



INVITATION

The State Secretary and Plenipotentiary of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg to the Federal Government, the European Union and for Foreign Affairs, Liv Assmann

kindly invites you to the following event:

Mercosur and the EU: Opportunities, trade-offs, and implementation prospects in uncertain times

on Wednesday, 11 March 2026, at 18:00

(Registration at 17:30)

at the Hanse-Office, av. Palmerston 20, 1000 Brussels

Against the backdrop of a dramatically changing geopolitical environment, the EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement (EMPA) has come to represent far more than a conventional free trade agreement. For Hamburg — shaped by centuries-long trade relations with Latin America and its role as a major European port and “gateway to the world” — the agreement is of particular relevance. In times of shifting global power relations and increasing weaponisation of strategic dependencies, the agreement could be an opportunity for the EU to safeguard its trade and economic interests in times of growing geopolitical uncertainty.

Bringing together experts from the European Commission, the business community, leading think tanks and representatives of Mercosur member states, the event will explore how global trade flows, value chains and logistics corridors may evolve under the EMPA, and, more importantly, what economic and geopolitical role Mercosur can play for the EU in future. Particular attention will also be paid to the limits and inherent trade-offs of the agreement as well as the practical challenges of implementation, including sustainability commitments and industrial policy considerations.

Moreover, the discussion will shed a light on the preparedness of European companies to seize the opportunities arising from the agreement effectively and on recent political dynamics surrounding the EMPA in the European Parliament, also looking at their implications for future free trade agreements.

17:30 **Admission**

18:00 **Start of the event**

Welcome & Opening Speech

Liv Assmann, State Secretary and Plenipotentiary of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg to the Federal Government, the European Union and for Foreign Affairs, Hamburg

Keynote

Paolo Garzotti, Head of Unit for Latin America and the Caribbean DG TRADE, European Commission

Panel Discussion

Paolo Garzotti, Head of Unit for Latin America and the Caribbean DG TRADE, European Commission

Pedro Miguel da Costa e Silva, Ambassador of the Brazilian Mission to the EU

Klemens Kober, Director Trade Policy, EU Customs and Transatlantic Relations, German Chamber of Industry and Commerce, Brussels

Niclas Poitiers, Research Fellow, Bruegel

Moderation

Katrin Pribyl, EU Correspondent, reportrois – The Correspondents' Network

Dinner and networking

21:00 **End of the event**

Please register by Tuesday, 10th March 2026, via email at: events@hanse-office.de

Please note:

- Feel free to forward this invitation to interested colleagues.
- You will receive a confirmation e-mail upon registration. Please bring this with you to the event.

Data protection

Data protection is important to us. More information on: <https://hanse-office.de/datenschutz/> (In German only).

Please note: *Through your participation you agree to your personal data being processed for the purpose of preparing and carrying out the event. This event will be photographed and might be filmed. By participating, you agree to the publication and free use of photos and videos taken at the event. The consent includes publication on TV and recordings, on the web, via print media and social networks.*



HANSE-OFFICE

Joint Representation of the Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg
and the State of Schleswig-Holstein to the EU

Avenue Palmerston 20, B - 1000 Brussels

Phone: +32 2 285 46-40, +49 40 42609-40

E-Mail: events@hanse-office.de

www.hanse-office.de