REVISED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION
BETWEEN THE
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONSULTATIVE FORUM OF MERCOSUR (FCES)
AND THE
EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE (EESC)
REVISED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION
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The Economic and Social Consultative Forum of Mercosur, a Mercosur institution established under the Ouro Preto Protocol (henceforth referred to as the FCES), and the European Economic and Social Committee, an institution established under the Treaty on European Union (henceforth referred to as the EESC);

Having regard to the political resolve of the European Union and of Mercosur to establish an interregional association of a political, economic and social character based on closer political cooperation, progressive and reciprocal liberalisation of trade, the promotion of investment and the strengthening of cooperation;

Reaffirming the importance of involving the economic and social organisations represented by these institutions in the process of dialogue and of forging closer political, economic, social, cultural and cooperation ties between the European Union and Mercosur;

Whereas the institutionalisation of relations between the FCES and the EESC is a shared objective, to be achieved by means of joint activities and tasks, without prejudice to the future formal establishment of a Joint Consultative Committee;

Having regard to the Interregional Framework Cooperation Agreement between the European Union and Mercosur and, in particular, interinstitutional cooperation;

Having regard to the importance of strengthening the economic and social dimension of both the future association agreement and existing bilateral agreements;

Agreeing on the need to involve the citizens of the two regions in this effort and to inform them about it;
The Parties agree:

**CLAUSE ONE**

The purpose of the present memorandum of understanding is to strengthen relations between the Economic and Social Consultative Forum of Mercosur and the European Economic and Social Committee.

**CLAUSE TWO**

The Parties shall:

Promote *interinstitutional cooperation* by exchanging and disseminating information and experience, and by mutual technical assistance;

Strengthen *economic cooperation* by establishing economic and social links and networks and by exchanging technical know-how between the regions, within a framework of economic development and promotion of human, social and cultural rights;

Facilitate *political cooperation* between the two regions by maintaining regular contacts between the institutions; and

Encourage the establishment of a joint monitoring committee as part of the European Union – Mercosur Association Agreement, enabling organised civil society to participate in the monitoring and implementation of the signing of this agreement and its further development.

**CLAUSE THREE**

Cooperation shall be pursued by:

a) regularly exchanging socio-economic, educational and cultural information;

b) swapping experience and publications;

c) capacity-building and institutional support;

d) research and joint projects;

e) reciprocal technical support;

f) holding cooperation planning, follow-up and evaluation meetings; and

g) consultation by the FCES and EESC in areas of mutual interest.

**CLAUSE FOUR**

In order to encourage a better understanding of the political, economic, social, educational and cultural life of the two regions, the Parties agree to step up their regular exchanges of information, consultation, legislation and publications of mutual interest.
CLAUSE FIVE

The Parties undertake to help publicise the tasks and activities for which they are responsible among public and private institutions and the general public in their respective geographic areas.

To this end, they shall exchange annual timetables of ordinary and extraordinary meetings, seminars and similar events.

Similarly, they undertake to facilitate access to available documentation for bodies, scholars or researchers interested in reading FCES or EESC publications.

CLAUSE SIX

The Parties shall, insofar as they are able, foster and facilitate mutual technical assistance in the spheres of institutional development and economic, social, educational and cultural cooperation.

CLAUSE SEVEN

The Parties shall carry out exchanges in the interest of mutual institutional reinforcement, promoting their familiarisation with the procedures and organisation of their institutions.

CLAUSE EIGHT

Delegations representing the FCES and EESC shall meet ordinarily once a year, the venue alternating between Brussels and one of the Mercosur countries.

CLAUSE NINE

The Parties may further develop the objective of the present memorandum of understanding by means of supplementary links that will be established between groups, sectors or areas of activity.

CLAUSE TEN

To help achieve the objectives of the present memorandum of understanding, the Parties shall seek appropriate means, including funding, within the bounds of their respective resources and remits.

CLAUSE ELEVEN

The Parties shall forward the present memorandum of understanding on institutional cooperation to the appropriate Mercosur and European Union bodies for information and all other purposes.

CLAUSE TWELVE

The present memorandum of understanding shall be drawn up in English, Portuguese and Spanish, each of these texts being equally authentic.
Done at

FOR THE FCES,

Acting Coordinator

FOR THE EESC,

Mário David Soares
President of the Latin America Follow-up Committee