

Buenos Aires, 25 February 2026

European Parliament

**Dear President,
Roberta Metsola**

**Dear Secretary-General,
Alessandro Chiocchetti**

**Dears Vice Presidents,
Martin Hojsik
Nicolae Ștefănuță**

Dear Members,

We, the undersigned civil society organizations of Argentina, respectfully address you to express our serious concern regarding legislative developments taking place today in the Argentine National Congress in the context of the ratification of the EU–Mercosur Association Agreement.

While Congress is expected to approve the Agreement, it is simultaneously advancing a modification to National Glacier Protection Law No. 26,639. The proposed amendment would substantially weaken the existing level of protection afforded to glaciers and periglacial environments—strategic ecosystems that constitute essential freshwater reserves and are critical for climate stability and environmental resilience.

The proposed reform raises serious constitutional concerns. In particular, it alters the distribution of competences established by the Argentine Constitution regarding minimum environmental protection standards, thereby undermining the federal environmental framework defined by constitutional mandate.

In addition, the amendment represents a clear regression in environmental protection standards. In Argentina, the principle of non-regression has been incorporated through binding international environmental and human rights agreements, which possess constitutional or supra-legal hierarchy within the domestic legal order. Weakening existing environmental safeguards is therefore incompatible with those international commitments.

Proceeding with such a regression while ratifying an international agreement that contains binding environmental obligations would also place Argentina in breach of Article 26.2.3 of the EU–Mercosur Agreement, which expressly provides:

“No Party shall weaken the levels of protection afforded in its environmental or labor law and regulations with the intention of encouraging trade or investment.”

Approving a legislative amendment that lowers environmental protection standards in the very moment of ratifying the Agreement is incompatible with both the letter and the spirit of this provision.

We respectfully urge the European Parliament, in exercising its consent and oversight functions, to take these developments into careful consideration when assessing Argentina’s compliance with its environmental obligations under the Agreement. Trade integration must not advance at the expense of environmental integrity, legal certainty, and adherence to international commitments.

We remain at your disposal to provide further information and documentation regarding these legislative changes and their implications.

Yours sincerely,

María Eugenia Testa
Executive Director
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Andrés Nápoli
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Matías Asun
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Nicolás Oswald
President
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