



Universidade  
Estadual de  
Maringá



EDITORA DA UNIVERSIDADE  
ESTADUAL DE MARINGÁ

Recebido: 21/12/2024

Aprovado: 05/03/2025

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.4025/rcj-uem.v8i1.74946>

This work is licensed under [CC BY-NC 4.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/)

Como citar este artigo:

CRUBELLATE, Julia; APARICIO, Adriana Biller.  
Environmental issues from a “green” deputy in  
the european union: anna cavazzini’s point of  
view. **Revista de Ciências Jurídicas UEM**,  
Maringá, v. 08, n. 01, e0008, jan./abr. 2025.

ARTIGO:

## ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES FROM A “GREEN” DEPUTY IN THE EUROPEAN UNION: ANNA CAVAZZINI’S POINT OF VIEW

**Julia Crubellate**

Mestrada, ENS Lyon.

Lyon - Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes - França.

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9460-8265>

<https://lattes.cnpq.br/4481626564114831>

[crubellatej@gmail.com](mailto:crubellatej@gmail.com)

**Adriana Biller Aparicio**

Doutora, UFSC. Professora, UEM.

Maringá – Paraná – Brasil.

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4656-3365>

<http://lattes.cnpq.br/3179269195734316>

[dri\\_biller@yahoo.com.br](mailto:dri_biller@yahoo.com.br)

**ABSTRACT:** Society has never been as connected and globalized as it is today. Neither do its problems. For this reason, it is imperative that these issues are also tackled collectively. Using the deductive methodology, as well as an oral interview conducted with the member of the European Parliament, Deputy Anna Cavazzini, the present work seeks to analyze the social engagement through the social movement Right to Repair and the rescue of the discussion about the agreement between Mercosur and the European Union. It is concluded that citizens, especially the youth, have shown greater concern with the environment and the global economy, participating in and influencing governmental decisions.

**Keywords:** Environment. Economy. Mercosur. Europe. Society.

## INTRODUCTION

In a globalized world, which is constantly facing problems that no longer affect States individually, but everyone as a community, it is imperative that solutions are also taken collectively. Problems such as climate change, food shortages, the production of electronic waste, the mass production of carbon and other greenhouse gases, among others, affect the planet in a generalized way, however, cause more harmful consequences in countries with precarious economic and social structures, affecting populations that are already in a situation of vulnerability<sup>1</sup>. Considering this global context, the question arises: how has society, especially the youth, sought to face these issues?

Therefore, using the deductive method, through the analysis of articles and reports, as well as through an interview with the deputy Anna Cavazzini, member of the European Parliament and responsible for the international economic relations, predominantly in the relations between the European Union and Brazil in the European Parliament, the present work aimed to ascertain some of the responses given by the international community in relation to climate change, taking into account two specific events: the Right to Repair movement and the economic agreement between Mercosur and the European Union.

This interview was conducted by the Brazilian Master's student Julia Crubellate, currently in the process of obtaining her degree in Migrations at the École Normale Supérieure de Lyon, in France, and under supervision of the Brazilian PhD Professor Adriana Biller Aparicio, presently in a post-doctorate internship at the Constitutional Studies' Centre at the University of Talca, in Chile.

Thus, through the vision and work carried out by the Member of the European Parliament (MEP), the foundations of the Right to Repair movement will be evaluated, as well as the improvements already achieved and the role of the youth, especially students, in the mobilizations in favour of the approval of laws that endorse this consumerist policy.

In addition, the agreement between Southern Common Market (Mercosur) and the European Union (EU), currently still under discussion, will also be analysed, bringing the vision of deputy Cavazzini, an active part in the discussion and consolidation of this cooperation, as well as the links between it and Brazil and how she sees the new domestic and foreign policy of this country.

Therefore, the present work will address in a legal way some agreements between States, using International law to do so. Finally, in the economic sphere, it will address issues related to production and

---

<sup>1</sup>Regarding climate change and countries inequity, the United Nation assured that "[...] the representative of Tajikistan noted that unprecedented climate impacts are disproportionately burdening developing countries [...] Greece's delegate lamented that climate change is not only affecting present and future generations, but is detrimentally affecting the past, history and heritage of nations [...]." (UN PRESS).

consumption chains, as well as foreign trade and the great economic agreement between the European and South American blocs.

