

**FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT BETWEEN MERCOSUR
AND THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN**

The Argentine Republic, the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Republic of Paraguay and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, parties to MERCOSUR; and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan;

Desiring to establish clear, predictable and lasting rules to promote the development of reciprocal trade and investments;

Reaffirming their commitment to further strengthen the rules of international trade in accordance with the rules of the World Trade Organization;

Recognizing that free trade agreements contribute to the expansion of world trade, to greater international stability and, in particular, to the development of closer relations among their people;

Considering that the process of economic integration includes the establishment of comprehensive economic co-operation;

AGREE:

Article 1

For the purposes of this agreement, the “Contracting Parties” are MERCOSUR and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. The “Signatory Parties” are the Governments of the Argentine Republic, the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Republic of Paraguay, the Oriental Republic of Uruguay and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Article 2

The aim of this Framework Agreement is to strengthen relations between the Contracting Parties, through promoting the expansion of trade and providing the necessary framework and mechanisms to negotiate a Free Trade Area between the Contracting Parties in conformity with the rules and disciplines of the World Trade Organization.

Article 3

1 - The Contracting Parties agree to create a Negotiating Committee. The Committee's members shall be for MERCOSUR: the Common Market Group, or its representatives; for the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Ministry of Industry and Trade, or its representatives. In order to achieve the objective set out in Article 2, the Negotiating Committee shall establish a work program for the negotiations.

2 - The Negotiating Committee shall meet as often as the Contracting Parties agree.

Article 4

The Negotiating Committee shall serve as the forum to:

- a) Exchange information on customs tariffs applied by each Contracting Party; with respect to bilateral trade and trade with third parties as well as on their respective trade policies;
- b) Exchange information on market access; tariff and non-tariff measures; sanitary and phytosanitary measures; technical standards and regulations, rules of origin, safeguard, anti-dumping and countervailing measures; special customs regimes and dispute settlement, among other matters;
- c) Identify and propose measures to achieve the objectives set out in Article 2, including those related to trade facilitation;

- d) Establish criteria for the negotiation of a Free Trade Area between MERCOSUR and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan;
- e) Negotiate an Agreement for the establishment of a Free Trade Area between MERCOSUR and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the basis of the agreed criteria;
- f) Carry out other tasks as determined by the Contracting Parties.

Article 5

In order to broaden reciprocal knowledge about trade and investment opportunities between both Parties, the Contracting Parties shall stimulate trade promotion activities such as seminars, trade missions, fairs, exhibitions and conferences.

Article 6

The Contracting Parties shall promote the development of joint activities aimed at the implementation of co-operation projects in the agricultural and industrial areas among others, by means of information exchange, training programs and technical missions.

Article 7

The Contracting Parties shall promote the expansion and diversification of trade in services between them in a manner to be determined by the Negotiating Committee and in accordance with the WTO General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS).

Article 8

The Contracting Parties agree to co-operate in promoting closer relationships among their relevant organizations in the areas of plant and animal health, standardization, food safety, mutual recognition of sanitary and phytosanitary measures, including through equivalence agreements in accordance with relevant international criteria.

Article 9

1- This Agreement shall enter into force thirty days after the Contracting Parties have notified formally, in writing and through diplomatic channels, the completion of the internal procedures necessary to that effect.

2- This Agreement shall remain in force for a period of three years and thereafter shall be deemed to have been automatically extended, unless one of the Contracting Parties decides by written notification and through diplomatic channels, not to renew it. This decision has to be taken thirty days before the expiration of the three year period. The denunciation will enter into force six months after its notification date.


3- For the purposes of Article 9.1, the Government of the Republic of Paraguay shall be the Depositary of this Agreement for MERCOSUR.

4- In fulfillment of the Depositary functions assigned in Article 9.3, the Government of the Republic of Paraguay shall notify the other Member States of MERCOSUR, the date on which this Agreement shall enter into force.

Article 10

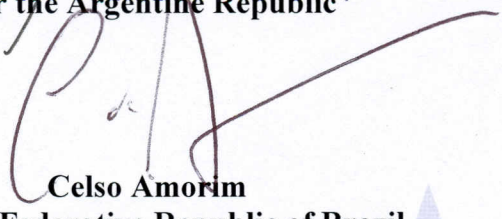
This Agreement may be amended by mutual consent between the Contracting Parties by an exchange of notes through diplomatic channels.

Done in the city of San Miguel de Tucumán, Argentine Republic, on 30 June 2008 in two copies in the Spanish, Portuguese, English and Arabic languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of any divergence in the interpretation of this Agreement, the English text shall prevail.




Jorge Tajana
For the Argentine Republic

Hazem Al Khatib
For the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan



Celso Amorim
For the Federative Republic of Brazil



Rubén Ramírez Lezcano
For the Republic of Paraguay



Gonzalo Fernández
For the Oriental Republic of Uruguay