

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/web/>

*** 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 #2: JULY 22ND 15:00 – 16:30 CEST

Climate change, agriculture and mitigation policies in the southern cone

Nowadays, it is common to hear that agriculture has a large share in the emissions responsible for climate change. However, looking at sectorial GHGs evolution, we see that the emissions of the Agriculture sector have not increased significantly. In fact, between 1994 and 2014, global agricultural emissions grew 16% (measured in MtCO₂eq.), while emissions from Land-Use Change and Forestry (LUCF) fell 18% during the same period. On the other hand, emissions from Industrial Processes, Bunker Fuels and Energy grew 152%, 63% and 53%, respectively, so that the relative share of Agriculture and LUCF in total GHG emissions dropped in recent years (UNFCCC, 2018).

Even more, looking at shorter periods (2010-2014), we see that while the Agricultural sector continued to exhibit a downward trend in emissions (from an annual growth rate of 0.8% in 2000-2014 to 0.6% a year between 2010 and 2014). But, the Land-Use Change sector reversed its downward trend and increased its emissions once more by 1.06% per annum during that period, which calls for a greater focus on the subject (UNFCCC, 2018).

This clearly does not mean ignoring the impact of agriculture on climate change and it is necessary to continue making efforts to mitigate the emission of GHG in the agriculture sector. In fact, although MERCOSUR only provides the accounts for 4.1% of total global emissions (including LUCF), additional efforts are required to implement effective mitigation and adaptation measures. In fact, the countries of the region have made substantial progress in terms of mitigation, incorporating technologies, promoting modernizations in the legislation (land use, rural cadastro, ABC Program, good agricultural practices, etc.) and commercial (neutral carbon standards, green bonds, etc.).

Speakers:

Martín Fraguío. Professor of agribusiness and bioenergy at the University of San Andrés, ITBA and UTN. Founding member of GPS. Bioenergy consultant. Consultant Member CARI- Argentine Council for International Relations. Former Director MAIZALL- The International Corn Alliance.

Marcello Brito. President of the Brazilian Agribusiness Association (ABAG). Graduated in Food Engineering from UNIFEB de Barretos. MBA in International Trade from FIA / USP and in International Trade Management from IAE / Pierre Mendes University in Grenoble - France.

Moderator: Yulia Stange, Senior Manager, [Client Earth](#) - Climate and Forests Programme.