Question for written answer E-002238/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
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Subject: Risks associated with tariff quota management system in EU-Mercosur agreement

Implementing regulation (EU) 2026/888 of 20 April 2026 lays down the management modes for tariff rate quotas on products originating in Mercosur countries. This arrangement marks a significant change by allowing partner countries to notify the allocation of volumes amongst their operators and, in effect, to intervene in the allocation of quotas.

The mechanism is a departure from the principle of tariff quotas being managed entirely by the EU via its export licence system. By making access to quotas contingent on approval from export authorities, it poses a real risk of a partial transfer of control to third countries or private companies.

This development raises serious concerns about adherence to the principles of open, transparent and non-discriminatory access to quotas. It could lead to volumes being concentrated in the hands of a limited number of dominant stakeholders, particularly the Brazilian group JBS, putting EU operators and vulnerable agricultural sectors at a disadvantage. It also sets a precedent that could weaken the EU's commercial sovereignty in the long term.

In view of this:

1. What action does the Commission intend to take to avoid quotas being monopolised by a limited number of dominant operators in Mercosur countries?

2. Does it plan to introduce a revision clause for this instrument?

Supporter[1]

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