

## OPEN LETTER

**Subject :** 340+ organisations call on the EU to immediately halt trade negotiations with Brazil

June 17, 2019

Dear President of the European Council,  
President of the European Commission,  
President of the European Parliament,

We, the undersigned civil society organizations, are writing to call on the European Union to use its influence to prevent a worsening human rights and environmental situation in Brazil.

In April, more than 600 European scientists and two Brazilian Indigenous organizations, representing 300 Brazilian Indigenous groups, [called](#) for the EU to act as a global leader in supporting human rights, human dignity and a habitable climate by making sustainability the cornerstone of its trade negotiations with Brazil. We fully support this call.

Bound by the Treaty of the European Union, the EU and its Member States vowed to respect and promote human rights as an overarching objective in its dealings with other countries. Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmström has also clearly [stated](#) the need for new EU trade agreements to deliver sustainable development.

Since the inauguration of Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro in January 2019, we have witnessed increased human rights violations, attacks on minorities, indigenous peoples, LGBTQ and other traditional communities. Moreover, the administration continues to threaten the basic democratic functioning of civil society while instigating a fundamental assault on some of the world's most precious and ecologically valuable regions.

We are deeply concerned about the following:

- Indigenous lands demarcation has been put under the jurisdiction of the [Agriculture Ministry](#), paving the way for [powerful cattle and soy agribusinesses](#) to accelerate their sweep through the Amazon, the world's largest tropical forest and the Cerrado, the world's most biodiverse savannah. Though this controversial measure appears to have been [temporarily reversed](#) in May by the Brazilian Senate, President Bolsonaro may still veto it.
- There has been a dramatic increase in attacks on Indigenous people, other traditional communities and their territories. In February, at least 14 protected

Indigenous territories were [reported](#) to be under attack from invaders. In addition, the government abolished more than 35 national councils of social participation. [Attacks](#) on people defending their territories or natural resources are on the rise in rural Brazil, resulting in increasing deaths of community leaders, peasants and activists.

- Bolsonaro's campaign promise of "[ending any form of activism](#)" was implemented on his first day in office, empowering the government to "supervise, coordinate, monitor and observe the activities and actions of international agencies and non-governmental organisations within national territory."
- Both the [Environment Ministry](#) and the [Foreign Affairs Ministry](#) are now led by deniers of global warming, leading to the abolishment of departments responsible for climate change. Even as Brazil remains a signatory to the Paris Agreement on climate change, it is becoming unlikely that the administration will take the necessary measures to implement the agreement.
- Socio-environmental legislation and policies have been dramatically weakened during the first 100 days of the new government. The Forest Code has been undermined with new measures proposing the reduction of legal reserves and a more flexible deadline for land regularization by landgrabbers. In January 2019, deforestation in the Amazon [reportedly](#) rose by 54 percent compared to the same period in 2018.

[Civil society actors](#), activists, peasants, workers and minorities face extreme dangers from the incendiary rhetoric of the Bolsonaro government and its supporters. This includes his labeling of members of grassroots movements like the Landless Workers Movement and the Movement of Homeless as "terrorists," generating concerns that Brazil's controversial anti-terrorist law will be used to criminalize social activists.

The EU is Brazil's second-largest trading partner overall, second-largest importer of Brazilian soy and a major importer of Brazilian beef and other agricultural products. The EU, therefore, has a responsibility to address human rights and environmental injustices taking place in Brazil under the Bolsonaro government. It must use its leverage to support civil society, human rights and the environment.

The EU is in the midst of negotiating a far-reaching Mercosur trade deal that seeks to expand market access and trade between the two regions, including Brazil. It is imperative that the EU sends an unequivocal message to President Bolsonaro that the EU will refuse to negotiate a trade deal with Brazil until there is an end to human rights violations, strict measures to end further deforestation and concrete commitments to implement the Paris Agreement.

In the past, the EU has suspended trade preferences with countries involved in human rights violations, such as Myanmar and the Philippines. In addition, the EU has restricted imports of products whose production is related to human rights in the case of conflict

minerals. It is time that the EU takes a similar, tough stance to prevent a deterioration of the human rights and environmental situation in Brazil.

