



PRESS RELEASE

Building Sustainable Food Systems Together

The European Union, MERCOSUR countries and Chile cooperating towards Sustainable Food Systems for the benefit of farmers, consumers, and the environment.

Following the principles of the Farm to Fork (F2F) Strategy which is at the heart of the EU Green Deal, the EU is committed to supporting the global transition towards sustainable agri-food systems. Through its external policies, the EU aims to develop Green Alliances on sustainable food systems with all its partners at bilateral, regional, and multilateral levels, recognizing the crucial role they play in climate change, biodiversity loss and environmental and oceanic degradation. Engaged with the threats imposed to life on Earth, the MERCOSUR countries and Chile have also put forward different strategies in this same direction. Recognizing that the fight against environmental degradation and climate change is a task to be fully undertaken by all international actors, the search for principles and types of actions that can underpin the relationship and cooperation between the regions towards more Sustainable Food Systems is fundamental.

It is in this context, that the European Union (EU) – Latin America and the Caribbean *Dialogues on Sustainable Food Systems* are organized, aiming to promote a constructive exchange of ideas to find common grounds and initiatives that can pave the way for further collaborations to push food systems towards sustainability.

Following the success of the first workshop between the EU and Central America, policy makers from the EU, MERCOSUR countries and Chile engaged in the second Dialogue on Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems, held on May 16-17, 2022. Both days were attended by representatives of the EU, the Ministries of Agriculture and Environment of the MERCOSUR countries, and Chile, as well as private sector representatives.

Substantial progress was made in identifying areas of convergence and defining common characteristics for a dynamic consensus on food systems improvement, as well as shared



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commitment towards the need to work together on the global transition to Sustainable Food Systems.

While on the first day of the seminar, speakers from the EU, MERCOSUR and Chile had fruitful exchanges on regional perspectives related to the sustainability of food systems, the second day focused on key issues on which strategies and cooperation could be developed, namely in the areas of sustainable livestock production, food loss and waste, and Soil health and Innovation.

The Dialogue was opened by Sandra Gallina, Director General for Health, and Food Safety (DG SANTE) of the European Commission, Raúl Cano Ricciardi, Vice-Minister of Economic Relations and Integration of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Paraguay, and Mr. Gabriel Layseca Astudillo, Head of International Affairs Department, Bureau of Agricultural Studies and Policies (Odepa), Ministry of Agriculture of Chile. Ms. Gallina recognized the importance of the European Union's partnership with MERCOSUR and Chile to fight against the growing threats and exceptional circumstances we are going through, such as the pandemic, the war in Ukraine, and with it the global threat to food security.

The Vice Minister Ricciardi, on his part, emphasized the EU and MERCOSUR Free Trade agreement, part of a bi-regional Association Agreement, which is still pending to be signed and ratified.

According to Mr. Layseca, the cooperation between the different countries in the region and the European Union and MERCOSUR allow Chile to have more inclusive food systems. The Chilean government seeks to promote fair mechanisms focused on the rights of people working in rural areas, in response to issues related to the sustainability of food systems, but also to inclusion. In this regard, the Ministry of Agriculture is working on a strategy that will actively involve different stakeholders to ensure that it is a robust participatory process, aligned with international priorities for the sector, such as the 2030 Agenda, the UN Sustainable Goals.

As a result of the event, the parties agreed to continue the dialogue and work together on the development of public and private partnerships and sharing of good practices, to enable the transition to sustainable and more resilient Food Systems at global level.



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These Dialogues will consist of a total of four sub-regional workshop, concluding with a bi-regional conference expected to take place at the end of 2022.