

**Question for written answer E-000385/2026  
to the Commission**  
Rule 144  
**Emmanouil Fragkos (ECR)**

**Subject:** Increased consumer health risks from products originating in MERCOSUR

Alongside the EU-MERCOSUR agreement process and in light of official audits by the Commission (DG SANTE report 2024-8087), serious questions are being raised about the adequate protection of public health in the single market.

The Commission mission to Brazil (27 May – 14 June 2024) revealed significant gaps in the reliability of the competent authorities' declarations of compliance and the impossibility of fully ensuring that substances banned in the EU, such as 17-beta estradiol, a substance that has been scientifically linked to serious risks to human health, are not used for the purposes of animal husbandry.

At the same time, a public debate is taking place in several Member States on imports of fruit and vegetables containing residues of plant protection products, pesticides and antibiotics that have been banned in the EU but are still used in MERCOSUR.

In view of the above:

1. How does the Commission assess the level of information among the general public on the potential cumulative and long-term health risks of imported MERCOSUR products that may be associated with substances banned in the EU (hormones, pesticides, antibiotics)?
2. Does the Commission intend to propose specific measures to provide transparency and guidance to consumers (such as enhanced origin labelling, targeted information campaigns or systematic publication of test results) so that they can avoid products that pose a higher health risk?
3. What changes or reinforcements does it consider necessary in the national health systems of the Member States in order to prevent and address potential health damage that could be linked to increased imports from MERCOSUR?

Submitted: 29.1.2026