We therefore call on you to:

1. Immediately halt negotiations for an EU-Mercosur free trade agreement.
2. Guarantee that no Brazilian products sold in the EU, nor the financial markets underpinning them, are leading to increases in deforestation, land grabbing of native lands or human rights violations.
3. Demand confirmation, with material evidence, that the Brazilian government will fulfill its commitments as part of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.
4. Increase support for Brazilian civil society, including strengthening the implementation of the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy and proactive consultations with Brazilian civil society organisations that address human rights and the democratic functioning of Brazilian civil society.
5. Monitor and respond to human rights violations—including investigating cases since Bolsonaro's election—and strengthen mechanisms to protect human rights defenders. For those most at risk, including Indigenous peoples and environmental defenders, the EU should provide direct and urgent support where required, including through political representations.

Sincerely,

ALBA Movimientos, International  
FIAN International, International  
foodwatch international, International  
GRAIN, International  
Greenpeace, International  
ISP Interamericas, International  
OMCT - World Organisation Against Torture, International  
Plataforma América Latina mejor sin TLC, International  
Alianza Biodiversidad, International  
PSI Public Service International Américas, International  
ACT Alliance EU, Europe  
CIDSE - International family of Catholic social justice organisations, Europe  
Climate Alliance, Europe  
Corporate Europe Observatory , Europe  
EU-LAT Network, Europe  
European Coordination Via Campesina, Europe  
European Environmental Bureau, Europe  
Fern, Europe  
Food & Water Europe, Europe  
Friends of the Earth Europe, Europe  
Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy (IATP) Europe, Europe

S2B network, Europe  
Slow Food Europe, Europe  
Acción por la Biodiversidad, Argentina  
Amigos de la Tierra Argentina, Argentina  
AMUMRA - Asociación Civil de Derechos Humanos Mujeres Unidas Migrantes y Refugiadas en Argentina, Argentina  
Asamblea Argentina mejor sin TLC, Argentina  
ATTAC Argentina, Argentina  
COMUNA (Colectiva en Movimiento por una Universidad Nuestramericana) en el FPDS-CN, Argentina  
Diálogo 2000 - Jubileo Sur Argentina, Argentina  
Frente Patria Grande, Argentina  
Frente Popular Dario Santillan, Argentina  
Fundación Grupo Efecto Positivo, Argentina  
INPADE / FOCO, Argentina  
Resumen Latinoamericano, Argentina  
Vamos- Frente Patria Grande, Argentina  
Anders Handeln, Austria  
Attac Austria, Austria  
Austrian Federal Chamber of Labour/AK Europa, Austria  
Climate Alliance Austria, Austria  
Coordination office of the Austrian episcopal conference for international development and mission (KOO), Austria  
DKA Austria, Austria  
globalista, Austria  
Grüne Bildungswerkstatt NÖ, Austria  
Grupo Encuentro Austria Argentina - GEAA, Austria  
HORIZONT3000, Austria  
Informationsgruppe Lateinamerika (IGLA), Austria  
International Fellowship of Reconciliation Austria, Austria  
Jahoda -Bauer Institut, Austria  
NeSoVe / Network Social Responsibility, Austria  
ÖBV-Via Campesina Austria, Austria  
Parents For Future Vienna, Austria  
proge Union, Austria  
Selbstbestuerungsgruppe Bischof Kräutler, Austria  
transform!at, Austria  
vöwg, Austria  
ELA, Basque Country  
Mugarik Gabe, Basque Country  
TRADENER, Basque Country  
Commission Justice et Paix, Belgium  
11.11.11, Belgium  
Broederlijk Delen, Belgium  
CNCD-11.11.11, Belgium  
Commission Justice et Paix, Belgium  
Entraide et Fraternité , Belgium  
FIAN Belgium, Belgium  
Indignez-Vous, Belgium  
Solidair met guatemala, Belgium