At the end, it will be possible to identify that the solution for complex current issues, such as climate change and the economic and social crises, through Anna Cavazzini's point of view, must be decided by citizens, especially with the participation of young people, throughout engagement in social movements and politics.

## 1 A BRIEF PRESENTATION ON DEPUTY ANNA CAVAZZINI AND THE UE PARLIAMENT

Nowadays, environmental issues have been gaining more and more space in the political and economic agendas of the States. Climate crises, global warming, exacerbated production of disposable goods, disposal and recycling of electronic goods, consumption cycle, are subjects that are part of citizens' daily lives, whether through journalistic articles, social movements or political discussions.

Conscious governors and legislators have increasingly mobilized in order to listen to the growing demands of citizens dissatisfied with the widespread conduct of States and the disregard for climate agendas and how this is already affecting and will increasingly affect the future of these generations.

Thus, in order to learn more about the European green agendas, as well as the relationship that this bloc has with Mercosur, especially on environmental and economic issues, an interview was conducted with deputy Anna Cavazzini, deputy for the Green Party of Germany.

With a degree in political science, deputy Cavazzini was interested in issues related to the environment, social justice and politics from an early age. After finishing her studies, she spent a period of 1 (one) year in Mexico, in a volunteer program, where she began to effectively engage in political causes in the face of the problems she perceived there, such as gender inequality and the influences that the international economy exerts on countries:

In Mexico, several farmers have gone bankrupt as a result of cheap imports from the United States with highly subsidized products [...] so many of these farmers and migrants go from Mexico to the United States. (Cavazzini, 2023, verbal information).

She soon joined the Green Party<sup>2</sup>, having also worked for various non-governmental organizations along the way, such as the German Foreign Affairs Ministry and the United Nations in New York.

---

<sup>2</sup> The Green Party, or European Greens, is a transnational European party representing national parties from across the continent who are committed to the basic tenets of the party's politics, such as environmental responsibility, climate action, individual freedom, inclusive democracy, diversity, social justice, gender equality, global sustainable development and non-violence. It was founded in 2004, and nowadays counts 53 members (27 women and 26 men) from 17 countries and 3 regions (THE GREENS EFA).

In 2019, she decided to run for the position of member of the European Parliament, receiving the support of the population that elected her to one of the 705 (seven hundred and five) seats in the Parliament at that time, thus becoming a representative of the German population within the European court.

The EU Parliament is one of the two legislative bodies of the European Union and is responsible for adopting European legislation, together with the Council of the European Union (also known as the Council of Ministers). It is composed of 720 members, directly elected by the European citizens, through universal suffrage, every five years. Its headquarters are located in Strasbourg, France. Plenary sessions are normally held in Strasbourg for four days a month, but sometimes there are additional sessions in Brussels, while the Parliament's committee meetings are held primarily in Brussels, Belgium (European Union, 2024).

The last EU Parliament election took place on 6-9 June 2024 and deputy Anna Cavazzini was re-elected (Europarl, 2024).

Currently, she works with international economic relations, predominantly in regards of the relations between the European Union and Brazil, but also in internal market issues.

Her interest in Brazil sprouted from her experience in Latin America, while in Mexico, and took roots while working as an MEP for the relations with Brazil:

I have to say and admit that I had never been to Brazil before I decided working on Brazil. I think it was definitely one reason that I lived in Mexico and had a connection to Latin America as a whole and decided to work on that region [...] so my love for Latin America [...] (Cavazzini, 2023, verbal information).

She also decided to take on the challenge of protecting the Amazon Rainforest, one of the most important biodiversity systems in the world, while the country that hosts the majority of its extension, nearly 60%, or three-fifths (WWF, 2022), which is Brazil, was under the rule of a right-wing president, known for its anti-ecological agenda, as she stated: "I already knew that people would need support and solidarity, like NGOs and indigenous people, so I just found the challenge interesting to work under those circumstances".

Nevertheless, her work is not restricted to the protection of the biodiversity, as she is also committed to making ecological changes to the economic system, such as the circular economy policy, one of the flagships of her mandate.

