



Friends of
the Earth
Europe



Jordens
Vänner
Friends of the Earth
Sweden

DEAL WITH CLIMATE CHANGE, NOT CLIMATE DENIERS

How the EU-Mercosur trade deal
threatens the environment and
human rights

December 2020



For people and planet: scrap the EU-Mercosur trade agreement

As fires rage in the Amazon, record-breaking storms wreak havoc in Central America, and young people take to the streets to demand climate action, political leaders should be taking bold action to protect people and the environment.

Instead, a new trade deal is being finalised by the EU and the Mercosur bloc, which includes Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay, to increase the trade of products such as chicken, ethanol, beef, cars or pesticides.

This trade agreement aims to boost an export-oriented agricultural model that harms small-scale farmers, indigenous peoples, traditional and rural communities, in Mercosur and EU countries. It threatens to accelerate environmental destruction and the climate crisis, and increase social injustice, corporate impunity, human rights violations, and health risks.

The good news is the deal hasn't been approved yet, and is facing growing criticism. Parliaments in Austria, Belgium, Ireland and the Netherlands have already voted against it.

FoE Europe and Jordens Vänner demand a complete upheaval of EU trade policy, and for the EU to halt this deal and cease renegotiations of similar agreements with countries such as Indonesia, New Zealand, and Australia.

4 REASONS TO STOP THE EU-MERCOSUR DEAL

Trade deals are known drivers of climate change, human rights violations, social injustice and environmental destruction. After decades of documented harm, it's time to recognise that free trade is incompatible with a sustainable and just future.

1. THE EU-MERCOSUR TRADE DEAL IS INCOMPATIBLE WITH CLIMATE ACTION

According to an impact assessment of the trade deal carried out by independent researchers in France, the EU-Mercosur deal would dramatically increase greenhouse gas emissions, by up to 11.5 millions of tonnes of CO₂.¹ Different factors explain this projected increase.

a. An increase in the trade of agricultural carbon-intensive products

Studies show that beef production is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions.² In the EU-Mercosur trade deal, Mercosur countries would be allowed to export an additional 99,000 tonnes of beef to the EU with reduced taxes:³ beef imports to the EU could increase by 30%.⁴ Other traded goods included in the deal, such as soy or chicken, are also carbon-intensive in their production and transportation.

The EU-Mercosur trade deal is also set to increase emissions from transport, mainly shipping. Cargo ships account for 3% of global GHG emissions today, and increasing the demand for transport will greatly compromise our chances of curbing climate change.

The International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) evaluates that industrial agriculture is responsible for up to 37% of global greenhouse gas emissions.⁵ To limit warming to 1.5°C, annual global emissions must be reduced from 49 gigatons of CO₂ to around 23 gigatons by 2050. If we persist in the industrial agriculture model, in 2050 the sector would represent 20 gigatons, leaving only 3 for the rest of the global economy.⁶

The IPCC evaluates that industrial agriculture is responsible for **37%** of global greenhouse emissions

-
1. Report to the Prime Minister: Provisions and potential effects of the trade part of the Association Agreement between the European Union and Mercosur in terms of sustainable development, www.gouvernement.fr/sites/default/files/document/document/2020/09/rapport_de_la_commission_devaluation_du_projet_daccord_ue_mercosur.pdf
 2. FAO, Tackling Climate Change Through Livestock <https://climatenexus.org/climate-issues/food/animal-agricultures-impact-on-climate-change/>
 3. European Parliament, The trade pillar of the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement, [www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2019/640138/EPRS_BRI\(2019\)640138_EN.pdf](http://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/BRIE/2019/640138/EPRS_BRI(2019)640138_EN.pdf)
 4. GRAIN, 2019, The EU-Mercosur FTA's carbon footprint.
 5. IPCC Summary for Policymakers, <https://www.ipcc.ch/srccl/chapter/summary-for-policymakers/>
 6. Chatham House Institute, Changing Climate, Changing Diets, <https://www.chathamhouse.org/2015/11/changing-climate-changing-diets-pathways-lower-meat-consumption>

b. Accelerating environmental destruction

Deforestation is a major driver of climate change as it destroys essential carbon sinks. Between 11% and 39% of global carbon emissions come from land use today.⁷ Research shows a clear connection between the deforestation of the Amazon in Brazil⁸ and the destruction of local ecosystems due to land-use shift, as forests are cleared for cattle-raising activities and industrial agriculture. Forests in Paraguay and Argentina are also affected.

