Question for written answer E-001890/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: EU-Mercosur agreement: exposure of the European market to the JBS Group and the risks of geoeconomic dependence in agricultural supply chains

According to several intelligence and economic analyses[1], as well as corroborated journalistic investigations[2345], the EU-Mercosur agreement could strengthen the position of actors that are already highly concentrated in the global animal protein market, notably the world's largest producer, the Brazilian group JBS, whose international expansion has historically benefited from the support of Brazilian public instruments.

Serious controversies involving this group have been documented, including the corruption of foreign public officials in the United States, illegal farming on indigenous lands, deforestation, animal welfare violations and judicial settlements with several prosecutorial authorities, against a backdrop of major politico-financial cases involving high-level political figures.

These elements raise concerns about the potential use of the agreement as a lever for geoeconomic dependence.

1. Did the Commission carry out a comprehensive assessment of the risks linked to strengthening such actors during the negotiations on the agreement?

2. What concrete and verifiable guarantees can the Commission provide to ensure fair competition, in the light of the potential implications for the EU's food sovereignty and the risk of structural dependence on actors strongly supported by their state of origin?

3. Does the Commission intend to suspend or reassess the agreement, the provisional application of which began on 1 May 2026?

Submitted: 7.5.2026

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1 École de Pensée sur la Guerre Économique, 'UE-Mercosur: anatomie d'un angle mort stratégique' [EU-Mercosur: anatomy of a strategic blind spot], 17 April 2026.
2 Challenges, 'Brésil/corruption: les actions du géant de la viande JBS s'effondrent' [Brazil/corruption: the share price of meat giant JBS collapses], 22 May 2017.
3 Les Échos, 'Après l'incarcération de ses fils, Jose Batista, 84 ans, reprend les rênes du numéro un mondial de la viande' [Following his son's imprisonment, 84-year-old Jose Batista is back at the helm of the world's biggest meat processor], 18 September 2017.
4 Le Monde, '"L'Usine des animaux" sur Arte: la marchandisation des bêtes et ses multiples dérives' ['The Cost of Meat' on Arte: the commercialisation of animals and the many associated abuses'], 14 March 2023.
5 The Guardian, 'How a Brazilian meat tycoon accused of bribery and deforestation became a key player in regional diplomacy', 16 December 2025.