

## 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.

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\* 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.relijal.org](http://www.relijal.org)

**WEBINAR Date: Wednesday September 30<sup>th</sup> 15:00 – 16:30 CEST**

### **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

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

**Robert Woodthorpe Browne MBE, Chair, The Paddy Ashdown Forum**

**The importance of collaboration to meet Climate Change Net-Zero ambitions while protecting vulnerable communities and expanding their opportunities for economic growth to promote climate justice.**

Climate change knows nothing of borders. And the links between climate, sustainable development and human rights are inviolable. Through collaboration we can aspire to meet the needs of addressing climate change and protect vulnerable communities. It follows collaboration is the effective route for equity and justice as well as a tool that can inspire industries to take responsibility to inform better more resilient and sustainably viable governance.

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.

### **Speakers:**

**Hakima El Haite, President Liberal International;** is a member of the executive board of Mouvement Populaire Morocco, former Minister of Environment for the Kingdom of Morocco, she was a major actor in bringing COP22 to Morocco, vice president of COP 21 (Paris Agreement) and appointed as Special Envoy and UN High-Level Champion of the International Climate Conference (COP 22). Advisor to COP26.

**Irina Von Wiese;** former Member of the European Parliament and Vice Chair, EP Human Rights Sub Committee. Formerly, Irina was legal counsel to GSMA and holds a Master of Public Administration from Harvard.

**Moderator: Beatriz Giraudo;** Honorary President of Aapresid, the Argentine Association of Direct Sowing Producers, Agricultural Engineer, producer and advisor, with a Post Graduate Degree in Senior Management in Agribusiness and Food from FAUBA.