Beef production is single-handedly the biggest driver of forest loss in South America.⁹ In the Mercosur region, soy production has also contributed to extensive deforestation, depletion of biodiversity, and water scarcity.¹⁰

Bioethanol, an alternative fuel for transport produced from sugar cane, is also a driver of deforestation in the Mercosur region. In the EU-Mercosur trade deal, Mercosur countries would be granted two quotas of 650,000 tonnes of ethanol per year to be exported to the EU, boosting production in the region.

This projected increase has already triggered a weakening of environmental safeguards and protection agencies. In 2019, the Brazilian government lifted a ban on sugarcane cultivation in the Amazon — the country is expected to provide half of the increase in global ethanol production by 2025.¹¹

Deforestation also accelerates **biodiversity loss**. The Amazon rainforest, the Cerrado (Brazil) and the dry forests of the Chaco (Argentina and Paraguay) are biodiversity hotspots: these zones are all threatened by shifts in land use. Additionally, the intensive use of pesticides pollutes the air, water and soil, damaging local ecosystems.¹²

The Covid-19 pandemic has also shown the dire consequences of deforestation and industrial farming, which increase exposure to pathogens.¹³ Protecting our environment is crucial to prevent future health crises.¹⁴

The EU-Mercosur trade deal will **increase investment in deforestation** activities by EU financial institutions along with the liberalisation of services.¹⁵ The role of EU banks and investors in funding deforestation is well documented,¹⁶ and the deal would make it easier for these actors to operate in Mercosur countries, increasing the threat to forests and communities' land.¹⁷

The Covid-19 pandemic has shown the dire consequences of deforestation and industrial farming, which increase exposure to pathogens.

-
7. WTO, 2010, Trade and Deforestation: What have we found? https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/publications_e/wtr10_robolino_herrera_e.html
 8. European Parliament, 2020, Brazil and the Amazon Rainforest Deforestation, Biodiversity and Cooperation with the EU and International Forums – In-depth analysis. [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/IDAN/2020/648792/IPOL_IDA\(2020\)648792_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/IDAN/2020/648792/IPOL_IDA(2020)648792_EN.pdf)
 9. Global Forest Atlas, Cattle Ranching in the Amazon Region, <https://globalforestatlas.yale.edu/amazon/land-use/cattle-ranching>
 10. European Commission, EU-Mercosur in focus, <https://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/in-focus/eu-mercator-association-agreement/>; MDPI, Evaluating Water Use for Agricultural Intensification in Southern Amazonia Using the Water Footprint Sustainability Assessment <https://www.mdpi.com/2073-4441/10/4/349/htm>
 11. FOEE, 2020, The true cost of the EU-Mercosur trade deal
 12. Mongabay, As pesticide approvals soar, Brazil's tapirs, bees, other wildlife suffer <https://news.mongabay.com/2019/12/as-pesticide-approvals-soar-brazils-tapirs-bees-other-wildlife-suffer>
 13. IPBES, Workshop on Diversity and Pandemics, https://ipbes.net/sites/default/files/2020-11/201104_IPBES_Workshop_on_Diversity_and_Pandemics_Executive_Summary_Digital_Version.pdf
 14. WHO, Climate change, biodiversity and human health <https://www.who.int/globalchange/ecosystems/biodiversity/en/>
 15. The Greens/EFA and Powershift, Analysis of the agreement between the European Union and the Mercosur, www.annacavazzini.eu/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Study-on-the-EU-Mercosur-agreement-09.01.2020-1.pdf
 16. Amazon Watch, Complicity in Destruction II, www.amazonwatch.org/assets/files/2019-complicity-in-destruction-2.pdf
 17. Fern, Financing land grabs and deforestation: The role of EU banks and investors, www.fern.org/news-resources/financing-land-grabs-and-deforestation-the-role-of-eu-banks-and-investors-357/

