

## 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.reliat.org)

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

**WEBINAR #3: JULY 29<sup>th</sup> 15:00 – 16:30 CEST**

### **Trade and environment, an inescapable link to global sustainability**

The world is supposed to produce more food using available natural resources efficiently and sustainably while reducing the greenhouse gases emissions (GHGE) per unit produced. These purposes require a careful and integrated approach to the efficient use of land, water and energy, aimed at increasing productivity with production systems which are friendly with the environment.

Trade is also crucial to cope with such a challenge, because regional production and consumption imbalances are, and will be, very relevant. Therefore, a smooth world food trading system should also be a major objective aimed at facilitating food security.

### **Speakers:**

**Martín Piñeiro**, Director of the Agriculture Committee of the Argentine Council for International Relations (CARI), Former General Director of Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Founding member of GPS.

**Susan Martins Cesar de Oliveira**. PhD in International Relations. Professor of the University of Brasilia. Author of numerous books and articles of trade and international relations. Consultant of international organizations.

**Moderator:** Christopher Gleadle, CEO, The Paddy Ashdown Forum