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Answer given by Mr Hansen
on behalf of the European Commission
(16.4.2025)

The EU-Mercosur Partnership Agreement (EMPA) strikes a balance between EU offensive and defensive interests in agri-food trade: to limit the impact in terms of competition on the EU internal market for sensitive EU sectors¹, trade preferences are granted as tariff rate quota (TRQ) for a limited share of the EU market. No new sugar TRQ was granted to Brazil. A major share of the ethanol TRQ will be exclusively for the use by the chemical industry. In addition, the EMPA contains robust safeguard provisions, including for products under TRQs.

The Agreement will open new export opportunities for the EU agri-food sector, notably for wines, dairy, olive oil, some fruits and vegetables and processed agricultural products and will strengthen Geographical Indication protection in that area.

The Commission will monitor agricultural market developments closely. For the unlikely event that the agricultural market situation in the EU were to be negatively impacted due the EMPA, the Commission announced a financial reserve of at least EUR 1 billion.

The EMPA contains a chapter on Trade and Sustainable Development, including obligations to adhere to multilateral environmental agreements, a commitment to halt deforestation and an institutional setting for agrifood policy dialogues to foster environmental sustainability. In addition, the Paris Agreement to combat climate change is an ‘essential element’ of the EMPA, which means that a party can suspend the agreement if it considers that there is a serious breach of the Paris Agreement or if a party leaves it.

The Vision for Agriculture and Food² lays out a pathway to better support the European farmers in the process of a just and sustainable transition, including striving towards a fairer global competition.

¹ See the related JRC study: <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC135540>

² <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52025DC0075>