

*(English version)*

**Question for written answer E-000999/25  
to the Commission  
Daniel Buda (PPE)  
(7 March 2025)**

*Subject: Agri-food imports from the USA*

The President of the USA bemoans his country's trade deficit with the European Union, especially in the area of agri-food products, and has called for the EU to buy more US products. The main barrier to this, though, are the differences in food safety rules, as the EU bans imports of US products that have been treated with hormones or hazardous pesticides or which are genetically modified. Similarly, Europe's farmers are reluctant to engage in unfair external competition with products that are produced to lower standards, making it all the more complicated to resolve this trade dispute.

How will the Commission safeguard the European Union's food safety standards in the context of trade agreements with the United States, given the significant regulatory differences as regards the use of hormones, pesticides and genetically modified organisms in imported foodstuffs?

Submitted: 7.3.2025

**Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission  
(14 May 2025)**

Since the start of the new United States (US) administration, the Commission has been engaging with its US counterparts to avert unnecessary tensions by seeking negotiated solutions with the US but has also been ready to act to safeguard the EU's interests, where necessary, for instance through the adoption of countermeasures. These measures are suspended in view of the US decision to suspend for 90-days its reciprocal tariffs, for the same length of time to allow space for negotiations.

When it comes to sanitary and phytosanitary standards, the EU has a robust system in place to ensure that all food placed on the market satisfies the requirement of a high level of human health protection and to prevent the spread of pests or diseases among plants and animals.

All goods imported into the EU must comply with EU health and product safety requirements. The definition of such EU standards is not negotiable.

In the Vision for Agriculture and Food <sup>(1)</sup>, the Commission has set out the approach to a fairer global level playing field. This includes using bilateral free trade negotiations and Agreements to their full extent. The Commission will also pursue, in line with international rules, a stronger alignment of production standards applied to imported products, notably on pesticides and animal welfare.

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<sup>(1)</sup> Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, A Vision for Agriculture and Food Shaping together an attractive farming and agri-food sector for future generations, COM/2025/75 final; <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025DC0075>.