

FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FREE TRADE AREA BETWEEN MERCOSUR AND THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY

The Argentine Republic, the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Republic of Paraguay and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, Parties to the MERCOSUR, and the Republic of Turkey;

Desiring to establish clear, predictable and lasting rules to promote the development of reciprocal trade and investments, by means of establishing a Free Trade Area;

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

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 peoples;

Considering that the process of economic integration includes not only gradual and reciprocal trade liberalization but also the establishment of comprehensive economic co-operation;

AGREE:

Article 1

For the purposes of this Agreement, the "Contracting Parties" are the MERCOSUR and the Republic of Turkey. The "Signatory Parties" are the Governments of the Argentine Republic, the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Republic of Paraguay and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay and the Government of Turkey.

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 in conformity with the rules and disciplines of the WTO.

Article 3

The Contracting Parties agree to undertake periodic negotiations with a view to create a Free Trade Area, aimed at increasing bilateral trade flows through enhanced market access by means of mutual concessions.

Article 4

1. The Contracting Parties agree to create a Negotiating Committee. The Committee's members shall be for the MERCOSUR: the Common Market Group, or its representatives; for the Republic of Turkey: the Undersecretariat of the Prime Ministry for Foreign 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 5

The Negotiating Committee shall serve as the forum to:

- a) Exchange information on tariffs applied by each Contracting Party; with respect to bilateral trade and trade with third parties as well as 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 the Contracting Parties, as stipulated in Article 3;
- e) Negotiate an Agreement for the establishment of a Free Trade Area between the Contracting Parties, on the basis of the agreed criteria;
- f) Carry out other tasks as determined by the Contracting Parties.

Article 6

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

Article 7

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 programmes and technical missions.

Article 8

The Contracting Parties shall co-operate with the aim of promoting the expansion and diversification of trade in services between them, in accordance with what might be decided by the Negotiating Committee and with the General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS) of the World Trade Organization.

Article 9

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 and sanitary and phytosanitary measures.

Article 10

1. This Agreement shall enter into force thirty days after the date of the last notification by the Contracting Parties, in writing and through diplomatic channels, of the completion of the internal legal 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 at least thirty days before the expiration of the three years period. The denunciation will enter into force six months after its notification date.

Article 11

1. For the purposes of Article 10.1, the Government of the Republic of Paraguay shall be the Depositary of this Agreement for the MERCOSUR.

2. In fulfillment of the Depositary functions assigned in Article 11.1, 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 12

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

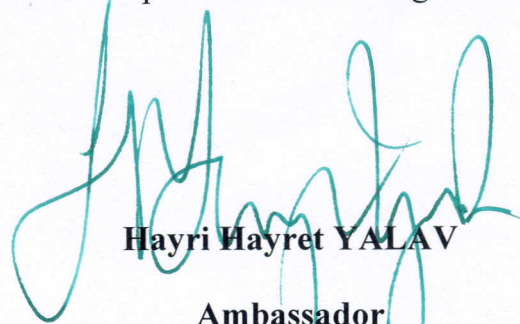
Done in the city of San Miguel de Tucumán, Argentine Republic, on June 30, 2008, in two copies in the Spanish, Portuguese, English and Turkish languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of any doubt or divergence in the interpretation of this Agreement, the English text shall prevail.



Jorge TAIANA

**Minister of Foreign Affairs, International
Trade and Worship**

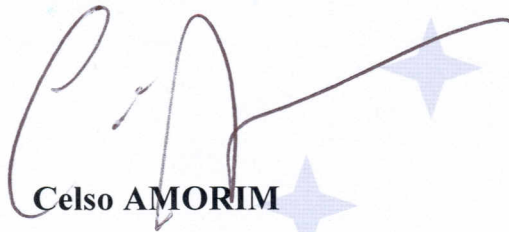
For the Argentine Republic



Hayri Hayret YALAV

Ambassador

For the Republic of Turkey



Celso AMORIM

Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Federative Republic of Brazil



Rubén RAMÍREZ LEZCANO

Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Republic of Paraguay



Gonzalo FERNÁNDEZ

Minister of Foreign Affairs

For the Oriental Republic of Uruguay