2. THE EU-MERCOSUR TRADE DEAL WILL INCREASE INEQUALITY

a. The Mercosur deal threatens small-scale farmers and indigenous communities

Industrial agriculture already harms small-scale farmers and indigenous communities through a mechanism called land-grabbing.¹⁸

Land-grabbing refers to situations where people, companies or governments take control of large areas of land compared to typical local ownership, for purposes of speculation, extraction, resource control or commodification. Land-grabbing can happen by legal or illegal means, but it always has the same effect: it expropriates local communities without fair compensation.¹⁹ The most common cases of land-grabbing in South America include:

- » **Illegal invasion of indigenous and traditional communities' territories** by illegal actors to extract lumber or for agriculture.²⁰ These groups are armed, leading to violent conflicts impacting local communities. Governments do very little to prevent or prosecute these crimes.²¹
- » **Eviction of small-scale farmers' and traditional communities' land** by large agribusiness companies, sometimes owned by politicians or supported by corrupt politicians. These invasions can be led by armed actors or supported by the police or military forces.²²
- » **The destruction of small-scale farmers' land.** The use of pesticides by agribusiness companies contaminates the air, water and soil, and increases the risk of illnesses and genetic conditions among communities.²³
- » **Water grabbing:** when agribusiness companies monopolise the use of water in a region for their activities, preventing local communities' access to water, leading them to leave the land or resort to buying water, making it impossible to continue farming.²⁴

Experience shows that free trade increases the pressure over land use, thus increasing these abuses. To date, there are no effective mechanisms countering the land-grabbing encouraged by global trade.²⁵

18. The Journal of Peasant Studies, Land grabbing in Latin America and the Caribbean, <http://r1.ufrrj.br/geac/portal/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/BORRAS-et-al-Land-grabbing-in-Latin-America-2012.pdf>

19. European Coordination Via Campesina (ECVC), How do we define land grabbing? Towards a common understanding and definition of land grabbing around the world, www.eurovia.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/defining-land-grabs.pdf

20. New York Times, 'Guardian' of the Amazon Killed in Brazil by Illegal Loggers, www.nytimes.com/2019/11/04/world/americas/brazil-indigenous-amazon.html

21. National Geographic, Inside the faltering fight against illegal Amazon logging, www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/2019/08/brazil-logging

22. La Via Campesina, MST Quilombo Campo Grande camp resists eviction in the midst of the pandemic, www.viacampesina.org/en/mst-quilombo-campo-grande-camp-resists-eviction-in-the-midst-of-the-pandemic/

23. Science Direct, Modes of pesticides utilization by Brazilian smallholders and their implications for human health and the environment, www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0261219411003243

24. TNI, The Global Water Grab, www.tni.org/files/download/the_global_water_grab.pdf

25. Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, Land Grabs and Fragile Food Systems, https://www.iatp.org/sites/default/files/2013_02_14_LandGrabsFoodSystem_SM_0.pdf



b. The EU-Mercosur trade agreement will increase corporate capture

Trade policy and unequal environmental and social standards regulating the agricultural sector directly harm farmers on both sides of the Atlantic.²⁶

Studies have shown that trade deals benefit large corporations and international trading companies first. Today, the largest corporations are tied to 80% of global trade.²⁷ In its current form, the deal expands markets for agribusiness commodities, while mid and small-scale farmers are pressured to produce cheap raw materials for global food chains.

Small-scale production of food is key for guaranteeing a diversified and resilient model of agriculture. Farmers in Europe already face major challenges in producing food sustainably and take into account animal welfare, which increase costs for farms. Cheap imports from Mercosur countries will increase the pressure on European peasants and farmers.