## 2 DEPUTY ANNA CAVAZZINI'S CURRENT ISSUES IN THE PARLAMENT

As presented before, Anna Cavazzini's has shown interested on the main concerns of our time. At this moment, it will be analysed two of these important questions: her engagement at the Right to Repair

Movement and the Agreement between Southern Common Market (Mercosur) and the European Union (EU).

On June 2024<sup>3</sup>, the Commission adopted a proposal that will give more than 450 million EU consumers access to the right to repair, as well as facilitate access to information on repair options:

With the climate crisis and the increasing exploitation of our limited natural resources, we must rethink our economy. It is time to shift the consumption paradigm from a linear chain into a circle – one in which resources are reused, products repaired, and waste recycled (Cavazzini, 2023 b).

Thus, the Right to Repair movement provides for a greater guarantee of consumers' rights over their own products, especially to repair or modify them independently, in contrast to planned obsolescence.

This movement is also related to the environment as it assures a reduction of consumption, as it enables products to have a longer life, decreasing the amount of waste that comes from easily breakable and irreparable objects, such as the ones produced massively nowadays.

This is because the practice of planned obsolescence is seen today as abusive, since companies control the processes from manufacturing to the maintenance of devices, making inaccessible, or above the necessary price, measures to repair devices that often still have a long useful life, but which end up being discarded because they do not allow the proper repair.

This attitude of the industry contributes to the generation of huge amounts of electronic waste that is difficult to recycle, as well as scarcity of natural resources, such as the ores used in the batteries and casings of electronic devices, pollution from the decomposition of their chemical compounds, as well as degradation of the environment for the extraction of raw material to build these objects.

This discussion takes place mainly in the political sphere, since the regulation of this right must be done through laws that oblige manufacturers to adapt their production line in order to produce goods that allow repair quickly, easily and cheaply.

These social and legislative changes are possible thanks to the actions of the citizens themselves, who feel aggrieved by not being able to repair their devices and, therefore, create associations, protests, sign petitions and participate in public hearings demanding their rights as consumers.

---

<sup>3</sup> The legislation can be found under the name of: "DIRECTIVE (EU) 2024/1799 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 13 June 2024 on common rules promoting the repair of goods and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/2394 and Directives (EU) 2019/771 and (EU) 2020/1828".

Protests in Brussels, Belgium<sup>4</sup>, Germany and the United States of America, to name a few countries, by groups such as “Schraube Locker?!” in Germany and the European Environmental Bureau (EEB), are being successful in pressuring the politicians to approve changes in European and American legislations that bring the right to repair into focus.

Simple changes, such as making extra parts available to consumers to repair damaged ones, creating products that allow consumers to repair them themselves by using simple tools, are small steps in a long process that leads to a more sustainable chain of consumption.

The German group has managed to gather more than 100,000 (one hundred thousand) signatures on a petition aimed at encouraging German lawmakers to vote on laws that focus on the repair institute.

The role of young people, especially students, in these movements is also essential. Deputy stated during the interview:

The last European elections, for example, in 2019, were really made into climate elections because there were so many young people on the streets and because of that, our current EU commission president, Ursula Von der Leyen, she made the EU Green Deal as her main priority and this would have never happened without the student's movement and the EU Green Deal is the biggest climate package in the world (Cavazzini, 2023, verbal information).

As the deputy mentioned, the European Green Deal, displayed by the European Parliament's president, Ursula von der Leyen in 2019, is the biggest climate package in the world and it strives to make Europe the first climate-neutral continent (COMMISSION EUROPA). By ensuring the end of emissions of greenhouse gases by 2050, the economic growth decoupled from resource use and putting people at the core of the transition, this Deal will also restore biodiversity, address pollution, and make efficient use of resources.

This is also true for economical agreements being discussed between countries, which are taking the protection of the environment into account, due to social movements, such as the youth and the students' ones. This is possible to observe in the “new” agreement between Mercosur and the European Union, which was supposed to be finalized in 2023 and saw its negotiations starting in 1999.

