

Observación:

Ante la conclusión de las negociaciones sobre el Acuerdo de Asociación entre Mercosur y la Unión Europea, el 6 de diciembre de 2024, el Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores del Uruguay decidió publicar los textos negociados en 2023 y 2024, con el fin de garantizar la transparencia en la gestión pública.

Cabe señalar que estos textos se publican únicamente con fines informativos y podrán sufrir modificaciones adicionales como resultado del proceso de revisión legal al que estarán sujetos, sin perjuicio de los compromisos asumidos.

Los textos definitivos se publicarán tras la firma del Acuerdo.

El Acuerdo será vinculante para las Partes, de conformidad con el derecho internacional, sólo después de la finalización de los procedimientos legales internos necesarios para su entrada en vigor.

## COOPERATION

### General principles

The Parties recall their agreement to establish the EU-MERCOSUR free-trade area, with the objectives set out in Art. xx of the [XX Agreement], which will contribute to increasing the overall income and prosperity in both regions and to reducing inequalities, in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The Parties are committed to a cooperation partnership that will contribute to peace and prosperity, based on respect, trust, and shared values and interests, jointly addressing challenges and seizing opportunities arising from the Agreement. Accordingly, the cooperation partnerships addressed in the present Protocol are inspired by a vision whereby both Parties jointly define the priorities, design and objectives pursued.

The Parties recognise the need to facilitate the adaptation of MERCOSUR economic actors, particularly Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), women, smallholding farmers, indigenous peoples and local and traditional communities, to the new economic and trade environment generated by the establishment of the free-trade area, enabling them to gain competitiveness in the MERCOSUR and the EU markets and reap the benefits of the [XX Agreement].

Therefore, in complement to the cooperation provisions enshrined in Art XX of the [XX Agreement], the Parties reiterate their commitment to engage in cooperation partnerships with the chief purpose of facilitating the implementation of the [XX Agreement], with a particular emphasis on its trade pillar, by contributing to their ability to fully take advantage of the possibilities brought about by the agreement and addressing potential adverse impacts on vulnerable economic sectors and industries, underlining the need to take into account the specific challenges of landlocked developing countries.

The cooperation envisaged under the present instrument may comprise activities jointly involving all the MERCOSUR countries or one or a few individual MERCOSUR countries over specific sectors and segments, including their small and medium-sized enterprises. The Parties will make full use of the possibilities offered *inter alia* by the EU-LAC Global Gateway Investment Agenda.

The Parties agree that all MERCOSUR Parties can benefit from all types of resources provided under this protocol taking into account, among others, the specific challenges of landlocked developing countries to ensure market and equal opportunities to access and benefits under the [XX Agreement].

## **Financial mechanisms**

EU financial support may take the form of grants, loans, guarantees and technical cooperation and could be integrated with MERCOSUR Parties' resources as well as other financial resources from national, regional and international financial institutions in order to further pursue the objectives of the [XX Agreement]. The EU will also seek to establish a specific MERCOSUR programme as a main channel to streamline cooperation under the [XX Agreement] and can also make use of existing programmes and instruments to channel assistance to MERCOSUR Parties, using both bilateral and regional programmes, loans and budgetary guarantees to development finance institutions. In a Team Europe approach, EU support may include contributions from Member States and not only from the EU budget. Given the new economic and trade conditions that could emanate from the [XX Agreement], EU financial support will include new resources not available at present under other programmes, to be preferentially channelled through a specific MERCOSUR programme as outlined above.

## **Monitoring and implementation**

The Parties recall that a Subcommittee for Development and International Cooperation is established in article XX of the [XX Agreement] "to promote, coordinate the presentation and supervise the implementation of cooperation activities foreseen by part xx of the [XX Agreement], as well as the follow up, monitoring and evaluation of the cooperation initiatives".

In addition to the tasks enumerated in that article, the Subcommittee on Development and International Cooperation shall steer the direction, define the priorities and shape the design of the partnership programmes of the joint work on cooperation established in the present Protocol and monitor regularly the availability of funds for the activities referred herein. It may also submit recommendations to the [XX Committee].

For the purposes of planning the effective implementation of cooperation under the [XX Agreement], the Parties agree to start discussing, in the above-mentioned Subcommittee, ongoing and planned cooperation actions, within one year of the entry into force or start of provisional application of the [XX Agreement]. Also within this period, the Parties, acting in the framework of the Subcommittee, will come to an agreement on the process for approval of projects that will fall under the scope of the present Protocol.