza or honey from Paraguay, it pays to check both the schedule and the quotas.

Service providers will also see changes. The agreement contains rules on licensing procedures, non-discriminatory treatment and the temporary stay of skilled professionals. An engineering firm from Porto Alegre running a project in Portugal, or a software company from Montevideo with teams on site at a customer, can benefit. Access to public procurement works both ways: EU companies can bid for contracts in Mercosur and Mercosur companies for contracts in the EU, in each case within the lists agreed in the agreement.

Preferential tariffs only apply to goods originating in one of the parties. The exporter certifies origin with a statement on origin; on the EU side this runs through the REX registration system. Check the rules of origin for your product before you calculate with the preferential rate. For processed goods that use inputs from third countries, qualifying is not a given.

Timeline and open questions

DATE	STEP
Dec 6, 2024	Political conclusion in Montevideo
Jan 9, 2026	Council authorizes signature and provisional application
Jan 17, 2026	Signature in Asunción
Jan 21, 2026	European Parliament requests an opinion from the Court of Justice of the EU, by 334 votes to 324
May 1, 2026	Provisional application of the Interim Trade Agreement with AR, BR, PY, UY

The Court of Justice's opinion under Article 218(11) TFEU is still pending. Until it is delivered, the European Parliament cannot give its consent to the agreement. Provisional application continues regardless. The Partnership Agreement also needs ratification by every member state; there is no way to tell yet when it will enter into force.

[Bolivia](#) has been a full member of Mercosur since 2024 (instrument of ratification deposited in July 2024), with a transition period for adopting Mercosur law. It is not a party to the agreement with the EU.

Chile, Colombia, Peru and Ecuador

The associated states have their own agreements with the EU, which have been in place for some time.

COUNTRY	AGREEMENT	IN FORCE SINCE
Chile	Interim Trade Agreement (ITA), signed on Dec 13, 2023 together with the Advanced Framework Agreement	Feb 1, 2025
Peru	EU-Colombia/Peru Trade Agreement	Mar 1, 2013
Colombia	EU-Colombia/Peru Trade Agreement	Aug 1, 2013
Ecuador	Accession to the Trade Agreement by protocol	Jan 1, 2017

The agreement with Chile replaces the trade part of the 2002 Association Agreement and includes chapters on energy and raw materials and on sustainable food systems, among others. The agreement with Colombia, Peru and Ecuador contains a title on trade and sustainable development that refers to the ILO core labor standards and to international environmental agreements.

For exporters from these countries, the same applies as for Mercosur: the agreements cover tariffs and origin. A copper producer in Antofagasta, a banana exporter in Guayaquil or a coffee house in Huila still has to meet the EU's rules on products, data and supply chains in full.

What the agreement does not change

A trade agreement lowers tariffs and simplifies procedures. It does not exempt anyone from the EU's product, data protection and supply chain rules. All [EU rules](#) apply to goods and services from Mercosur exactly as they do to those from any other country:

- From December 30, 2026, soy, beef, coffee and wood need the evidence required by the [EUDR](#).
- Since January 1, 2026, steel, aluminum and fertilizers have been subject to the [Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism](#).
- From December 11, 2027, connected products must conform to the [Cyber Resilience Act](#).
- From December 14, 2027, products made with forced labor are banned under the [Forced Labour Regulation](#).

- Food must meet EU standards; the sanitary and phytosanitary chapters speed up procedures but do not lower any requirements.

In the trade and sustainable development chapter, the parties commit to the ILO core labor standards and the Paris Agreement. The chapter on technical barriers to trade follows international standards and makes conformity assessment easier, but it does not replace CE marking.

First steps for exporters

1. Check the preferential tariff rate and the phase-in schedule for each product.
2. Find out whether your product meets the rules of origin, and set up your statement on origin.
3. For agricultural products, check whether quotas apply and how they are allocated.
4. Work out which EU rules apply to your product. The tariff advantage is worth nothing if the buyer cannot purchase because evidence is missing. Ask your most important buyers directly which documents they will expect from 2027.
5. Prepare the certificates that EU customers in your industry expect, such as [ISO 9001](#), [food safety](#) or [ISO/IEC 27001](#).

Buyers rarely ask for one document only. Certificates, supplier self-assessments and evidence for individual EU rules tend to arrive at the same time. A GRC platform such as [Sightadel](#) keeps the tasks, evidence and supplier assessments for this in one place.

The free [EU Readiness Check](#) shows how well prepared you are for EU customers. You will find country-specific details on the pages for [Argentina](#), [Brazil](#), [Paraguay](#) and [Uruguay](#).

FAQ

Is the EU-Mercosur Agreement already in force?

The trade part has been provisionally applied between the EU and Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay since May 1, 2026. The Partnership Agreement (EMPA) has not yet entered into force.

Does the agreement apply to Bolivia?

No. Bolivia is a member of Mercosur but not a party to the agreement with the EU.

Does the agreement exempt me from the EUDR or CBAM?

No. All EU rules continue to apply unchanged. More under [EUDR](#) and [CBAM](#).

What does the Court of Justice opinion mean?

On January 21, 2026, the European Parliament asked the Court of Justice whether the agreement is compatible with the EU Treaties. Until the opinion is delivered, Parliament cannot give its consent. Provisional application continues.

Which tool helps me organize the evidence EU buyers ask for?

The agreement does not reduce the evidence buyers expect. [Sightadel](#) is a GRC platform developed and hosted in Germany in which you manage tasks, evidence and supplier assessments, for example while preparing for ISO 9001 or ISO/IEC 27001. The certificate itself is issued by an accredited certification body.

Sources · Last updated: October 11, 2026

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European Commission: Trade relations with Chile: https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/chile_en

EU-Colombia/Peru Trade Agreement, EUR-Lex: [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:22012A1221\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:22012A1221(01))

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<https://www.mercoeu.com/en/eu-readiness-check>