According to Alexia Lucia da Silva *et al.* (2020), The European Union is Mercosur's number one trade and investment partner, exporting a total of 45 (forty-five) billion euros in products in 2021 and 17 (seventeen) billion euros in services in 2020.

---

<sup>4</sup> On Monday, December 10, 2018, protestors gathered outside of the Albert Borschette Conference Centre in Brussels. They'd brought an “unhappy” refrigerator with them. Inside the building, European Union member states had gathered to vote on changes to the EU's Eco Design and Energy Label Directives — a set of policies and laws governing the safe manufacture of various appliances (Gault, 2018).

In turn, Mercosur is the fifth largest economy outside the Union, with a population of more than 260 (two hundred and sixty) million people, generating annual income of more than 2.2 trillion euros.

Currently, more than 850 (eight hundred and fifty) thousand jobs in Europe are related to exports to Brazil, and Mercosur companies employ more than 30 (thirty) thousand people in this continent.

In addition, Alexia Lucia da Silva *et al.* (2020) adds that Europe is the largest foreign investor in Mercosur, with shares worth 330 (three hundred and thirty) billion euros in 2020. Therefore, the two groups have a substantial and mutually beneficial relationship.

However, there are some barriers in this relation, such as protectionism, national and global security problems, financial crises, governmental differences between the blocs, lack of integration of Mercosur and even changes in trade policy, factors that hinder the development of trade negotiations between the economic blocs.

Thus, the objectives of the agreement signed between the European Union and the four founding countries of Mercosur, namely Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay and Argentina are: to increase bilateral agreements and investments, reducing tariffs or even eliminating them, especially for small and medium-sized companies; create more stable and predictable rules for investments; promote common values, such as sustainable development, workers' rights, the fight against climate change, among others.

It will become easier for Mercosur to export to the European Union, as long as high European trade standards are respected. In addition, the agreement will help integrate Southern industries into the highly innovative European value chain, as well as make them more competitive, making Southern market countries less dependent on commodity exports and diversifying their economies by producing products and services with higher added value.

In this vein, the European Commission (20[?]), responsible for the agreement, argues that “[...] the trade deal will give more opportunities for Mercosur citizens to be able to provide their services in the EU, including on a temporary basis through their physical presence in EU countries, including through business contracts or as independent professionals”.

Therefore, the exchange of goods, services and knowledge, including the movement of people<sup>5</sup> between the two blocs, is considered to facilitate this exchange.

The agreement aims to address the following issues: 1) Remove tariffs imposed by Mercosur on the entry of European products; 2) Boost the export of European products to Mercosur; 3) Show the world that

---

<sup>5</sup> It's important to point out that regarding the movement of people, it is meant the exchange of specialised labour force between the two blocks, as stated in the program: “The trade deal will give more opportunities for Mercosur citizens to be able to provide their services in the EU, including on a temporary basis through their physical presence in EU countries, including through business contracts or as independent professionals” (EUROPEAN COMMISSION, 2024). However, given the rise in nationalist movements across Europe and the adoption of protectionist laws, as opposed to more globalised ones, it is hardly conceivable that the deal will make it easier for people from both blocks to freely move between them.

the European Union and Mercosur reject protectionism; 4) Pursue a trade agenda based on human and ecological values.

In relation to point 4, the agreement currently aims to build a common trade agenda focused on environmental issues, such as the protection of nature, including the fight against climate change and deforestation, protection of animal welfare and the protection of labour's rights.

As stated by the parliamentarian, the agreement, which dates back more than 20 (twenty) years, was actually finalized during the period of Bolsonaro's government, a time when deforestation and forest fires reached a historical average in the Amazon and other biomes around Brazil.

Thus, concerned that this agreement could guarantee unrestricted access for large companies to biomes that have already been deforested, as well as greater ease in exporting products from destroyed areas, her party acted so that the implementation of the agreement did not take place at that time and under those conditions.

Now, the Greens are working to renegotiate the agreement with terms and clauses that ensure environmental protection and sustainability, since "for me is a precondition to say that we have to make sure that exports to the EU Union don't lead to more deforestation because this would be extremely bad" (Cavazzini, 2023, verbal information).

Although the agreement provides many benefits to both parties, concluding it and actually putting it into effect will not be an easy task.

