EN
E-003509/2025
Answer given by Mr Hansen
on behalf of the European Commission
(3.11.2025)

During the trade negotiations with Ukraine and Mercosur countries, the Commission duly considered the sensitivity of some agricultural products and limited concessions by way of tariff quotas, coupled with strong safeguards. Moreover, concessions to Mercosur countries will be introduced gradually thus mitigating any abrupt effects on the EU market. For Ukraine, new concessions are conditioned on Ukraine's gradual alignment to EU production standards to level the playing field vis-à-vis EU farmers. These provisions address EU farmers' interests and help to avoid a disturbance of the EU market. The Commission has also secured improved market access for EU products to those markets.

As stated, Mercosur agreement comes with strong built-in safeguards but, in–the unlikely event that the implementation of this agreement results in market disturbances, the Commission is ready to support farmers on the basis of the Unity Safety Net proposed as part of the next multiannual financial framework[1].
A high intervention price is not an effective public policy tool to address farmers' income and ensure competitiveness. By creating artificial demand it would incentivise production instead of adjusting supply to demand. In the long run, this would generate structural oversupply and new problems.

Having intervention prices disconnected from normal market price developments allows them to function as a genuine safety net. This increases competitiveness and market orientation of agriculture. Income support to farmers is granted in a more efficient way through the existing direct payments. The Common Agricultural Policy also includes risk management tools and investment measures supporting farmers to increase their competitiveness and resilience.

[1] Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions, 'A dynamic EU Budget for the priorities of the future – the Multiannual Financial Framework 2028-2034', 16.7.2025, COM (2025) 570 final/2.