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Answer given by Mr Šefčovič
on behalf of the European Commission
(10.3.2025)

On 6 December 2024, in the margins of the Mercosur Summit in Montevideo, the EU and Mercosur countries reached a political agreement concluding the negotiations of the EU-Mercosur agreement. The Commission conducted the negotiations based on a mandate from the Council. The EU focus in the negotiations has been to ensure that the agreement delivers on the EU's sustainability goals, while respecting the EU's sensitivities in the agricultural sector.

A study published in 2024 assessing the potential impact of the free-trade agreements on EU agriculture confirms that the EU trade approach opens new commercial opportunities for EU agri-food exporters¹. More specifically, on Mercosur, the Commission commissioned a Sustainable Impact Assessment² confirming that the agreement will have a positive impact on the economies of both the EU and the Mercosur countries, raising wages and contributing to a reduction in inequalities.

Imported agricultural products from Mercosur must comply with sanitary and phytosanitary standards protecting consumers health. These are the same standards that apply to EU domestically produced agricultural products. In addition, the EU has established autonomous legislation requiring that imports adhere to certain standards aimed at achieving global environmental objectives and addressing ethical concerns. For example, the European Union Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)³ will ensure that trade in relevant products from Mercosur partners is not associated with deforestation and forest degradation. Products such as beef, soy or wood produced outside the EU and inside the EU will be subject to the same requirements under EUDR – guaranteeing a high standard of environmental protection.

¹ JRC Publications Repository - Cumulative economic impact of upcoming trade agreements on EU agriculture, <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC135540>

² <https://circabc.europa.eu/ui/group/09242a36-a438-40fd-a7af-fe32e36cbd0e/library/abfa1190-59d1-4f59-93a5-9b9810d2b744/details>

³ Regulation (EU) 2023/1115 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 31 May 2023 on the making available on the Union market and the export from the Union of certain commodities and products associated with deforestation and forest degradation, <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32023R1115>