

EN
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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(3.11.2025)

Enforcing the ban under Article 118 requires the adaptation of multiple legal acts under the Regulation on Veterinary Medicinal Products¹ and amending the Official Controls Regulation². This took time. It ensures that the EU's robust official control system applies to imported goods subject to restrictions on the use of antimicrobials too.

In respect of its international obligations, the EU has set a deadline of September 2026 to give its trade partners sufficient time to meet the EU requirements. This timeframe allows operators and official authorities in third countries to put in place the necessary measures to adjust to the new import requirements.

Animal, plants and food products placed on the EU market, domestically produced or imported from any third country, must comply with EU's sanitary and phytosanitary requirements. These are not negotiable and apply regardless of agreements concluded with third countries, such as the one reached with Ukraine.

Moreover, as outlined in the Commission's Communication 'A Vision for Agriculture and Food'³ the Union will strive towards a fairer global level playing field for agriculture. The Commission will pursue, in line with international rules, a stronger alignment of production standards applied to imported products. In this Communication, the Commission also announced a dedicated task force to further strengthen controls on imports.

¹ Regulation (EU) 2019/6 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2018 on veterinary medicinal products, (OJ L 4, 7.1.2019, pp. 43), ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2019/6/oj>.

² Regulation (EU) 2021/1756 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 6 October 2021 amending Regulation (EU) 2017/625 as regards official controls on animals and products of animal origin exported from third countries to the Union in order to ensure compliance with the prohibition of certain uses of antimicrobials and Regulation (EC) No 853/2004 as regards the direct supply of meat from poultry and lagomorphs, (OJ L 357, 8.10.2021, pp. 27), ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/1756/oj>.

³ 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>.