

Procedure file

Basic information		
RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects	2007/2625(RSP)	Procedure completed
Negotiations on an Interregional Association Agreement with Mercosur and the new bilateral strategic partnership with Brazil		
Subject		
6.20.03 Bilateral economic and trade agreements and relations		
6.40.10 Relations with Latin America, Central America, Caribbean islands		

Key players		
European Parliament		
European Commission		
	Commission DG External Relations	Commissioner FERRERO-WALDNER Benita

Key events			
25/09/2007	Debate in Parliament		Summary
25/09/2007	End of procedure in Parliament		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2007/2625(RSP)
Procedure type	RSP - Resolutions on topical subjects
Procedure subtype	Debate or resolution on oral question/interpellation
Legal basis	Rules of Procedure EP 128-p5
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed

2007/2625(RSP) - 25/09/2007 Debate in Parliament

The House held a debate, following on the Council and the Commission statements, on the negotiations on an Interregional Association Agreement with Mercosur and the new bilateral strategic partnership with Brazil.

Several MEPs put questions to the Commission on the negotiations on an Interregional Association Agreement with Mercosur and the new bilateral strategic partnership with Brazil. Mercosur is a Regional Trade Agreement between Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay, founded in 1991. Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru currently have associate member status. Venezuela signed a membership agreement on 17 June 2006, but before becoming a full member, its entry has to be ratified by the Paraguayan and the Brazilian parliaments. During the EU-Brazil Summit of 4 July 2007, the EU and Brazil pointed out that 'they attach high importance to strengthening EU - Mercosur relations and are committed to concluding the EU - Mercosur Association Agreement'. The European Parliament reaffirmed the need for the EU to conclude, as soon as possible, a full, ambitious and balanced Association Agreement with Mercosur, based on three pillars: a political and institutional chapter reinforcing democratic dialogue and political cooperation, a cooperation chapter promoting sustainable economic and social development, and a trade chapter. Nevertheless, the Commission has released its Communication of 30 May 2007 on a bilateral strategic partnership with Brazil, which sends contradictory signals to the regional priorities set above.

In view of the above, the MEPs asked: Could the Commission set out the latest developments in the Mercosur negotiations? Could the Commission explain how the bilateral strategic partnership with Brazil presented in its Communication of 30 May 2007 could be pursued

without undermining the bi-regional approach that should be the cornerstone of our relations with Latin America in general and, in particular, with Mercosur? Could the Commission state that this new partnership will not harm the regional balance and will not be to the detriment of the EU trade and economic relationship with other Latin American partners?

The debate was not followed by the adoption of a resolution.