Sectors such as agriculture and industry in countries such as France<sup>6</sup> and Belgium<sup>7</sup> resist signing the agreement, on the grounds that it would harm their incomes, since Mercosur has a "highly competitive commodity market, being a global leader in green technologies, such as biofuel, for example" (Arbache, 2023).

In addition, Uruguay and Paraguay have electricity matrices that are practically 100% green, while Brazil's is 85% green and Europe's is only 39%. As a result, Mercosur attracts companies that want to associate their production with green, safe, cheap and abundant energy.

Other than that, according to Jorge Arbache (2023), the South region has the potential to produce green hydrogen at competitive prices by global standards, has large reserves of critical minerals for the new economy and is a huge potential for the bioeconomy, given its natural richness in fauna and flora.

---

<sup>6</sup> France is known for its traditional and intense agriculture, which has posed many barriers to the new agreement: "France is intensifying its opposition to a trade deal between the European Union and the South American Mercosur bloc as farmers protest across the country partly on concern about foreign competition" (Bloomberg, 2024).

<sup>7</sup> Similarly to France, Belgium also blocks the agreement due to the fear of opening to a more competitive market: "Walloon farmers protested this weekend as part of the *Trop is te veel* (Too much is too much) campaign, led by the Walloon Federation of Agriculture (FWA), to denounce the 'suffocating' situation in which they currently find themselves" (Gayet, 2024).



Therefore, looking only at the short term, the agriculture and industry sectors of some European countries are resistant to the agreement, given the competitiveness of Mercosur prices and products in the European market, especially when the taxes are removed.

However, they fail to appreciate the possibilities of such cooperation as a source of solutions for decarbonisation and famine, for example, while also benefiting companies in various sectors, in the long term, enabling European environmental compliance effectively and quickly.

On the other hand, in order for Mercosur to realize its full potential, it is necessary that the trade and the flow of international investments function freely, which is currently not the case. This is due to the protectionism, discrimination, massive subsidies and skewed technical norms and standards of developed countries that create obstacles to this trade.

Although there is still much to be done, there are some changes brought by the current Brazilian government, under Lula's presidency, to the environmental and international scenario in Brazil that show a shift back to multilateralist policy, once a clear hallmark of Brazilian diplomacy.

Deputy Cavazzini states that bilateral agreements have increased and improved, and the interest shown by other countries in relation to Brazil has grown considerably: "The last time I was in Brazil, even the minister of foreign affairs told me that they are not able to handle all the visits" (Cavazzini, 2023, verbal information).

This demonstrates the interest that Europe has in working together with Brazil, an opportunity that should be seized to develop more sustainable and environmentally correct methods, building solid foundations so that in future governments the environment continues to be protected.

Finally, the deputy left a message to students who feel discouraged regarding the low engagement of countries in the fight against climate change:

I would say that although, as you said, things are too slow and there's too much still of a lobby against phasing out fossil fuels and there's too many people who don't want to change anything in their personal lives, that we are really making big steps forward and this is also due to the youth and the young climate movements [...] the EU Green Deal [...] it really lead to tons of tons of CO2 reduction and is it enough?, probably not, but it's really a huge step in the right direction and it was really mainly due to the students and at the moment I see a huge backlash going on in the EU, which is very unfortunate, so it is important that still keep up pushing and calling their members of parliaments, going to the street because it has a huge impact in all of it, and if it's not there than we can see that the backlash can be easily done by the lobby, for example, by the lobby, the right-wing and so on. So as an individual student you have a lot of influence (Cavazzini, 2023, verbal information).

The relevance that citizens have in proposing laws that aim to combat climate change and the production of electronic waste is notorious, whether through demonstrations and protests, or through

active participation in the legislative scenario, as is the case of the Deputy Cavazzini. In addition, cooperations between economic blocs are increasingly necessary, since isolated solutions decided by individual states are not enough to solve global problems.

Thus, it is gratifying to realize that progressively more people are engaging and seeking solutions to deal with the current economic, environmental and social dilemmas and although there is still a long way to go, it is with small steps that we get there.