While the European farming sector receives high subsidies, 80% of these are granted to the 20% biggest farms. The EU-Mercosur trade agreement another policy which will benefit an industrial model of agriculture over local, sustainable farming. The agreement has no benefit to small scale farmers in Europe, and farmer associations are against it.²⁸

Today, the
largest
corporations
are tied to
80%
of global
trade.

26. ECVC, Joint Declaration by European Farmers, https://www.eurovia.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/EN_2020-Peasant-Declaration_Stop-EU-Mercosur_final-2.pdf

27. Greenpeace, EU-Mercosur mythbuster, <https://www.greenpeace.org/eu-unit/issues/democracy-europe/45118/eu-mercotur-mythbuster/>

28. ECVC, Joint Declaration by European Farmers, https://www.eurovia.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/EN_2020-Peasant-Declaration_Stop-EU-Mercosur_final-2.pdf

c. The EU-Mercosur agreement threatens food sovereignty

Food sovereignty refers to the right of people to choose their food and agricultural policies.²⁹ This includes the capacity to regulate agricultural production and trade, the sustainable use of available resources, and environmental protection.

Food sovereignty is a fundamental principle, as over 75% of the food consumed globally comes from small-scale farming.³⁰ Current policies supporting industrial, export-oriented agriculture, have not eradicated hunger — on the contrary, hunger has increased in recent years.³¹

Food sovereignty promotes trade policies that defend the rights of peoples to safe, healthy and sustainable food production, which the EU-Mercosur deal threatens through its support for industrial, export-oriented large-scale farming.

Over
75%
of food
consumed
globally
comes from
small-scale
farming.

3. THE EU-MERCOSUR AGREEMENT THREATENS HUMAN RIGHTS

A growing number of reports have shown that the development of industrial agriculture — based on increased trade — heightens violence targeting small-scale farmers, farm-workers and indigenous peoples. Environmental defenders are most at risk when working on agricultural issues.³² In 2019, Brazil was among the five countries showing the highest levels of violence.³³

a. A threat to communities

In Brazil, illegal organisations linked to logging and land grabbing use intimidation and violence, including murders, to target small-scale farmers, rural workers and indigenous communities who are seen as obstacles to their activities. Between 2009 and 2018, 363 land and environment defenders were killed in Brazil. These crimes are rarely investigated or prosecuted by the Brazilian government. Jair Bolsonaro's government has also worked to weaken democratic processes, severely limiting the participation of civil society on issues such as environment and indigenous rights.

In light of human rights violations in Brazil, signing a trade deal agreement with Mercosur ignores the violence and negligence of the Brazilian government, promoting corporate impunity globally.

Between
2009 and
2018,
363
land and
environment
defenders
were killed
in Brazil.

29. Food sovereignty refers to people's right to decide for themselves how food is produced, including their participation in decision-making concerning agricultural issues. It prioritises small-scale farming, local production and consumption over large-scale exports. The concept also reaffirms the right to food for all, but extends it to access to healthy and sustainable food that is cultural and socially adequate. The power to decide must be in the hands of the producers and consumers. Small holder's access to land, water, seeds are a prerequisite for food sovereignty.

30. IFAD Report, 2013 p.6 https://www.ifad.org/documents/38714170/39135645/smallholders_report.pdf/133e8903-0204-4e7d-a780-bca847933f2e ; ETC Group, 2017 p. 6-12 https://www.etcgroup.org/sites/www.etcgroup.org/files/files/etc-whoillfeedus-english-webshare.pdf_.pdf

31. FAO, Food Security and Nutrition Around the World in 2020, http://www.fao.org/3/ca9692en/online/ca9692en.html#chapter-1_1

32. Swedwatch, Defenders at Risk, https://swedwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/MR-fo%CC%88rsvarare_191209_uppslag.pdf

