

Question for written answer E-004873/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Gerald Hauser (PfE)

Subject: Investigation in Brazil reveals hormones and antibiotics in meat

European standards for veterinary medicinal products, food safety and traceability are among the strictest in the world. However, it is precisely these high standards that are coming under pressure as shown by new investigations in Brazil and reported by agrarheute.com on 4 December 2025. Prescription-only antibiotics and even hormones banned in the EU, such as oestradiol, are sold freely through the local farm supplies trade – without requiring a prescription, proof of identity or any documentation. Usage on Brazilian cattle farms is also problematic: feed dispensers administer antibiotics such as monensin, which has been banned in the EU since 2006. In addition, missing barcodes and the inadequate recording of sales of medicines show that control and follow-up systems are unsatisfactory. An EU audit had previously confirmed that Brazil does not reliably ensure that hormone-treated meat does not enter the EU.

1. What is the Commission's assessment of the current findings in Brazil to the effect that prescription-only antibiotics and hormones banned in the EU are freely available, and what conclusions does it draw for food safety in the EU?
2. What is the Commission's assessment of Brazil's existing control and traceability systems, in light of the significant shortcomings identified by both journalists and an EU audit?
3. Under these circumstances, does the Commission consider the EU-Mercosur agreement to be compatible with EU agricultural, environmental and consumer protection standards, or are additional safeguards needed?

Submitted: 9.12.2025