

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002295/24
to the Commission
Kosma Złotowski (ECR)
(29 October 2024)**

Subject: Effects of the Mercosur trade agreement on European agriculture

Polish farmers have legitimate concerns about the EU's trade agreement with Mercosur — principally with regard to the influx of beef, poultry and agricultural products into our market. These are produced on a larger scale and at lower cost in South America because there are no environmental restrictions in place.

As a result of the agreement, imported products will put Polish and EU farmers' incomes at risk and exert downward pressure on EU food production and quality standards. Uncontrolled imports of agricultural products will make matters worse for farmers already facing price volatility and rising production costs.

1. Is it true that the EU-Mercosur agreement is set to be signed as early as the G20 Summit in Brazil on 18-19 November 2024, and that the Commission is being very active in its efforts to finalise the negotiations on this agreement, despite farmers' protests?
2. In the course of the negotiations, has the Commission held a dialogue with farmers' organisations and consulted on the elements of the Mercosur agreement that will have the greatest impact on the future of the sector, and on European farmers in particular?
3. Is it true that the Commission is planning to set up a special fund to compensate EU farmers for the negative effects of the agreement, and if so, what resources will be used to finance it, what will the total amount of the fund be, and under what conditions will farmers be able to benefit from it?

Submitted: 29.10.2024

**Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(3 March 2025)**

On 6 December 2024, in the margin 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 an authorisation 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.

Throughout the negotiations, the Commission has also been regularly meeting representatives of farmers' organisations to discuss both opportunities and challenges of the agreement for EU producers.

The EU is the world's largest exporter of agricultural and food products, and EU farmers largely benefit from trade agreements, with an increasing trade surplus (about EUR 70 billion in 2023).

Mercosur is a highly protected market with real economic potential for increased exports of EU agri-food such as olive oil, malt, some fruit and vegetables, wines, spirits, non-alcoholic beverages and processed foods such as chocolates or biscuits.

Regarding sensitive EU agricultural products, the EU has negotiated limited concessions in the form of tariff rate quotas that represent a small fraction of EU consumption.

These partial openings will be introduced in gradual stages to allow for a smooth transition. They will be coupled with safeguard clauses to protect the EU market in case of serious injury caused by Mercosur imports.

The Commission believes that those mechanisms will safeguard and protect the interests of EU farmers. Still, in case the implementation of the deal would result in market disturbances, the Commission stands ready to support farmers.
