

Minutes of Meeting

MERCOSUR – Egypt Second Round of Discussions

Montevideo, November 16th and 17th, 2009

In accordance with the Framework Agreement signed between the Arab Republic of Egypt and MERCOSUR, a second round of discussion was held in Montevideo, on November 16th, and 17th, 2009.

Both delegations expressed their willingness to enhance even more their economic relationship and coincided on engaging in ambitious negotiations towards the establishment of a Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

Delegations are listed in Annexes 1 and 2.

Parties agreed to exchange tariff information and trade data for the period 2006-2008 in electronic format (data sheet) listed by products, at eight digit tariff code if applicable, by December 1st, 2009.

For this purpose, the focal point will be:

For the Arab Republic of Egypt: Trade Agreement and Foreign Trade Sector.
Ministry of Trade and Industry
a.fawzy@tas.gov.eg

For the MERCOSUR: Dirección para Asuntos de MERCOSUR e Integración Latinoamericana. E mail dgim5@mrree.gub.uy.

Both Delegations agreed to proceed with the negotiation based on the Modalities document included in Annex 3 to this minute.

In this regard, a consensus was reached in every point, except point VI (preferential safeguard). Regarding the liberalization schedule, the parties agreed to a liberalization schedule no longer than 10 years, from the date of the entry into force of the FTA.

Egypt made a general presentation of its draft of FTA text, the Annex of rules of origin and the dispute settlement protocol.

At this meeting MERCOSUR officially presented its draft FTA text.

Both parties agreed that MERCOSUR will prepare and submit by February 1st, 2010, a new side-by-side document containing both proposals.

Both sides agreed to exchange all information and communication officially through the focal point referred before. In the case of MERCOSUR, the focal point will be updated every six months, according to the member country that holds the Pro Tempore Presidency (PPT).

They also agreed to hold the next meeting in Cairo from March 9th to 11th , 2010 (three working days).

Done in two originals in English and signed in Montevideo, on November 17th , 2009.

For the Government of the Arab
Republic of Egypt

For the MERCOSUR Delegation

Mr. Abdel Rahman Fawzy

Ambassador Walter Cancela

First Undersecretary, Head of Trade
Agreements & Foreign Trade Sector

General Director for
International Economic Affairs,
MERCOSUR and Integration

Ministry of Trade and Industry

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Uruguay