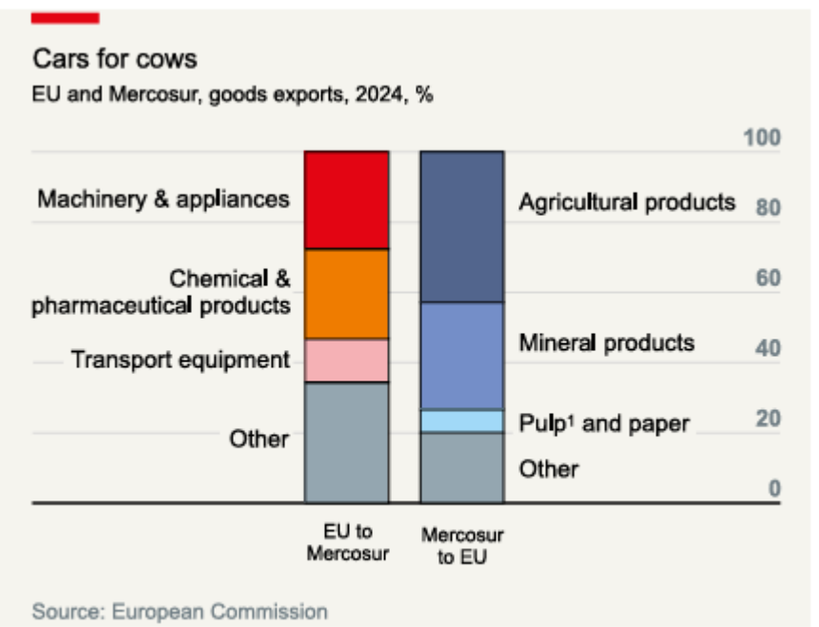
V1	V2	V3	V4

Leia o texto para responder às questões de **24** a **30**.

The European Union-Mercosur agreement is a big deal in the world of geoeconomics

The European Union (EU) and Mercosur, a bloc of South American countries, first started negotiating their trade deal last century. That the two blocs signed that deal in January 2026, after more than 25 years of negotiations, highlights how things have changed. The United States is retreating from globalization and raising tariffs. Chinese competition threatens businesses in both Latin America and Europe, and countries are increasingly obsessed with guaranteeing secure supplies of critical raw materials, of which Latin America has plenty. Anticipating such challenges, the EU and Mercosur completed their negotiations in 2024, though agreeing to approve the deal took Europe another year. On January 17th, 2026 the two sides formally sign it at a ceremony in Paraguay.



[1]pulp: a cellulosic material mainly from wood used in making paper.

The quarter-century negotiating delay is the fault of protectionist lobbies on both sides of the Atlantic, especially European farmers, who fear a flood of cheap beef and sugar. Some called the deal "cows for cars", suggesting the winners would be Latin American farmers and European industry. Predictably, France led the opposition: it stood firm to the very end on January 9th, 2026, when it was joined by Poland and a few smaller EU states in opposing the deal in an internal EU vote-count. Germany and other northern European export powerhouses were more enthusiastic, as was Spain, with its close ties to Latin America. The pact won the support of a "qualified" majority of EU countries, as weighted by population, after a raise in subsidies for farmers helped induce Italy to switch sides. It opens up markets in four longstanding Mercosur members: Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay. Venezuela has been suspended from the bloc and is thus not included. Bolivia, the newest member, could join the trade agreement in the coming years.

The deal is a major event in what has come to be called "geoeconomics", or the interaction between geopolitics and the economy. It is the biggest element of a wider attempt to strengthen ties with Latin America and diversify European trade and supply chains. Such ties help develop Latin American industries that the EU can count on if others cut it off, such as critical raw-material extraction and refinement. Rejecting Mercosur at the request of domestic farmers would have been an own goal for Europe.

(www.economist.com, 11.01.2026. Adaptado.)

In the excerpt from the second paragraph "Venezuela has been suspended from the bloc and is thus not included", the underlined term can be replaced, with no change in meaning, by:

(A) meanwhile.

(B) otherwise.

(C) indeed.

(D) afterwards.

(E) therefore.

RESOLUÇÃO

ALTERNATIVA: E

O termo *thus* expressa uma consequência, podendo ser substituído por *therefore* sem que altere o significado da frase. Sendo que *therefore* também estabelece uma relação de consequência entre as ideias.