

EU / Latin America Webinars

The Paddy Ashdown Forum (PAF*), in collaboration with the Group of Producing Countries of the Southern Cone (GPS**), and in association with European Liberal Forum (ELF***) as well as RELIAL**** are curating a series of webinars with the purpose to strengthen the ties between Europe and Latin America to promote greater sustainably viable collaboration in agriculture, deforestation, climate change and trade within the context of the EU-MERCOSUR Trade Agreement and the EU New Green Deal.

Introduction

For Europe to meaningfully achieve targets of net-zero, waste and carbon reductions must be delivered via harmonised cross border geopolitical policies to ensure gains in the EU are not then offset elsewhere. It follows, such action will optimise freedom to achieve both the goal of environmental sustainability and ameliorate opportunities of economic growth of the least developed countries to protect their vulnerable population. As a result, to promote sustainable and efficient agri-food systems that guarantee a sufficient food supply for the growing global demand is inherent in any long-term sustainably viable policy.

Accordingly, The Paddy Ashdown Forum have initiated the webinars to explore opportunities within the context of the EU New Green Deal and the new Circular Economy Action Plan. As a result, present improvements to production and consumption cycles that protect the environment as well as preserve and protect economic balance. Hence, create greater trust between Government, institutions and the general public in a post COVID-19 new order. For example, since waste is a major issue, explore how transforming the way we see the agricultural systems can influence both its reduction as well as the cutting of all associated emissions.

Such open dialogue and projects can aid the attainment of net-zero targets that is fair and just for all as well as reduce the dependency, risk and use of chemicals and pesticides, fertilisers or even antibiotics; as new tilling methods such as those promoted by GPS have lower emissions yet protect harvests from pests and diseases.

Consequently, greater cooperation will help promote food safety as well as ensure not just compliance and parity of standards but help reveal avenues to raise the bar on those standards. Hence, we openly work together to seek sustainably viable agricultural practises from upstream and downstream of production and consumption systems to achieve a greater more inclusive circular economy.

Format

In bringing together some of the very brightest and experienced people from South America and the EU to help solve some of the most intractable problems associated with feeding over seven billion people while aiming at a net-zero world, the intention is to curate an initial programme of interdependent webinars that will hopefully lead to collaborative projects.

There will be 4 from South America (currently 3 are described in the appendix). Experts from South America and moderated by an expert from Europe.

The first four will be followed up by four webinars with European Experts and moderated by an expert from South America.

* The Paddy Ashdown Forum is a Think Tank that brings together senior academics and policy makers to produce new thinking on domestic, European and International issues. Work will be disseminated via books, policy papers, reports, workshops, roundtables, seminars and discussions. www.thepaddyashdownforum.org

** GPS is a network of private institutions and experts from the agribusiness sector from Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay (ABPU). The purpose of GPS is to contribute to the integration of the Southern Cone countries and their international projection. GPS seeks to generate and share knowledge through its reports and documents related to its fields of interest. <https://grupogpps.org/swcb/>

*** The European Liberal Forum (ELF) is the official think tank and political foundation of the European Liberal Party, the ALDE Party. Together with 46 member organisations ELF work all over Europe to bring new ideas into political debate, to provide a platform for discussion and to enable citizens to make their voices heard. www.liberalforum.eu

**** The Liberal Network for Latin America, abbreviated to RELIAL, is a network of 42 liberal institutions from 17 Latin American countries. Members of RELIAL include political parties as well as think tanks, foundations and research institutes. Most of the members tend to market liberalism. www.reliat.org

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, CLIMATE CHANGE AND TRADE: A VISION FROM THE MERCOSUR COUNTRIES

WEBINAR #1. JULY 15TH 15:00 – 16:45 CEST

Introduction

Horacio Sanchez-Cabellero, Chair, Grupo de Países Productores del Sur (GPS)

Robert Woodthorpe Browne MBE, Chair, The Paddy Ashdown Forum

Welcome and Opening Remarks to the EU / Latin America Webinar Series

Daniel Kaddik, Executive Director, European Liberal Forum

Sustainability of agricultural systems in the southern cone countries

The Southern Cone countries have a high sustainable production growth potential, based on their natural resource's endowments and on proven technological innovations and competitive business models.

MERCOSUR's countries have massively implemented interesting structural and technological innovations that have increased competitiveness and productivity with production systems which are environmentally friendly. This process has been called "the sustainable intensification strategy". Most of the extensive crop production (cereals and oilseeds) currently conducted in these countries is based on such sustainable intensification strategy, which is also associated with rotations including pastures for extensive livestock production, minimizing the number of tilling operations, and reducing GHG emissions.

Speakers:

Marcelo Regúnaga. Former Secretary of Agriculture of Argentina. Current Academic Director of the Education and Training Program of the Buenos Aires Cereal Exchange. Consultant to national and international organizations (UNDP, OAS, ECLAC, IICA, IDB, WORLD BANK, IFAD, the European Commission, FAO, USAID, CIMMYT and CIAT).

Michael Carroll. Former World Bank official from 1992 to 2012. Current consultant to the World Bank, FAO, IFAD, IICA and CIAT, among others. Member of the Regional Board of the Grassland Alliance.

Moderator: Robert Woodthorpe Browne MBE, Chair, The Paddy Ashdown Forum