



URUGUAYAN COUNCIL FOR FOREIGN RELATIONS

DECLARATION ON THE MERCOSUR-EUROPEAN UNION AGREEMENT

1. CURI strongly endorses the conclusion of this Agreement, highly beneficial for both Parties, on which negotiations began in Madrid on 15th December 1995 in the presence of Heads of State and Government of the EU and MERCOSUR member countries under the *pro tempore* Presidency of Spain and Uruguay.
2. If concluded, it will constitute the largest bi-regional Agreement ever reached as it will integrate a market representing 800 million people and almost 25% of world GDP, eliminating 90% of bilateral trade tariffs on goods and services.
3. This broad spectrum Agreement would constitute a positive step towards better balanced world governance.
4. The EU and MERCOSUR both place a fundamental value on the promotion of world peace, as underwritten by Democratic political systems, respect for the rule of Law in international relations and the protection of human rights.
5. In this historic moment which has witnessed the rebirth of aggravated nationalism resulting in economic protectionism and isolation, it is particularly worthwhile for both regional integration blocks to pronounce themselves in favour of multilateralism and the organizations that promote it.
6. Signing the Agreement entails for both partners increased commercial and investment opportunities, expanded chains of production, higher levels of employment and economic growth.
7. In view of their overriding importance, Environmental and Climate Change issues, along with conflicts that may arise in respect of them, must be dealt with in the appropriate fora and in accordance with what has been established in the Agreement, to which both Parties commit themselves.
8. The Agreement between the EU and MERCOSUR concluded in June 2019 is of great geopolitical importance at this present time for the message it sends to an international community overburdened with tension and conflict. It proves that constructive dialogue leading to so significant an international Agreement constitutes the best manner of overcoming the conflict paradigm.

CURI Members of the Board

Juan Pablo Corlazzoli – President

Gonzalo Pérez del Castillo – Vicepresident

Alejandro Pastori, Juan José Arteaga, Ricardo Zerbino, Luis Mosca, Gabriela Vidal, Washington Durán, Héctor Lescano, Agustín Espinosa, Miguel Vaczy.

This Declaration reflects the values and principles that the successive governments of Uruguay, from all political Parties, have promoted since the beginning of these negotiations. This has been confirmed by each of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs that CURI consulted to this effect. Their names are provided below together with the period in which they were in Charge of the Foreign Office.

1985-1988 ENRIQUE IGLESIAS

1993-1995 SERGIO ABREU

1995-1998 ALVARO RAMOS

1998-2005 DIDIER OPERTTI

2008-2009 GONZALO FERNANDEZ

2010-2015 LUIS ALMAGRO

2015-2020 RODOLFO NIN NOVOA

2020 ERNESTO TALVI

Montevideo, December 16th, 2020