

# PRECONDITIONING THE RATIFICATION OF THE EU-MERCOSUR TRADE AGREEMENT – WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE?



Climate Alliance

## Webinar on 17 September 2020, 6.00 p.m.

Register [here](#)

### BACKGROUND

Building on our [last webinar](#), this event continues the **open dialogue** between civil society and policy makers about the **EU ratification of the MERCOSUR free trade agreement**. While the recently published Sustainability Impact Assessment of this agreement emphasizes that deforestation in the Amazon can be halted only *“provided that sound policies are in place”*, opposing trends continue to unfold under the current Brazilian government.

For that very reason, refusal to ratify the agreement is growing in the EU with Austria, France and Ireland strongly opposing it. Bringing the voices of both our indigenous partners and the financial sector, we are asking: what needs to change to turn things around in the Amazon and for the Mercosur agreement to reduce deforestation rates?

### AGENDA

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| <b>6.00 p.m.</b> | <b>Welcome and Introduction</b><br>Hosts presenting the state of deforestation and fires in the Amazon and introducing the links between the EU-Mercosur agreement and Amazon crisis |
| <b>6.10</b>      | <b>Update from Brazil</b><br>APIB and Observatório do Clima explaining in short their <b>5 Emergency Measures</b> and Action Points  |
| <b>6.30</b>      | <b>The Financial Sector perspective</b><br>Graham Stock presenting their <b>five demands</b> and why they matter   |
| <b>6.45</b>      | <b>Recap</b><br>Hosts presenting the two sets of demands and ask politicians to react.   |
| <b>6.50</b>      | <b>EU Politicians</b><br>Politicians respond to the challenges and react to the pre-conditions and demands outlined before.  |
| <b>7.25</b>      | <b>Next steps in the process</b>   |
| <b>7.30</b>      | <b>Closing</b>   |

# PRECONDITIONING THE RATIFICATION OF THE EU-MERCOSUR TRADE AGREEMENT – WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE?

## OBJECTIVE

The event sheds light on the strategies and motivations of different actors, such as indigenous peoples, the financial sector, and EU member states. It will clarify the current state of affairs of the ratification process, and build on the criticism expressed by various stakeholders – now even inside the German government, originally unified behind the goal of using their presidency of the European Council to finalise the ratification of the agreement by the end of 2020.

The panellists will outline stringent pre-ratification conditions aiming at ensuring that the agreement doesn't contribute to further deforestation in Mercosur countries and on the contrary is based on a solid framework allowing accountability mechanisms and measurement indicators to make sure that European trade and consumption doesn't contribute to rainforest destruction.

## PANELLISTS

- **Kretã Kaingang**, APIB (Brazil's Indigenous People Articulation), coordinator of ARPINSUL (South Indigenous People Articulation)
- **Dinamam Tuxá**, APIB, and representing APOINME
- **Graham Stock**, BlueBay Asset Management, co-chairing a public policy dialogue with the Brazilian government
- **Rainer Handfinger**, Mayor of Ober-Grafendorf (Austria)
- **Irmi Salzer**, deputy head of the cabinet of the Austrian Ministry for Environment
- **Saskia Bricmont**, Member of the European Parliament (Greens)

## HOSTS

- Thomas Brose, Executive Director of **Climate Alliance**
- Truls Gulowsen, **Rainforest Foundation Norway**

## CONTACT

**Madlie Le Bihan**

+49 69 717139-34 | [m.lebihan@climatealliance.org](mailto:m.lebihan@climatealliance.org)

## 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 27 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 10 percent every 5 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](https://climatealliance.org)