



## INFOCARD ELANBiz Trade Agreements of Argentina <sup>1</sup>

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**This Infocard provides an overview of Argentina's international trade agreements**

Argentina's economy is commercially linked with the world. The country is one of the representatives of South America in the G-20, founding member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and of the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), and member since 1956 of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Argentina is also a full member of the Mercado Común del Sur (Southern Common Market, MERCOSUR), the customs union where Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Venezuela are also members. Bolivia joined the block recently and is completing the process of its integration. Chile, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru are associated countries. Mercosur is an opportunity for European SMEs: a large market of approximately 295 million people, in a territory of almost 15 million Km<sup>2</sup>. If it was a country, Mercosur would be the 5<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world.<sup>2</sup>

The countries that are members of MERCOSUR negotiate jointly their trade agreements with third countries or with groups of countries. They have signed agreements for Economic complementation with countries of the Latin America region within the framework of the Treaty of Montevideo (1980), which started the Latin American Integration Association, (Asociación Latinoamericana de Integración), ALADI.

At present Mercosur is negotiating an Agreement with the European Union, with components in three aspects: trade, political and cooperation.

### Europe

As a Mercosur member Argentina is also part of the Framework Agreement for Trade and Economic Cooperation signed with the EU in 1995. The Agreement is managed through periodical meetings of the EU-Argentina Committee.

<sup>1</sup> Content information provided in this document, is of general nature only. For more detailed information, events and commercial trade offers as well as commercial business contacts, please contact the Commercial Offices on the member States, the European trade organizations and bilateral chambers of commerce.

<sup>2</sup> Source: website of the Mercosur, [http://www.Mercosur.int/t\\_generic.jsp?contentid=3862](http://www.Mercosur.int/t_generic.jsp?contentid=3862)



The European Union considers Argentina as an important trade partner. Since 2002 trade and investment have been growing, although the business environment in Argentina deteriorated until 2015, largely as a result of Argentina's import restrictions.<sup>3</sup> The new government that took office in 2016 has liberalized the country's foreign trade.

### Association Agreement European Union-Mercosur:

Argentina is part to the current negotiation for an Association Agreement between the EU and Mercosur (more details on Mercosur are given below).

- **Advantages.** An Association Agreement would remove most tariffs and non tariff barriers in the trade between the EU and Argentina and the other members of Mercosur. (**Note:** there is a separate ELANBiz Fact Sheet with focus in this potential Agreement).
- **Background.** The EU and Mercosur negotiate a free trade area for bilateral commerce since April 2000. As of November 2017 the technical meetings at an advanced stage continue between the two blocks

### Latin America and the Caribbean

**Mercosur:** Mercosur is a political and economic agreement between Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Venezuela. On the 17th of July 2015, in its 48th Summit, Mercosur approved the membership of Bolivia as a sixth full member of the block. With the ultimate goal of forming a complete Customs Union, Mercosur aims to promote trade and the fluid movement of goods, services and capital<sup>4</sup>. Other members that are part of the ALADI are invited to participate in the Mercosur meetings to discuss issues of shared interest, related to the political, economic and social integration. They are named Associated Countries: Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and more recently, Guyana and Surinam, and they have voice but not vote in these meetings<sup>5</sup>.

Mercosur has established an Exterior Common Tariff ("arancel externo común") AEC. It has also adopted a coordinated economic and trade position in regional or international fora, and strives for a harmonization of legislation that strengthens its economic integration process.

<sup>3</sup> Source: website of the European Union on trade policies : <http://ec.europa.eu/trade/policy/countries-and-regions/countries/argentina/>

<sup>4</sup> Source : European Commission Trade Policy website, Countries and regions: Argentina

<sup>5</sup> Source: Mercosur website <http://www.mercosur.int>


















As a member of the joint trade policy, Argentina is a signatory country of the agreements entered by Mercosur.

## List of Trade Agreements

The following agreements have been signed. They are denominated “preferential” or “free trade” and they imply different levels of commitment. The tables indicate the dates of signature and of entry into force. ACE: Acuerdo de Complementación Económica (Economic Complementation Agreement)

### In Effect

- **Preferential Agreements<sup>6</sup>**












Agreement/Partner(s)	Date of Signature	Date of Entry into Force	Text of the Agreement	Policy Developments
MERCOSUR - Southern African Customs Union (SACU)	15 December 2008	01 April 2016		
Mexico (ACE N° 6)	24 August 2006	01 January 2007		
Colombia - Ecuador - Venezuela - MERCOSUR (AAP.CE N° 59)	18 October 2004			
MERCOSUR - India	25 January 2004	01 June 2009		n.a.
Uruguay -Auto Sector (ACE 57)	31 March 2003	01 May 2003		n.a.
MERCOSUR - Mexico (ACE N° 55) - auto sector agreement	27 September 2002			
Paraguay (ACE N° 13)	06 November 1992	06 November 1992		n.a.
Chile (AAP.CE N° 16)	02 August 1991	02 August 1991		n.a.
Brazil (ACE N° 14)	20 December	20		n.a.

<sup>6</sup> Source, Organization of American States, SICE database [http://www.sice.oas.org/ctyindex/ARG/ARGagreements\\_e.asp](http://www.sice.oas.org/ctyindex/ARG/ARGagreements_e.asp)



	1990	December 1990		
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- **Free Trade Agreements**

Agreement/Partner(s)	Date of Signature	Date of Entry into Force	Text of the Agreement	Trade Policy Developments
MERCOSUR - Israel	18 December 2007			
MERCOSUR - Peru (ACE 58)	30 November 2005			
MERCOSUR -Bolivia (ACE 36)	17 December 1996	28 February 1997	 	
MERCOSUR -Chile (ACE 35)	25 June 1996	01 October 1996		

- **Free Trade Agreements signed but not in force**

Agreement/Partner(s)	Date of Signature	Text of the Agreement	Trade Policy Developments
MERCOSUR - Egypt	02 August 2010	n.a.	
<b>Economic Association Agreements</b>			
Agreement/Partner(s)	Date of Signature	Text of the Agreement	Trade Policy Developments
MERCOSUR -Colombia	21 July 2017		

### In the process of negotiation

- The main Treaty being negotiated currently is the EU-Mercosur Agreement, mentioned above and also in a separate ELANBiz Info Card.

**This Infocard has been prepared by the expert in Argentina.**



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