Fundación Solón, Bolivia  
Centar za zivotnu sredinu/ Friends of the Earth Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Justiça nos Trilhos, Brazil  
Movimento dos Atingidos por Barragens - MAB, Brazil  
AMAST RJ, Brazil  
AMAU (Articulação Metropolitana de Agricultura Urbana e Periurbana) , Brazil  
Associação Alternativa Terrazul, Brazil  
Associação para Recuperação e Conservação do Ambiente - ARCA, Brazil  
Campanha Antipetroleira "Nem um poço a mais!", Brazil  
Caritas Arquidiocesana de Brasília, Brazil  
Central Única dos Trabalhadores - CUT, Brazil  
Confederação Nacional dos Trabalhadores em Segurança Social da CUT, Brazil  
Confederação nacional dos trabalhadores na saúde, Brazil  
Convívio Slow Food Parahyba, Brazil  
FASE - Solidariedade e Educação, Brazil  
Fasubra sindical, Brazil  
Federação das Organizações Indígenas do Rio Negro - FOIRN, Brazil  
Federação Nacional dos Enfermeiros , Brazil  
Fórum da Amazônia Oriental - FAOR, Brazil  
Fórum mudanças climáticas e justiça social, Brazil  
Friends of the earth Brazil, Brazil  
Gestos, Brazil  
Grupo semente, Brazil  
INESC - Instituto de Estudos Socioeconômicos, Brazil  
Instituto EQUÍT - Gênero, Economia e Cidadania Global, Brazil  
Instituto Floresta de Pesquisa e Desenvolvimento Sustentável, Brazil  
Instituto madeira vivo - IMV, Brazil  
Jubileu Sul Brasil, Brazil  
Justiça Global, Brazil  
Movimento dos Trabalhadores Sem Terra - MST, Brazil  
Movimento Urbano de Agroecologia - MUDA, Brazil  
OLMA - Observatório Nacional de Justiça Socioambiental Luciano Mendes de Almeida, Brazil  
Operação Amazônia Nativa, Brazil  
REBRÍP- Rede Brasileira pela Integração dos Povos, Brazil  
Rede Jubileu Sul, Brazil  
Slow Food Brasil, Brazil  
Tribunal Populr, Brazil  
Za Zemiata - Friends of the Earth Bulgaria, Bulgaria  
Comité pour les droits humains en Amérique latine - CDHAL, Canada  
Lafede.cat - Organitzacions per a la Justícia Global, Catalunya  
Plataforma Chile mejor sin TLC, Chile  
Coordinación social y política Marcha Patriótica , Colombia  
Marcha Patriotica, Colombia  
Proceso de Comunidades Negras, Colombia  
Zelena akcija / Friends of the Earth Croatia, Croatia  
Friends of the Earth Cyprus, Cyprus  
Ekumenicka akademie, Czech Republic  
Global Aktion, Denmark  
NOAH - Friends of the Earth, Denmark  
Verdens Skove, Denmark

Oficina de Derechos de la Naturaleza, Ecuador  
Colectiva Feminista para el Desarrollo Local, El Salvador  
Fundación de e Estudios para la Aplicación del Derecho -FESPAD, El Salvador  
Fundación de Estudios para la Aplicación del Derecho -FESPAD-, El Salvador  
Friends of the Earth England, Wales and Northern Ireland, England, Wales and Northern Ireland  
Estonian Forest Aid (Eesti Metsa Abiks), Estonia  
Estonian Society for Nature Conservation, Estonia  
Friends of the Earth Finland, Finland  
Friends of the Landless, Finland  
TTIP Network Finland, Finland  
ActionAid France, France  
Aitec, France  
alofa tuvalu, France  
AMAR Brasil, France  
Attac France, France  
Bloom, France  
cedetim/ipam, France  
collectif anti ogm 66, France  
Collectif Causse Méjean - Gaz de Schiste NON !, France  
Collectif Stop TAFTA / CETA, France  
Comité Pauvreté et Politique, France  
Committee in solidarity with Indigenous Peoples of the Americas (CSIA-Nitassinan), France  
Confederation paysanne, France  
Confédération Paysanne Tarn, France  
Emmaüs International, France  
FIDH (International Federation for Human Rights), France  
France Amerique Latine, France  
France Nature Environnement, France  
LDH pays Rochefortais, France  
Le Lien 26, France  
Les Amis de la Terre (Friends of the Earth France), France  
Les Amis du Monde Diplomatique, France  
Les Amis du Mouvement des Sans Terre , France  
MNLE, France  
Parents For Future France, France  
ReAct, France  
Réseau européen pour la Démocratie au Brésil (RED.br), France  
réseau Roosevelt, France  
Sherpa, France  
Solidaires, France  
Veblen Institute, France  
Bizi!, France / Basque country  
AG Recife e.V., Germany  
Agrar Koordination, Germany  
Agrecol e.V., Germany  
Andy Gheorghiu Consulting, Germany  
ARA e.V., Germany  
Arbeitsgemeinschaft bäuerliche Landwirtschaft (AbL), Germany  
Attac Germany, Germany  
Bischöfliches Hilfswerk MISEREOR, Germany

