April 26–28, 2001
The University of Texas at Austin
School of Law, Jeffers Courtroom 3.140
Program Overview

With the success of the European Union (which began as a common market) and NAFTA, contiguous countries in several parts of the world have sought to create free trade zones. As occurred in Europe, such trade zones depend on political and cultural collaboration as well and often lead to cooperation that transcends mere trade issues.

A particularly striking example of a new trade zone that is at once financial, political, and cultural is MERCOSUL/MERCOSUR, which consists of four Southern Cone countries, Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay. Although only ten years old, MERCOSUL/MERCOSUR can already point to many successes, particularly in combining South America's two largest economies, Brazil and Argentina.

The agreement, however, has not been free of problems since historically these countries have been quicker to forge ties with Europe and the United States than with each other. The result has been a mixed record of successes and missteps.

The purpose of this conference is two-fold: (1) to examine the progress made thus far in the economic sphere; and (2) to examine the social, political, and historical context of the agreement and thereby better understand and predict misunderstandings. Specifically, the conference will offer seven panels dedicated to the following topics:

1. Economic Questions: Successes, Failures, and Unfinished Business
2. Reading Each Other's History
3. Reading Each Other's News
4. Legal Questions: Whose International Law?
5. Understanding Each Other's Politics
6. Intellectual and Artistic Exchange
7. NAFTA and the EU: How Distant a Mirror?

Speaking at the conference will be distinguished academics, political leaders, and journalists drawn from all the MERCOSUL/MERCOSUR countries, Europe, and the United States. Particularly important will be the presence and participation of the ambassadors of Argentina and Brazil, Enrique Guillermo González and Rubens Antônio Barbosa.
Thursday, April 26

Location: Green Pastures Restaurant (BY INVITATION)

7:00 P.M.  Reception

7:30 P.M.  Dinner

8:30 P.M.  Keynote Lecture
The Honorable Guillermo Enrique González, Argentine Ambassador in Washington

DAY ONE: Friday, April 27

8:30-9:00 A.M.  Continental Breakfast
UT School of Law, Sheffield Room

9:00-11:00 A.M.  Panel 1. Economic Questions: Successes, Failures, and Unfinished Business
Location: UT School of Law, Jeffers Courtroom 3.140
Moderators: William Glade, Dept. of Economics, Director of the Mexican Center of LLILAS; and Robert Wilson, LBJ School of Public Affairs, Director of the Brazil Center of LLILAS

MERCOSUR Economic Questions: Successes, Failures and Unfinished Business
Pablo Pavia, Vice President, Inter-American Development Bank, New York

Argentina’s Trade Insertion, from Here to Where? A Personal Statement
Guillermo Mondino, Director, IEERAL de la Fundación Mediterránea

MERCOSUR: Tres problemas fundamentales y posibles soluciones
Ricardo Rodríguez Silvero, Economic Analyst/Consultant

11:00-11:15 A.M.  Break

11:15 A.M.-12:30 P.M.  Panel 2. Reading Each Other’s History
Location: UT School of Law, Jeffers Courtroom 3.140
Moderator: Nicolas Shumway, Director of LLILAS

The Paraguayan War: A Catalyst for Nationalism in South America
Thomas Whigham, University of Georgia

O Brasil e a distante América do Sul
Maria Ligia Prado, Universidade de São Paulo

12:30-1:45 P.M.  Lunch Break

1:45-3:45 P.M.  Panel 3. Reading Each Other’s News
Location: UT School of Law, Jeffers Courtroom 3.140
Moderator: Rosental Alves, Dept. of Journalism

The Uruguayan Perspective: How MERCOSUR Is Seen and Covered in Montevideo
Carlos Pauletti, Business Editor, El País Uruguay

Trade and Aid: An Analysis of the MERCOSUR News in the Argentine Press
Jorge Elias, Special Correspondent, La Nación, Argentina

MERCOSUL, the Brazilian Media Perspective
Carlos Eduardo Lins da Silva, Editor, Valor, Brazil

The Impact of MERCOSUR in the Paraguayan Press
Armando Rivarola, Business Editor, ABC, Paraguay

3:45-4:00 P.M.  Break
DAY ONE: Friday, April 27 (cont.)

4:00–5:45 P.M.
Panel 4. Legal Questions: Whose International Law?
Location: UT School of Law, Jeffers Courtroom 3.140
Moderator: Patricia Hansen, School of Law

Paper Title TBA
Claudia Lima Marques, UFRGS, Brazil

Legal Regulation of MERCOSUR—Some Structural Problems / Regimen Jurídico del MERCOSUR—Problemas de su estructura legal
Hortensia Gutierrez Posse, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina

Aspectos jurídicos del MERCOSUR: Defensa del consumidor
Gabriel Stiglitz, President, Argentine Consumer Law Institute

7:00–10:00 P.M.
Dinner (by invitation)
Hyatt Riverboat

DAY TWO: Saturday, April 28

8:30–9:15 A.M.
Continental Breakfast
UT School of Law, Sheffield Room

9:15–10:45 A.M.
Panel 5. Reading Each Other's Politics
Location: UT School of Law, Jeffers Courtroom 3.140
Moderator: Lawrence Graham, Dept. of Government

La lógica del desencuentro
Pablo Rosendo González, International Correspondent, 3 Puntos, Argentina

Moneda única, MERCOSUR, y ALCA
Jorge Castro, Political Analyst

10:45–11:00 A.M.
Break
UT School of Law, Sheffield Room

11:00 A.M.–12:45 P.M.
Panel 6. Intellectual and Artistic Exchange
Location: UT School of Law, Jeffers Courtroom 3.140
Moderator: William Glade, Dept. of Economics and Director of the Mexican Center of LLILAS, and Nicolas Shumway, Director of LLILAS

Educational and Political Exchanges: FURP’s (Fundación Universitaria del Río de la Plata) Experiences from Argentina
Rodolfo Lira, Fundación Universitaria del Río de la Plata, Argentina

Culture and the Redesign of the Economic Order: Three Probable Scenarios and a Desirable for the former MERCOSUL / Cultura e redesenho da ordem econômica: Três cenários prováveis e um desejável para o ex-MERCOSUL.
José Teixeira Coelho Neto, Universidade de São Paulo

Paper Title TBA
Edwin Harvey, UNESCO, Argentina
DAY TWO: Saturday, April 28 (cont.)

12:45–2:00 P.M. LUNCH BREAK
Thompson Center

2:00–3:15 P.M. PANEL 7. NAFTA AND THE EU: HOW DISTANT A MIRROR?
Location: UT School of Law, Jeffers Courtroom 3.140
Moderator: William Glade, Dept. of Economics and Director of the Mexican Center of LLILAS

Mexico and Its Quest to Sign Multiple Free Trade Agreements: Spaghetti Regionalism or Strategic Foreign Trade?
Alejandro Ibarra, ITESM, Mexico

Paper Title TBA
Victor Urquidi, Colegio de México, Mexico

3:15–3:30 P.M. BREAK
UT School of Law, Sheffield Room

3:30–4:30 P.M. CLOSING SPEECH
UT School of Law, Jeffers Courtroom 3.140

The Honorable Rubens Antônio Barbosa, Brazilian Ambassador in Washington

Thank You

This conference would not have been possible without the support of the following sponsors:

Teresa Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies (LLILAS)
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