33. Front line defenders, Global Analysis 2019

The deal would also reinforce the exclusion of impacted communities. Article 8 of the chapter on sustainability only includes a commitment to promote the inclusion of local communities and indigenous peoples in decision-making relating to forest product supply chains. Affected populations are to give their “prior informed consent” — a weakened version of the concept of free, prior and informed consent defined by the UN, requiring that indigenous communities give their consent to any use of their territories.³⁴

In 2019, 340 civil society organisations, including the Via Campesina — the International Small Farmers Movement — demanded that the European Union suspend negotiations with Brazil, due to the repression of social and environmental movements in the country.³⁵ In 2020, civil society organisations called on the German presidency of the EU Council to halt the EU-Mercosur deal,³⁶ and a complaint has been lodged by the EU Ombudsman.³⁷

b. The EU-Mercosur trade deal reinforces neocolonial structures

The EU-Mercosur agreement enables countries from the Global South in the Mercosur region to sell low-value agricultural commodities to the EU, while the EU would sell high-value commodities — such as cars, car parts, pesticides — reinforcing existing neocolonial structures.

Furthermore, to meet its climate targets and label itself a climate leader, the European Union is set to increase imports of ethanol and soy products from Mercosur countries, despite evidence that increased trade would lead to higher global greenhouse gas emissions. The EU is set to cause environmental destruction abroad in the name of its climate targets.

c. The EU-Mercosur trade deal reinforces a flawed international legal system

International law does not provide effective measures to sanction human rights violations perpetrated over land conflicts — thus enabling impunity. It lacks mechanisms to prevent human rights abuses or to ensure perpetrators are punished and victims find justice. It is a flawed legal system, at the expense of human rights.

The EU-Mercosur treaty, like most trade regulations, is very detailed regarding its technical and economic aspects, but does not regulate social and environmental impacts sufficiently. The EU-Mercosur agreement has been praised for including a chapter on sustainability but it is vague and non-binding, making its effectiveness dependent on the goodwill of each country. Responding to this concern, different governments have attempted to strengthen wording. However, without mechanisms to ensure compliance, changes made to the agreement would be mere formalities: the risk of destructive impacts remains.

Human rights must be prioritised over trade, and other legal tools must be put in place to prevent or sanction human rights violations, and provide accountability for environmental damage.

In 2019,
340
civil society
organisations,
demanding
that the EU
suspend
negotiations
with Brazil.

34. Misereor, EU-Mercosur Agreement: Risks to Climate Protection and Human Rights, https://www.misereor.org/fileadmin/user_upload/misereororg/publication/en/shaping_economic_processes/Study-EU-Mercosur-Agreement-Risks-to-Climate-Protection-and-Human-Rights....pdf

35. ECVC, ECVC and 340+ organizations call on the EU to immediately halt trade negotiations with Brazil, <https://www.eurovia.org/ecvc-and-340-organizations-call-on-the-eu-to-immediatly-halt-trade-negotiations-with-brazil/>

36. Seattle to Brussels Network. Sign the Call for German EU Council presidency to stop the EU-Mercosur Agreement, <http://s2bnetwork.org/sign-the-call-for-german-eu-council-presidency-to-stop-the-eu-mercotur-agreement/>

37. Client Earth, Inquiry opened over EU failure to consider environmental and social impacts of South American trade deal, <https://www.clientearth.org/latest/latest-updates/news/inquiry-opened-over-eu-failure-to-consider-environmental-and-social-impacts-of-south-american-trade-deal/>

4. THE EU-MERCOSUR AGREEMENT OPENS THE DOOR TO TOXIC FOOD

a. An increase in the use of pesticides

Brazil is the world's biggest user of pesticides,³⁸ with glyphosate widely used on genetically modified crops. 149 pesticides used in Brazil are banned in Europe for health and safety concerns. After a recent visit to Brazil, the UN special rapporteur warned that such intensive use of agrochemicals could result in an "epidemic of poisonings by pesticides" in the country, and accused the government of unleashing "a catastrophic wave of toxic pesticides... that will poison generations".³⁹

In August 2019, the UN Human Rights Council passed a resolution citing Paraguay's responsibility in the severe poisoning of peasant families in the region of Canindeyú,⁴⁰ after banned pesticides were sprayed on a soya field.

