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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
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In the period 2021 to date, the Commission carried out 18 audits on food safety and animal health in Mercosur countries. The objective of these audits was to assess how the competent authorities implement official controls and whether they provide the necessary guarantees for exports to the EU. The Commission publishes all audit reports on its website[1].

During audits, the Commission experts visit establishments approved for export to the EU, including farms, slaughterhouses and processing plants. These visits serve to check the functioning of official controls and to verify that the guarantees of compliance with EU rules are effectively implemented. However, the Commission does not approve or suspend individual establishments or producers. This responsibility lies with the competent authorities of the exporting country, under the EU framework rules. Third countries can only approve and list for export to the EU those establishments that comply with EU public health requirements and are subject to regular official controls. When a third country's competent authority identifies that an establishment no longer fulfils the requirements for listing, it must update its lists and remove the establishment.

Whilst the two audit reports of 2024 referred to by the Honourable Member did identify certain shortcomings in the Brazilian official control system put in place to ensure compliance of food for EU market with EU rules, these deficiencies did not concern individual slaughterhouses.

The complete lists of third country establishments, including slaughterhouses, producing food of animal origin intended for export to the EU are publicly available through the TRACES platform[2].

[1] https://ec.europa.eu/food/audits-analysis/audit-report.
[2] https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/tracesnt/directory/listing/establishment/publication/index#!/search.