



December, 8th 2017

Joint Statement of ABIT and Euratex on the EU-MERCOSUR FTA

European Apparel and Textile Confederation (EURATEX)
Brazilian Textile Industry (ABIT)

EURATEX and ABIT, representing the Textile and Clothing (T&C) industries in both EU and Brazil, welcome the negotiations for an important EU-Mercosur Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

The T&C industry is a vivid and global sector in which we believe Europe and Mercosur countries have a key role to play. Our focus is on high quality products manufactured in a sustainable manner under high standards, be it from an environmental, labor and social point of view.

Euratex and ABIT maintain strong cooperation links since many years and we have always been supportive of the conclusion of an FTA.

Over the last months, we have intensified our talks and we have jointly worked on a wide range of topics related to Textile and Clothing trade namely regulatory cooperation, customs procedures, technical barriers to trade, sustainability requirements etc. Tariffs dismantling and rules of origin have also been very much at the center of thorough and sometimes hard talks.

So that the EU-Mercosur FTA benefit both parties and increase trade and investments of T&C industries of both sides, Euratex and ABIT made efforts to build together a balanced rules of origin considering the structure of our industries. Therefore, we are happy to share a suggestion from the private sector to both governments with our common views on the Product Specific Rules and Tariff Dismantling to be enshrined in the EU-Mercosur FTA.

We strongly hope that the EU-Mercosur Agreement will be concluded as soon as possible, and we call on the negotiators to pay due attention to our recommendations.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Klaus HUNEKE".

EURATEX
President
Klaus HUNEKE

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Fernando PIMENTEL".

ABIT
President
Fernando PIMENTEL