Brasiliengruppe Tübingen, Germany  
Brasilieninitiative Freiburg e.V., Germany  
Brasiliennetzwerk Niedersachsen, Germany  
Bund für Umwelt und Naturschutz Deutschland (BUND) / Friends of the Earth Germany, Germany  
BUND Laichingen, Germany  
Campact, Germany  
Coordination gegen BAYER-Gefahren, Germany  
DEAB e.V., Germany  
Die AnStifter, Germany  
Die AnStifter Stuttgart, Germany  
Dona Flor e.V., Germany  
Eine-Welt-Verein Pachamama Stuttgart, Germany  
Elternseminar Stuttgart, Germany  
Erich Fromm Institute Tuebingen, Germany  
FDCL - Center for Research and Documentation Chile-Latin America , Germany  
FIAN Deutschland, Germany  
Forum Ökologie & Papier, Germany  
GegenStrömung – CounterCurrent, Germany  
Gentechnikfrei21.de, Germany  
German NGO Forum on Environment and Development , Germany  
Health and Environment Justice Support International, Germany  
Informationsbüro Nicaragua e.V., Germany  
Initiative kikuna e.V. - Zukunft Nachhaltig Gestalten, Germany  
just human e.V., Germany  
Kaite-ZIM e. V., Germany  
Kölner Bündnis für gerechten Welthandel, Germany  
Kolumbienkampagne Berlin, Germany  
Kooperation Brasilien e.V., Germany  
Lernen im Aufbruch, Germany  
Mediation and project management agrobiodiversity, Germany  
Naturfreunde Württemberg e.V., Germany  
Naturschutzbund Deutschland, Germany  
Netzwerk Gerechter Welthandel, Germany  
Parents For Future Bensheim, Germany  
Parents for Future Freiburg, Germany  
Parents for Future Stuttgart, Germany  
People for Future Frankfurt, Germany  
POEMA - Armut und Umwelt in Amazonien, Germany  
PowerShift e.V., Germany  
Pro REGENWALD, Germany  
ROBIN WOOD, Germany  
Save Our Seeds, Germany  
Society for Threatened Peoples, Germany  
Stiftung Solidarische Welt - Berta Kühnle, Germany  
Verein für eine gerechte Welt e.V., Germany  
WEED - World Economy, Ecology & Development, Germany  
Welthaus Fürth, Germany  
Weltladen Rottenburg, Germany  
Weltladen-Dachverband e.V., Germany  
Women Engage for a Common Future, Germany

Wuppertaler Aktionsbündnis gegen TTIP und andere Freihandelsfallen, Germany  
Energeno, Germany  
Parents for Future Dortmund , Germany  
Consumer association for quality of life- ekpizo, Greece  
Asociación Comunitaria para el Desarrollo ASERJUS, Guatemala  
Comité de Unidad Campesina, Guatemala  
consejo de investigaciones en desarrollo, Guatemala  
Servicios Jurídicos y Sociales, S.C., Guatemala  
Observatorio Sociolaboral y del Diálogo Social Ecuador , Ecuador  
Plateforme Haïtienne de Plaidoyer pour un Développement Alternatif, Haïti  
DIAKONIA, Honduras  
Clean Air Action Group, Hungary  
Magyar Természetvédők Szövetsége (Friends of the Earth Hungary), Hungary  
My Right To Breathe, India  
An Claíomh Glas, Ireland  
forest friends ireland, Ireland  
Guarani-Kaiowa Solidarity Ireland, Ireland  
Icsa, Ireland  
Irish Cattle & Sheep Farmers' Association , Ireland  
Latin America Solidarity Centre, Ireland  
Leave No Trace Ireland, Ireland  
Peoples Movement - Gluaiseacht an Phobail, Ireland  
Radio Latina, Ireland  
ZWAI, Ireland  
Stop Ceta Alliance , Ireland  
Fair watch, Italy  
Parents For Future - Turin, Italy  
Stop TTIP Italia, Italy  
ASTM (Action Solidarité Tiers Monde), Luxembourg  
Bio-Lëtzebuerg asbl, Luxembourg  
Mouvement Ecologique, Luxembourg  
natur&emwelt a.s.b.l., Luxembourg  
Nature Trust - FEE Malta, Malta  
Unam, Mexico  
Red Mexicana de Acción frente al libre Comercio, Mexico  
Heñói, Paraguay  
Derecho Ambiente y Recursos Naturales DAR, Peru  
Asociación Pro Derechos Humanos (APRODEH), Peru  
CooperAcción, Peru  
La Junta, Peru  
Movimiento Nacional de Mujeres Todas Somos Micaela, Peru  
Red Peruana por una Globalización con Equidad - RedGE, Peru  
Federación de Trabajadores del Agua Potable del Perú - FENTAP- , Peru  
Institute of Global Responsibility (IGO), Poland  
ROZRUCH, Poland  
Associação de Combate à Precariedade - Precários Inflexíveis, Portugal  
Circo de Sonho, Portugal  
Climáximo, Portugal  
Corporations- Zero Tolerance, Portugal  
GEOTA, Portugal



