

209 Civil Society Organisations Say: EU trade deals must not undermine democratic rights

In order to bypass criticism by some EU governments and parliaments, the European Commission wants to change the voting process for upcoming trade agreements with Mexico, Chile and the Mercosur countries (Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay) and make it easier and faster for deals to be pushed through by the EU. We, civil society organisations, oppose this move as it would undermine democratic rights!

This so-called “splitting” attempt by the European Commission would mean that the trade pillars of association agreements with third countries would be adopted without requiring the consent of *all* EU Member States within the Council of the EU, and without requiring any kind of national ratification. This would be an assault to democracy and a severe shift away from trade decision-making rules and current practices whereby association agreements are approved unanimously by EU governments, as well as by a majority in the European Parliament and by all parliaments at the national level.

The European Commission’s move is a cynical technical way to ensure that the trade deals it negotiates enter quickly into force despite their controversy regarding deforestation, climate change, human rights violations and animal welfare. The manoeuvre would sideline opposition by some EU governments and national and/or regional parliaments.

For the EU-Mercosur agreement for example, this splitting would bypass the opposition of the parliaments in Austria, the Netherlands, Wallonia and Brussels as their approval would no longer be required. Same goes for the current government positions like the French stating that they cannot ratify the EU-Mercosur agreement in its current form because of its negative sustainability impacts – they would no longer have a veto power in the Council of the EU. It would also be against the negotiating directives given to the European Commission by the Council in 1999 and the [Council Conclusions of 2018](#). The whole process of scrutiny of the EU-Mercosur deal was based on the common understanding that Member States would have a veto either in the Council or through the ratification at national level. The Commission cannot shortcut this process. This would create procedural pitfalls and violate the European Treaties.

We civil society organizations vehemently oppose this splitting of trade deals. Splitting the above mentioned agreements is proposed to circumvent existing concerns about the negative implications of these deals on biodiversity, climate change and human rights issues. It prioritizes economic interests above sustainability. An approval by all EU governments and national parliaments is a crucially important act of democracy that provides protection for national farmers, workers, consumers and all citizens.

We call on EU trade ministers, EU governments and national parliamentarians to stand up for the democratic scrutiny of trade agreements and to oppose the European Commission's outrageous attempts to circumvent opposition.

Signatories,

Asamblea Argentina mejor sin TLC	Argentina
ATTAC Argentina	Argentina
Diálogo 2000	Argentina
Red de Género y Comercio	Argentina
Tierra Nativa / Argentina	Argentina
Anders Handeln	Austria
Attac Austria	Austria
DKA Austria – Dreikönigsaktion	Austria
GLOBAL 2000 – Friends of the Earth Austria	Austria
ÖBV-Via Campesina Austria	Austria
Österreichischer Gewerkschaftsbund (Austrian Trade Union)	Austria
Parents For Future Austria	Austria
Parents for Future Waldviertel	Austria
transform!at	Austria
Welthaus Graz	Austria
ZAMMM	Austria
11.11.11 – Coalition for International Solidarity	Belgium
ATTAC Wallonie Bruxelles	Belgium
Centre national de coopération au développement (CNCD-11.11.11)	Belgium
Centre tricontinental – CETRI	Belgium
ENTRAIDE ET FRATERNITE	Belgium
Eurogroup for Animals	Belgium
Fern	Belgium
Forum Gauche Ecologie	Belgium
FUGEA	Belgium
MOC – Mouvement ouvrier Chretien	Belgium
Amigos de la Tierra	Brazil
Comissão Pastoral da Terra	Brazil
FASE – Solidariedade e Educação	Brazil
Instituto PACS	Brazil
Rede Jubileu Sul Brasil	Brazil