## CONCLUSÕES

Considering the above, it is concluded that the solution found by citizens, especially students, to face climate change and the economic and social crises resulting from it is to engage in social movements, through protests.

These protests have advanced the agenda of the Right to Repair, a movement that seeks better repair conditions and greater durability for electronic goods, such as household appliances and telephone devices, in order to reduce the consumption of raw materials and the production of waste.

The pressure exerted by the people has also contributed to the approval of legislations aimed to protect the environment and to fight against global warming, combining economic and social development with nature conservation.

Even agreements that were already underway, such as the economic agreement between the European Union and Mercosur, are being shaped to adapt to current demands regarding sustainable development and the social protection of populations.

It was also found that international cooperation is indispensable to achieve the objectives presented above, and that this cooperation benefits the international community in general.

Therefore, when discussing agreements as the one between the two economic blocs, involving two strong economic partners and with the participation of legislators, such as Deputy Cavazzini and civil society actors, the importance that political and societal actors have in proposing agreements that benefit several States is consolidated, reinforcing the need for student and societal engagement to face increasingly pressing issues.

## REFERÊNCIAS

ARBACHE, Jorge. **The Mercosur-EU agreement and decarbonization**. Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean. 14<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2023. Available at: <<https://www.caf.com/pt/conhecimento/visoes/2023/12/o-acordo-mercosul-ue-e-a-descarboniza%C3%A7%C3%A3o/?parent=6783>>. Accessed on: 06<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2024.

CAVAZZINI, Anna. **Interview given to Julia Crubellate**. Maringá/BR – Brussels/BE, 13 December 2023 (the interview is in the appendix of the present article).

CAVAZZINI, Anna. Repairing the circle: Why consumers and companies benefit from a circular economy. **The Parliament Magazine**. 16 Jun. 2023 b. Available at: <<https://www.theparliamentmagazine.eu/news/article/right-to-repair-consumers-companies-benefit-circular-economy>>. Accessed on: 06<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2024.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION. **The EU-Mercosur agreement explained**. 20[?]. Available at: <[https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/mercosur/eu-mercosur-agreement/agreement-explained\\_en](https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/eu-trade-relationships-country-and-region/countries-and-regions/mercosur/eu-mercosur-agreement/agreement-explained_en)>. Accessed on: 06<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2024.

EUROPEAN UNION. **The European Green Deal**: A growth strategy that protects the climate. Available at: <[ec.europa.eu/stories/european-green-deal/](https://ec.europa.eu/stories/european-green-deal/)>. Accessed on: 15<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2024.

GAULT, Matthew. **Protesters are slowly winning electronics right-to-repair battles in Europe**. Deputy. 2019. Available: <<https://www.vice.com/en/article/9k487p/protesters-are-slowly-winning-electronics-right-to-repair-battles-in-europe>>. Accessed on: 06 Feb. 2024.

GAYET, Anne-Sophie. **Farmers' protests slowly spread to Belgium**. Euractiv: 2024. Available at: <<https://www.euractiv.com/section/politics/news/farmers-protests-slowly-spread-to-belgium/>>. Accessed on: 06<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

RUBIO, María José; VARAS, Jesús. **El análisis de la realidad en la intervención social: métodos y técnicas de investigación**. 3. ed. Madrid: CCS, 2004.

SILVA, Aírton Marques da. **Metodologia da pesquisa**. 2.ed. rev. Fortaleza, CE: EDUECE, 2015.

SILVA, Alexia Lucia da, *et al.* **European Union and Mercosur: an analysis of challenges and opportunities**. Digital Scientific Publisher. 17 Nov. 2020. Available at: <<https://downloads.editoracientifica.org/articles/200901464.pdf>>. Accessed on: 06 Feb. 2024.

