Dear President,

As you know, we have always been in favor of ambitious and balanced trade agreements that cover a wide range of areas in both goods and services. The European Union has interest in signing an agreement with Mercosur and we understand that the negotiations are on a good track. We also share the opinion that our trade agreements should create fair conditions for trade and safeguard the interests of the citizens, especially more vulnerable groups.

In this context we would like to express our deep concern on a number of issues concerning the current negotiation with Mercosur including on some sensitive agricultural products.

The question of import into the Union of beef, poultry, sugar and ethanol are particularly sensitive to us. The import quotas currently negotiated for beef imports could threaten this fragile sector in our countries, particularly against the background of the potentially dramatic and negative impact of a disorderly Brexit on EU markets. The cumulative effects of quotas negotiated in various trade agreements signed by the Union can ultimately destabilize production and the agricultural sector. In order to preserve the activity of our farmers and protect our rural economy on the one hand and to guarantee our citizens quality products on the other hand, several elements need to be taken into consideration in the negotiation with Mercosur:

- the quotas currently mentioned for beef, poultry, pork, sugar, and ethanol must not be increased further
- guarantees concerning compliance with the sanitary, phytosanitary, animal welfare and environmental standards in order to have fair production conditions for all food products sold in the European Union, and in particular for quality meat
- certification and control of quotas must be exercised on the importer's side, i.e. on the European Union's side
- a segmentation of quotas between high value-added beef parts and other parts must be achieved, ensuring that the import of high quality parts is kept to a minimum
In addition, due to the vulnerability of those sectors, we would seek reassurances in order to strictly monitor and mitigate the possible negative impact on the agricultural sectors, through e.g. an *ad hoc* safeguard mechanism.

We also need to ensure policy coherence between the EU’s trade policy objectives and its climate change responsibilities, by ensuring that beef and other meat imports fully respect the EU’s environmental norms and standards.

We trust that you will take these essential interests into consideration in your further deliberations on this matter.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of our highest consideration.

Emanuel Macron

Mateusz Morawiecki

Charles Michel

Leo Varadkar