Brazilian Front Against the Eu-Mercosur and EFTA-Mercosur Agreements	Brazil
Brazilian Network for People's Integration (Rebrip)	Brazil
MST	Brazil
The Institute of Socioeconomic Studies (Inesc)	Brazil
CODEFF	Chile
Fundación Vegetarianos Hoy	Chile
Werken Rojo	Chile
Réseau des Organisations de la Société Civile pour le Développement du Tonkpi (ROSCODET)	Côte d'Ivoire
Amigu di Tera (Friends of the Earth Curaçao)	Curaçao
Hnutí DUHA – Friends of the Earth Czech Republic	Czech Republic
Re-set: platform for social-ecological transformation	Czech Republic
Global Aktion	Denmark
KULU – Women and Development (national NGO network)	Denmark
Estonian Green Movement	Estonia
European Attac Network	European
European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC)	European
foodwatch International	European
Friends of the Earth Europe	European
WeMove Europe	European
WeMove Europe.	European
Attac Finland	Finland
Friends of the Earth Finland	Finland
Aitec	France
Alofa Tuvalu	France
Amis de la Terre France / Friends of the Earth France	France
Attac France	France
CADTM France	France
Collectif Stop CETA-Mercosur	France
Comité Pauvreté et Politique	France
Committee in Solidarity with Indigenous Peoples of the Americas (CSIA- Nipitawak)	France
Confédération paysanne	France
Fédération syndicale SUD-Energie	France
Fondation Copernic	France
Fondation pour la Nature et l'Homme	France
France Amérique Latine – FAL	France
France Nature Environnement	France

Générations Futures	France
Les Ami.e.s de la Confédération paysanne	France
Les Amis du Monde diplomatique	France
Peuples Solidaires Paris 15	France
Veblen Institute for Economic Reforms	France
ZEA	France
AbL Bayern	Germany
Aktionsgemeinschaft Solidarische Welt (ASW)	Germany
Arbeitsgemeinschaft bäuerliche Landwirtschaft (AbL) e.V.	Germany
Armut und Umwelt in Amazonien	Germany
ASW Aktionsgemeinschaft Solidarische Welt e.V.	Germany
Attac	Germany
Berliner Wassertisch	Germany
Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz BUND e.V.	Germany
BUND/FoE Germany, Scientific Committee	Germany
Bündnis für gerechten Welthandel	Germany
Bündnis für gerechten Welthandel München	Germany
Christ*innen für den Sozialismus	Germany
Citizen´s Initiatiive “aufRECHT:FREIdenken Mittelbaden”	Germany
Coordination gegen BAYER-Gefahren	Germany
Dachverband der Kritischen Aktionär:innen	Germany
Deutscher Tierschutzbund	Germany
dgb	germany
FDCL-Center for Research and Documentation Chile-Latin America	Germany
FDN	Germany
FIAN Germany	Germany
GAL Staufenberg	Germany
Gesellschaft für soziale Transformation	Germany
Heidelberger Bündnis für einen gerechten Welthandel	Germany
Humanistische Union	Germany
Informationsstelle Peru e.V.	Germany
KoBra-Kooperation Brasilien e.V.	Germany
Kölner Bündnis für gerechten Welthandel	Germany
Konstanzer Byrnes für gerechten Welthandel	Germany
LAG Christ*innen DIE LINKE Bayern	Germany
LBV	Germany

Leuphana	Germany
Mehr Demokratie e.V.	Germany
Misereor	Germany
Muenchner Friedensbuendnis	Germany
NaturFreunde Deutschlands	Germany
Netzwerk gerechter Welthandel	Germany
ÖDP	Germany
PowerShift e.V.	Germany
Slow Food Deutschland	Germany
Umweltinstitu München e.V.	Germany
Verdi	Germany
Weltläden Gießen	Germany
Wuppertaler Aktionsbündnis Gerechter Welthandel	Germany
ATTAC Hungary Association	Hungary
Clean Air Action Group	Hungary
Hungarian Climate Alliance	Hungary
Magyar Természetvédők Szövetsége / Friends of the Earth Hungary	Hungary
Reflex Environmental Association	Hungary
Védegylet Egyesület	Hungary
Friends of the Earth International	International
GRAIN	International
Greenpeace	International
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy	International
Parents For Future Global	International
SumOfUs	International
SumOfUs	International
Global Legal Action Network	Ireland
Green Party	Ireland
No TTIP/CETA Clare	Ireland
Wicklow Greens	Ireland
Ambiente&Salute	Italy
Attac Italy	Italy
Campagna Stop EU-Mercosur Italia	Italy
Comunità La Piazzetta di Pulicciano	Italy
Coordinamento nord sud del mondo	Italy
Fairwatch	Italy

