

RESOLUTION

ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF CLIMATE ALLIANCE
ON 8 OCTOBER 2020



Climate Alliance

EU-MERCOSUR: In Opposition to an Antiquated Free Trade Agreement

Climate Alliance resolution on the protection of the Amazon rainforest and its indigenous peoples

Submitted by the municipality of Ober-Grafendorf, Austria

Given that the EU-MERCOSUR free trade agreement will fuel further deforestation, in particular in the Amazon region, and that its ratification would endorse the Brazilian government's continuous undermining of environmental policy, human rights, and land rights of indigenous peoples as well as its efforts to destroy both indigenous livelihoods and our chances to keep global warming under +1.5°C, Climate Alliance members are calling on the European Council and Members of the European Parliament:

- to **oppose the EU-MERCOSUR free trade agreement** in its current form, and any similar free trade agreement putting the climate at risk.
- to instead support indigenous peoples and other at-risk peoples of Amazonia in **protecting the ecosystem services that the Amazon rainforest provides to the global population** by upholding their rights including the right to free, prior and informed consent (for example through the ratification of ILO Convention 169) rather than threatening their existence through incentives for land-grabbing and illegal logging like tariff reductions for the meat, soy and sugar industry.
- to herald a new generation of **EU trade agreements aligned with social rights and environmental standards** generally and climate protection in particular, thus reorienting EU trade so that it fosters the goals of social, environmental and climate policy such as the Paris Agreement, the Biodiversity Convention and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- to ensure EU trade policy includes mechanisms to **enforce compliance with agreed-upon sustainability standards** by allowing trade incentives to be frozen should these standards be breached and by supporting enforceable supply chain due diligence legislation including sanction mechanisms both at the EU and member state level.
- to **ensure that EU trade agreements are negotiated in a democratic and transparent way** by properly involving the European Parliament, Member States parliaments, local authorities and civil society throughout all phases of the negotiation, by requiring a similarly transparent and democratic process from negotiating parties and by setting up bilateral Sustainability Impact Assessments.
- to support shifts in European agriculture towards more plant-based proteins and to **strengthen local agro-ecological systems** that protect climate

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and biodiversity – both in EU and MERCOSUR countries – in order to enable complementary agricultural trade based on food sovereignty and sustainability; this means ending the support for industrialised agriculture based on deforestation, monocultures and genetically modified seeds as well as an over-reliance on pesticides and chemical fertilisers.

- to **remunicipalise privatised local public services** and to **relocalise the production of essential goods** for a resilient and sustainable provision of basic goods within the EU by allowing preferences for local suppliers in public procurement policies and by allowing all parties to exclude strategic sectors as beneficiaries of trade incentives.
- to **transparently track CO2 imports and exports** so as to better inform policy makers and the general public in trade decisions and climate mitigation measures and close loopholes that would, for instance, allow the export of European fuel-based vehicles after a possible inter-European ban.

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THE CLIMATE ALLIANCE

For 30 years, Climate Alliance member municipalities have been acting in partnership with indigenous rainforest peoples for the benefit of the global climate. With over 1,800 members spread across 26 European countries, Climate Alliance is the world's largest city network dedicated to climate action and the only one to set tangible targets: each member city, town and district has committed itself to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by ten percent every five years. Recognising the impact our lifestyles can have on the world's most vulnerable people and places, Climate Alliance pairs local action with global responsibility. climatealliance.org