

**Priority question for written answer P-003530/2026
to the Commission**

Rule 144

Martin Häusling (Verts/ALE)

Subject: Unauthorised genetically modified organisms in Brazilian poultry imports

The Standing Committee on Plants, Animals, Food and Feed voted to ban Brazilian meat imports from 3 September 2026 over potential antimicrobial misuse. Antimicrobial resistance is mostly carried on plasmids. BiomElix® One, an animal feed additive approved by Brazil's Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply in December 2024, exploits this mechanism synthetically, spreading genetically modified CRISPR-carrying plasmids across thousands of bacterial species in poultry. Creating living modified organisms in the environment is not a side effect of the feed; it is a functional mechanism. Once transferred, these plasmids persist in recipient species beyond the lifespan of the *E.coli* that released them. The European Food Safety Authority confirms that facultative intracellular pathogens – potential recipients of such plasmids – are routinely found on poultry meat in the EU¹.

1. Regardless of whether BiomElix® One is in use, does the Commission consider that any living modified organism carrying genetically modified plasmids in Brazilian poultry imports constitutes an unauthorised release?
2. Has the Commission advised Member States or engaged Brazilian authorities on this matter, as it did in 2014²?
3. Can the Commission guarantee that no living modified organisms carrying genetically modified plasmids were present on chicken imported from Brazil before the ban or have been present since the ban – regardless of whether such plasmids are themselves capable of replication?

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¹ European Food Safety Authority and European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, The European Union One Health 2024 Zoonoses Report, EFSA Journal, 2025, <https://doi.org/10.2903/j.efsa.2025.9759>.

² Commission written reply to GeneWatch UK, 12 June 2014, Ares(2014)1913569.