UN PRESS. **Unprecedented impacts of climate change disproportionately burdening developing countries, delegate stresses, as second committee concludes general debate**. Geneva, Switzerland, 2019. Available at: <<https://press.un.org/en/2019/gaef3516.doc.htm>>. Accessed on: 06<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

VALERO, Jorge. **France Steps up opposition to EU-Mercosur trade deal**. Bloomberg, 2024. Available at: <<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/newsletters/2024-01-30/supply-chain-latest-eu-mercosur-trade-deal-hits-a-snap>>. Accessed on: 06<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

VERGARA, A. *et al.* **Living Amazon report 2022**. Quito, Ecuador: WWF, 2022. Available at: <<https://www.wwf.org.uk/sites/default/files/2023-01/Living%20Amazon%20Report%202022.pdf>>. Accessed on: 06<sup>th</sup> March 2024.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. **Directive (EU) 2024/1799 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 June 2024 on common rules promoting the repair of goods and amending Regulation (EU) 2017/2394 and Directives (EU) 2019/771 and (EU) 2020/1828**. Brussels, Official Journal of the European Union. 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

## APPENDIX

**QUESTION:** Can you do a brief presentation about yourself? Your career, your interests, your educational path?

**ANSWER:** Sure. Hi, my name is Anna Cavazzini, I'm a Green member of the European Parliament from Germany. In the EU Parliament I work on the international affairs, on the international economic affairs, most dominantly on the relationship between the EU and Brazil but also on the internal market matters. That is all the legislation shaping the EU internal market and I'm chairing this committee. I'm elected since 2019, and before that I was working in several non-governmental organizations for the German foreign affairs ministry, for the UN Nations in NY and also for the Eu Parliament myself a long time ago. I'm a trained political scientist.

**QUESTION:** What made you choose this career of politician and also working for the environment?

**ANSWER:** After school went to live for one year in Mexico as a volunteer and I think there I started to really become more political because of all the problems that I saw, injustice, poverty, but also, for example, the huge gender inequality and what kind of influence international economic relations have on the country, for example in Mexico, so many farmers went bankrupt because of the cheap imports from the US with highly subsidized products, than lots of migrants going from Mexico to the US. That's why I still work on basically globalization issues, because this made me very clear that we have a lot of problems. Equally, when I was younger I was just very personally choked and emotionally attached from environment degradation of our world, that's why I joined the Green Party quite early when I started studying because I wanted to do change something and change the world to the better and that's why I started with the Greens and ultimately decided to run myself front office because working in an NGO or for the government is great but you always have like weird bosses or other structures in which you have to work, ties with the government as well.

**QUESTION:** Throughout your career, why did you decide to have this relationship with Brazil, especially in the Parliament, as you're the parliament's delegate for the relations with Brazil?

**ANSWER:** I have to say and admit that I had never been to Brazil before I decided working on Brazil. I think it was definitely one reason that I lived in Mexico and had a connection to Latin America as a whole and decided to work on that region, and not on Africa, Asia or whatever, so my love for Latin America, but then I also found it very interesting to have this combined challenge of having the Amazon Rainforest as one of the most important biodiversity systems in the world and has a horrible right-wing president where I already knew that people would need support and solidarity, like NGOs and indigenous people, so I just found the

challenge interesting to work under those circumstances. Brazil is probably the most important country in Latin America, so that was ultimately the reason.

**QUESTION:** Now you've been to Brazil, right?

**ANSWER:** Yes, several times, but never to the South.

**QUESTION:** How do you see the relationship between Brazil and Europe? Especially environmentally?

**ANSWER:** It really changed, of course, so much after Bolsonaro was voted out and after Lula took office. I think the situation before was really, really dire and then a lot of people had a lot of hope that with Lula everything changes, and I think that now we are at a stage where we see there is a lot of change. Bilateral relations have improved a lot, and you can see it also on how many heads of states and governments went to the inauguration for example, and visited Brazil since then. I think there's like minister, over minister, after minister. When I was last time in Brazil, even the foreign ministry told me that even they can't handle all the visits. This also shows that the interest in Europe working together with Brazil has completely changed now and there's a very strong will to improve the relations and to get closer again. I think that all of this is really great. I think structurally, of course, and this is also why I worked a lot on the Mercosur agreement. For me is always important how you cooperate. Do you cooperate still on the old more extractivist model, or do you cooperate in a more forward-looking green sustainability sense and the structures are important, because the Lula government might not always be in government and who knows what happens next. So, it's important to have the right structures in place for this cooperation.

**QUESTION:** Could you briefly describe this new Mercosur agreement and tell us if it's only on an economic level, how it's going?