Glocal Faro, Portugal  
Mafra sem Glifosato, Portugal  
MAPA - Movimento de Acção Política, Portugal  
Palombar - Associação de Conservação da Natureza e do Património Rural, Portugal  
Parents For Future Portugal, Portugal  
plataforma algarve livre de petroleo, Portugal  
Porto Sem OGM, Portugal  
Quercus, Associação Nacional de Conservação da Natureza, Portugal  
SOS Racismo Portugal, Portugal  
Teachers for Future, Portugal  
TROCA- Plataforma por um Comércio Internacional Justo, Portugal  
ZERO - Association for the Sustainability of the Earth System, Portugal  
Friends of the Siberian Forests, Russia  
Slow food Salvador, Salvador  
Alternativa republicana, Spain  
Amigas de la Tierra, Spain  
Amigos de la Tierra, Spain  
ASiA- Associació Salut i Agroecologia, Spain  
Attac Spain, Spain  
Campanya Catalunya No als TCI, Spain  
COAG, Spain  
Col.lectiu Agudells, Spain  
CONGD-IB, Spain  
DES DE BAIX (Asociación para el debate y la Acción Ciudadana), Spain  
Ecologistas en Acción, Spain  
Ecologistes en Acció Catalunya, Spain  
Economistas sin Fronteras, Spain  
Enginyeria Sense Fronteres, Spain  
Entrepueblos/Entrepobles/Entrepobos/Herriarte, Spain  
Iniciativa Cambio Personal Justicia Global, Spain  
INTUMA SL, Spain  
ISCOD - Instituto Sindical de Cooperación al desarrollo de UGT, Spain  
Marxa Mundial de Dones-Catalunya, Spain  
Observatorio de Multinacionales en América Latina - Paz con Dignidad, Spain  
Podemos Centro, Spain  
SETEM Catalunya, Spain  
SOLdePaz.Pachakuti, Spain  
SUDS, Spain  
UGT, Spain  
FIAN Sweden, Sweden  
Jordens Vanner, Sweden  
Latinamerikagrupperna // Solidaridad Suecia-América Latina (SAL), Sweden  
Parents For Future Sweden, Sweden  
Bruno Manser Fund, Switzerland  
Centre for Developmet and Environment, University of Bern, Switzerland  
Pro Natura / Friends of the Earth Switzerland, Switzerland  
Solifonds, Switzerland  
Arisa, The Netherlands  
Both ENDS, The Netherlands  
Commons Network, The Netherlands

La Chispa, digitaal platform over Latijns Amerika, The Netherlands  
Milieudefensie - Friends of the Earth Netherlands, The Netherlands  
Platform Aarde Boer Consument, The Netherlands  
Platform Duurzame en Solidaire Economie, The Netherlands  
SOMO, The Netherlands  
Transnational Institute, The Netherlands  
Vrijschrift, The Netherlands  
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom dutch section, The Netherlands  
Banana Link, United Kingdom  
CORE Coalition, United Kingdom  
EcoNexus, United Kingdom  
Farms not Factories, United Kingdom  
Global Justice Now, United Kingdom  
Globalizations journal, United Kingdom  
Health and Trade Network, United Kingdom  
London Mining Network, United Kingdom  
Parents For Future UK, United Kingdom  
Traidcraft Exchange, United Kingdom  
War on Want, United Kingdom  
Rethinking Value Chains , United Kingdom / France  
Forest Peoples Programme, United Kingdom and the Netherlands  
REDES-Amigos del Tierra (FoE) Uruguay, Uruguay