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## VON DER LEYEN CLINCHES EU-MERCOSUR TRADE DEAL, IN FACE OF FRENCH OPPOSITION

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By Peggy Corlin & Aïda Sanchez Alonso

The European Commission and Mercosur countries announced on Friday the conclusion of an agreement creating a free trade area covering 780 million people. However, the deal will have to be sealed by EU member states.

More than twenty years after negotiations began, the European Union and the Mercosur countries ☐ Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay - have finally reached a trade agreement, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced from a summit in Uruguay on Friday.

"Today marks a truly historic milestone," von der Leyen said, adding the deal was "an ambitious and balanced agreement".

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