

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT COOPERATION
AND
PLAN OF ACTION
BETWEEN MERCOSUR AND THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE**

The Argentine Republic, the Federative Republic of Brazil, the Republic of Paraguay and the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, Member States of the Common Market of the South (MERCOSUR), as one "Party", and the Republic of Singapore, as the other "Party", (hereinafter referred to as "MERCOSUR" and "Singapore" respectively, and as "the Parties" collectively),

Desirous of strengthening the links of friendship and cooperation that have existed for a long time between MERCOSUR and Singapore;

Based upon their mutual commitments in the context of the World Trade Organization (WTO);

Declaring their intention of establishing a bilateral framework for the expansion and diversification of trade and investments between MERCOSUR and Singapore;

Desirous of exploring the opportunities of strengthening the bilateral cooperation in other fields and activities,

Have reached the following understanding:

1. Objectives

The Parties shall endeavour to:

- (a) promote economic relations between MERCOSUR and Singapore, in particular in the areas of trade in goods, trade in services, and investments;
- (b) strengthen their cooperation by identifying measures that can foster trade and investment flows between MERCOSUR and Singapore;
- (c) facilitate growing participation of the private sector, in particular small and medium enterprises, in the trade cooperation efforts between MERCOSUR and Singapore.

2. Trade and Investment Expansion

1. The Parties shall endeavour to develop more favourable conditions conducive to the expansion of trade in goods, trade in services, and investments between them, in accordance with the enclosed Plan of Action at Annex A (hereinafter referred to as "the Plan of Action").
2. The Parties shall examine the items put forward in the Plan of Action which have an influence on their respective bilateral economic relations or interests in respect of trade and investment in third countries, including multilateral and plurilateral matters of common interest that may arise in various fora.
3. With a view to fostering trade and investment expansion between the private sectors of MERCOSUR and Singapore, the Parties shall favour, particularly, regular exchange of views on trade and investment opportunities and other promotion initiatives, including through business level contacts, in accordance with the Plan of Action.

3. Consultative Group

1. The Parties shall establish a Consultative Group on Trade and Investment Cooperation (hereinafter referred to as "the Consultative Group"), which will be presided by high-level representatives of the Parties responsible for international trade, or their alternates. In the case of MERCOSUR, the responsible representatives are the Coordinators of the Common Market Group and, in the case of Singapore, a senior trade official from the Ministry of Trade and Industry.
2. The Consultative Group shall meet periodically and convene a meeting once a year to examine and direct the progress of the implementation of the Plan of Action. The meetings of the Consultative Group will take place on a rotation basis in Singapore and any of the Member States of MERCOSUR, or, at the request of either Party, in any other mutually agreed venue. The session of the Consultative Group shall be presided by the country hosting the meeting.

4. Final Clauses

1. Nothing in this Memorandum of Understanding and Plan of Action shall affect the rights and obligations of either Party under any other agreements to which one or both Parties are parties.
2. This Memorandum of Understanding and Plan of Action may be amended if both Parties so agree in writing.
3. Any dispute regarding the interpretation or application of this Memorandum of Understanding and Plan of Action shall be resolved by consultations between the Parties.
4. This Memorandum of Understanding and Plan of Action shall come into effect on the date of signature and shall remain in force until it is terminated by either Party giving written notification to the other Party. The termination shall take effect 180 days after the date of receipt of the written notification by that other Party.

Done in New York on the 24th day of September of 2007, in two originals each in the Spanish, Portuguese and English languages, all texts being equally authentic. In case of difficulties in the interpretation of this Memorandum of Understanding and Plan of Action, the English text shall prevail.


ROBERTO GARCIA MORITAN

For the Argentine Republic


GEORGE YEO

For the Republic of Singapore


JORGE d'ESCRAGNOLLE TAUNAY FILHO

For the Federative Republic of Brazil


RUBEN RAMIREZ LEZCANO

For the Republic of Paraguay


REINALDO GARGANO

For the Oriental Republic of Uruguay

PLAN OF ACTION

1. This Plan of Action constitutes part of the Memorandum of Understanding on Trade and Investment Cooperation between MERCOSUR and Singapore, signed in New York on the 24th day of September of 2007.
2. In accordance with the objectives of the Memorandum of Understanding, this Plan of Action shall include the following areas of main interest:
 - a) Expansion of trade and strengthening of economic cooperation
 - Identification and analysis of factors and measures, including those of third countries, which have an influence on bilateral trade and investment;
 - Formulation of appropriate options and actions with a view to promoting the flow of goods, investments and services;
 - Exchange of best practices in customs procedures;
 - Cooperation in the WTO and other appropriate fora on issues of common interest.
 - b) Trade and investment promotion
 - Information exchange on international trade and trade opportunities in all sectors of the economy;
 - Promotion of the participation of small and medium enterprises in bilateral trade and cooperation;
 - Promotion of trade missions, trade fairs, symposia, conferences and technical presentations;
 - Incentivise the efforts of the private sectors of both Parties in third-country markets;
 - Strengthen cooperation among the official institutions in both Parties that are responsible for the promotion of trade and investment.
3. This Plan of Action shall be reviewed by the Consultative Group as and when necessary.