

Question for written answer E-003371/2026
to the Commission
Rule 144
Piotr Müller (ECR)

Subject: Mercosur and Brazil's failure to meet EU food safety standards

Just a few weeks after the EU-Mercosur agreement came into force, the Commission decided to suspend imports from Brazil – including beef and poultry – as of 3 September due to shortcomings in the monitoring of the use of antimicrobials. The problem is particularly serious in the case of beef: the Commission requires proof of compliance with EU standards throughout the animal's lifetime, and according to experts, full compliance with this condition may not be possible until 2028 or 2029. At the same time, Brazil accounts for around a quarter of the EU's beef and poultry imports.

In this connection:

1. How can the Commission continue to claim that the EU–Mercosur agreement does not lower standards of protection for European consumers and farmers, when, even after its entry into force, it itself states that the Brazilian monitoring system does not guarantee compliance with EU requirements?
2. Why did the Commission allow the agreement to enter into force before ascertaining whether or not one of its largest food-exporting partners actually met EU standards?
3. Will the Commission acknowledge that the case of Brazilian meat demonstrates that European farmers are expected to compete with imports from countries where equivalence of standards exists more in political declarations than in practice?

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