Greenpeace	Italy
MAIS ngo	Italy
Amigos de la Tierra América Latina y el Caribe (ATALC)	Latin American
Plataforma América Latina mejor sin TLC	Latin American
Klima-Bündnis Lëtzebuerg	Luxembourg
Luxembourg, FoE Luxembourg	Luxembourg
DECA, EQUIPO PUEBLO	Mexico
Project on Organizing, Development, Education, and Research (PODER)	Mexico
Amigos de la Tierra México	México
Centro de Promoción y Educación Profesionall “Vasco de Quiroga”	México
DECA, EQUIPO PUEBLO	México
Project on Organizing, Development, Education, and Research (PODER)	Mexico / Latin American
Biodynamische Vereniging	Netherlands
Both ENDS	Netherlands
Dierenbescherming	Netherlands
Dutch Footprint Network	Netherlands
FNV	Netherlands
Handel Anders!	Netherlands
Landbouwcoalitie voor Rechtvaardige Handel	Netherlands
Platform Aarde Boer Consument	Netherlands
Transnational Institute	Netherlands
VOF van Egmond en ZN.	Netherlands
WILPF NL	Netherlands
Working group Food Justice	Netherlands
World Animal Protection NL	Netherlands
Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria	Nigeria
Centro de Estudios HEÑÓI	Paraguay
Iniciativa Amotocodie	Paraguay
SOBREVIVENCIA Amigos de la Tierra	PARAGUAY
APT	Portugal
Associação Guardiões da Serra da Estrela	Portugal
Associação Resistir.info	Portugal
BIOPORTO	Portugal
Campo Aberto – associação de defesa do ambiente	Portugal
Climáximo	Portugal
CNA – Confederação Nacional da Agricultura	Portugal

Eco-Cartaxo	Portugal
Ecomood Portugal	Portugal
FERNANDA SILVA	Portugal
GAIA – Grupo de Accao e Intervencao Ambiental	Portugal
MARP	Portugal
Movimento Cívico Ar Puro	Portugal
Palombar – Associação de Conservação da Natureza e do Património Rural	Portugal
Plataforma Transgenicos Fora	Portugal
ProTejo	Portugal
TROCA – Plataforma por um Comércio Internacional Justo	Portugal
Znepokojené matky	Slovakia
Focus Association for Sustainable Development	Slovenia
Amigos de la Tierra	Spain
Argentinos en España y ATTAC	Spain
Asociación Entrepueblos/Entrepobles/Heriarte/Entrepobos	Spain
ATTAC Spain	Spain
COAG- Coordinadora de Organizaciones de Agricultores y Ganaderos	Spain
Confederación Intersindical	Spain
ECDD	Spain
Ecologistas en Acción	Spain
ELA	Spain
Parque central sin especulación	Spain
Permacultura ATTA	Spain
UGT	Spain
Movimiento por la Salud de los Pueblos	Sub región Sur
Amazon Watch Sverige	Sweden
Jordens Vänner	Sweden
NOrdBruk	Sweden
Environmental Justice Foundation	United Kingdom
FRESH EYES	United Kingdom
Global Justice Now	United Kingdom
SEED: Strategies for Ethical and Environmental Development, Inc.	United States
REDES – Amigos de la Tierra Uruguay	Uruguay
Coalición de Tendencia Clasista (CTC-VZLA)	Venezuela