The EU-Mercosur agreement plans to reduce taxes on more than 90% of EU chemical exports to the Mercosur region,⁴¹ which would increase the production of crops grown with harmful pesticides, polluting more soils, rivers and harming more families in the Mercosur region, while posing health risks for European consumers.

In addition, the deal would enable Mercosur countries to trigger the treaty's dispute settlement mechanism if the EU were to strengthen laws on pesticides or prohibit toxic products such as glyphosate.⁴²

149
pesticides
used in Brazil
are banned
in Europe
for health
and safety
concerns.



Photo: Avaaz / Twitter

38. Mongabay, For European chemical giants, Brazil is an open market for toxic pesticides banned at home, <https://news.mongabay.com/2020/09/for-european-chemical-giants-brazil-is-an-open-market-for-toxic-pesticides-banned-at-home/>

39. OHCHR, Brazil on a tragic, poisonous path: UN expert, <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25430&LangID=E>

40. Misereor, EU-Mercosur Agreement: Risks to Climate Protection and Human Rights, https://www.misereor.org/fileadmin/user_upload/misereororg/publication/en/shaping_economic_processes/Study-EU-Mercosur-Agreement-Risks-to-Climate-Protection-and-Human-Rights....pdf

41. The European Chemical Industry Council: Concluding A Free Trade Deal With Mercosur Will Benefit Trade In Chemicals Between The Two Regions, <https://cefic.org/media-corner/newsroom/concluding-a-free-trade-deal-with-mercotur-will-benefit-trade-in-chemicals-between-the-two-regions>

42. Misereor, EU-Mercosur Agreement: Risks to Climate Protection and Human Rights, https://www.misereor.org/fileadmin/user_upload/misereororg/publication/en/shaping_economic_processes/Study-EU-Mercosur-Agreement-Risks-to-Climate-Protection-and-Human-Rights....pdf

b. Bigger safety risks for imported food

Ensuring the quality of imported products from Mercosur countries is very difficult. In 2019, major food safety alerts in the EU originated from two Mercosur countries. Salmonella was found in 67 herbs and spices products from Brazil, and aflatoxins (a form of mycotoxin) were found in 63 nuts and seeds products imported from Argentina.⁴³ Furthermore, ractopamine — which is banned in 160 countries including the EU due to its health risks — has been found in meat exports from Brazil.

This should call for more controls at the border, however the EU-Mercosur agreement calls for parties “to simplify controls and verifications, and reduce the frequency of import checks.”⁴⁴ As such, the trade deal poses a real health risk.

Experience with CETA, the trade agreement between the EU and Canada, also reveals that compliance with EU rules on issues such as growth hormones is not guaranteed: only one of the three establishments visited by an EU audit team could be considered fully compliant with EU requirements.⁴⁵

The EU fails to convince

To defend its agreement, the EU claims it has strengthened the trade and sustainable chapters to ensure the deal does not lead to further deforestation or environmental harm. However, civil society has deemed this a purely symbolic addition.⁴⁶ Mechanisms to avoid environmental harm are insufficient, and the text only briefly acknowledges human and indigenous people's rights in its chapter on Trade and Sustainable Development (TSD), with unenforceable and vague provisions.⁴⁷



Photo: Mídia NINJA

43. European Commission, *RASFF Annual Report*, <https://www.reading.ac.uk/foodlaw/pdf/2020-Commission-RASFF-Report-2019.pdf>

44. European Commission, Trade part of the EU-Mercosur Association Agreement, https://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2019/july/tradoc_158155.%20Sanitary%20and%20Phytosanitary%20Measures.pdf