**ANSWER:** I mean, the Mercosur agreement, as you know, started really more than 20 years ago and was interestingly finalized under Bolsonaro basically, shortly after I got elected into the Parliament, that was also the summer where deforestation rate and the fires in the Amazon and other biomes were on a record high, so for me even one of the first things after I got elected to the EU Parliament was trying to stop this agreement because I was really afraid that it would lead to more exports of beef and soy and whatever, plus with government it was basically giving a blank check to all these big business to destroy the whole forest, that would be a very bad mixture. Successfully we put the agreement on hold like in the fridge and now we as Greens in the EU Parliament, but also as the whole Parliament, really pushed for some kind of renegotiations to strengthen the sustainability angle and this is where we stand at the moment and we kind of have to see it in the end if it's really strong the sustainability angle or not strong enough, but really for

me is a precondition to say that we have to make sure that exports to the EU Union don't lead to more deforestation because this would be extremely bad.

**QUESTION:** What would you say to somebody, especially students, that is disappointed with how the countries are dealing with climate change right now? Something to encourage them.

**ANSWER:** I would say that although, as you said, things are too slow and there's too much still of a lobby against phasing out fossil fuels and there's too many people who don't want to change anything in their personal lives, that we're really making big steps forward and this is also due to the youth and the young climate movements. The last European elections, for example, in 2019, were really made into climate elections because there were so many young people on the streets and because of that, our current EU commission president, Ursula Von der Leyen, she made the EU Green Deal as her main priority and this would have never happened without the students movement and the EU Green Deal is the biggest climate package in the world, is not the only one, a lot of other countries are having their own kind of policies, but it really lead to a lot of tons of tons of CO2 reduction and is it enough? Probably not, but it's really a huge step in the right direction and it was really mainly due to the students and at the moment I see a huge backlash going on in the EU, which is very unfortunate, so it is important that still keep up pushing and calling their members of parliaments, going to the street because it has a huge impact in all of it, and if it's not there than we can see that the backlash can be easily done by the lobby, for example, by the lobby, the right-wing and so on. So as an individual student you have a lot of influence.

## **QUESTÕES AMBIENTAIS SOB A ÓTICA DE UMA DEPUTADA “VERDE” NA UNIÃO EUROPEIA: A PERSPECTIVA DE ANNA CAVAZZINI**

**RESUMO:** A sociedade nunca esteve tão conectada e globalizada quanto nos dias atuais. Tampouco os seus problemas. Por essa razão, torna-se imprescindível que essas questões também sejam enfrentadas coletivamente. Utilizando a metodologia dedutiva, bem como uma entrevista oral realizada com a deputada do Parlamento Europeu, Anna Cavazzini, o presente trabalho busca analisar o engajamento social por meio do movimento social Right to Repair e o resgate do debate sobre o acordo entre o Mercosul e a União Europeia. Conclui-se que os cidadãos, especialmente os jovens, têm demonstrado maior preocupação com o meio ambiente e a economia global, participando e influenciando as decisões governamentais.

**Palavras-chave:** Meio ambiente. Economia. Mercosul. Europa. Sociedade.

## **CUESTIONES AMBIENTALES DESDE LA PERSPECTIVA DE UNA DIPUTADA “VERDE” EN LA UNIÓN EUROPEA: EL PUNTO DE VISTA DE ANNA CAVAZZINI**

**RESUMEN:** La sociedad nunca ha estado tan conectada y globalizada como en la actualidad. Tampoco lo han estado sus problemas. Por esta razón, es imperativo que estas cuestiones también sean abordadas colectivamente. Utilizando la metodología deductiva, así como una entrevista oral realizada con la diputada del Parlamento Europeo, Anna Cavazzini, el presente trabajo busca analizar el compromiso social a través del movimiento social Right to Repair y la reanudación del debate sobre el acuerdo entre el Mercosur y la Unión Europea. Se concluye que los ciudadanos, especialmente los jóvenes, han mostrado una mayor preocupación por el medio ambiente y la economía global, participando e influyendo en las decisiones gubernamentales.

**Palabras clave:** Medio ambiente. Economía. Mercosur. Europa. Sociedad.