

Question for written answer E-004883/2025
to the Commission
Rule 144
Anna Zalewska (ECR)

Subject: Quality control of beef from MERCOSUR countries

In light of press reports concerning beef production methods in Brazil and the fact that, according to the Irish Farmers' Association delegation, the standards applied in beef cattle farming in Brazil raise serious concerns.

According to the Irish Farmers' Association, veterinary antibiotics – including those considered to be of the highest critical importance for human medicine – are available in Brazil and sold 'on prescription' without a prescription, without questions and without registration, which indicates a lack of real control over the use of medicines in animals.

Furthermore, it has been pointed out that the system for identifying and tracing cattle – covering approximately 238 million head – is completely unreliable: many animals do not have official ear tags, and the ear tags themselves (including removable ones) are freely available on the market.

In light of the above:

1. Does the Commission intend to verify whether beef production conditions in Brazil actually meet standards equivalent to EU standards before any resumption or expansion of beef imports into the EU takes place?
2. Are there plans for checks – e.g. by food safety authorities – to verify the use of veterinary antibiotics in third countries exporting meat to the EU?
3. Is the Commission prepared, in accordance with the precautionary and public health protection principles, to propose the suspension of concessions for imports of beef (and poultry) from areas where there is no guarantee of animal traceability and proper veterinary control?

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