45. European Commission, Food of animal origin-bovine and pig meat intended for export to the European Union, https://ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/audit_reports/details.cfm?rep_id=4287

46. Seattle to Brussels Network, Legitimising an Unsustainable Approach to Trade: A discussion paper on sustainable development provisions in EU Free Trade Agreements, http://s2bnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/discussion-paper-on-tsd_web.pdf

47. National Board of Trade Sweden, Analysis of the EU-Mercosur Free Trade Agreement, <https://www.kommerskollegium.se/en/publications/reports/2020/eumercosur-agreement/>

A TRADE POLICY FOR PEOPLE AND THE PLANET



Photo: Via Campesina

Climate, democracy, food security, health... New international agreements should address the multiple crises we face instead of deepening them. Yet the EU-Mercosur trade deal reflects the very thinking that created these crises. Many European parliaments have already rejected the agreement in its current form, while France has expressed strong complaints.

Business as usual is not an option when current industrialised and globalised food systems drive climate breakdown, social injustice and health risks.⁴⁸ We must move towards a more sustainable way of producing and consuming food, producing safe and healthy food, respecting human rights and our planet's ecological limits.

- 1. Trade policy must support shorter supply chains, for resilient and decentralised food systems,** following the principles of agroecology.^{49,50} Policies must put small-scale farmers at the center, respecting those who feed us.
- 2. Policy must support the production of healthy food,** grown without toxic chemicals, and ensure that everyone has access to quality food. An important tool to achieve this is the UN Declaration on the Rights of Small Farmers and Farm Workers (UNDROP).
- 3. To stop deforestation, communities must be empowered to manage forests and land,** indigenous peoples and peasants rights must be prioritised over corporate economic interests, and countries that violate human rights should be sanctioned instead of rewarded.
- 4. An international law for corporate accountability is needed** to protect communities from human rights violations. The UN is currently negotiating a Binding Treaty on Transnational Corporations and Human Rights to this effect, however the EU has yet to support this text.

48. FAO, Initiative to scale up agro-ecology <http://www.fao.org/3/I9049ES/I9049es.pdf>

49. FAO, Combining traditional and scientific knowledge, agroecology applies ecological and social approaches to agricultural systems, focusing on the rich interactions between plants, animals, humans and the environment <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/1113475/icode/>

50. FAO, 2nd International Agroecology Symposium in Rome 2018-04-03 <http://www.fao.org/news/story/en/item/1113475/icode/>

Rejecting the EU-Mercosur deal does not mean rejecting constructive cooperation between regions, which is crucial for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement. A society based on solidarity depends on global cooperation. However, treaties between nations must be transparent, inclusive, and respect human rights. International trade must be democratised. Affected communities, excluded from negotiations for 20 years, must be heard.

Policy-makers must stand up for social and climate justice.

Stop the EU-Mercosur deal!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Produced by Friends of the Earth Europe, with contributions from Friends of the Earth Sweden.

Co-authors: Rebeca Borges, Lora Verheecke and Mute Schimpf
Design: Clémence Hutin and Sarah Reader

Publication: December 2020



Friends of the Earth Europe gratefully acknowledges financial assistance from the European Commission (LIFE Programme). The sole responsibility for the content of this document lies with Friends of the Earth Europe. It does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the funder mentioned above. The funder cannot be held responsible for any use that may be made of the information contained therein.

Friends of the Earth
Europe
Rue d'Edimbourg 26
1050 Brussels, Belgium



+32 (0) 2893 1000



info@foeeurope.org



www.foeeurope.org



twitter.com/foeeurope



Facebook.com/foeeurope



Friends of
the Earth
Europe

Jordens Vänner
Friends of the Earth Sweden
Post box: 7048
402 31 Gothenburg, Sweden



+46 (0) 31 12 18 08



info@jordensvanner.se



www.jordensvanner.se



twitter.com/jordensvanner



facebook.com/jordensvanner



Jordens
Vänner
Friends of the Earth
Sweden