(English version)

Question for written answer E-003612/25
to the Commission
Tobiasz Bocheński (ECR)
(17 September 2025)

Subject: EU-Mercosur trade agreement and protecting Polish agriculture

In light of the plans to finalise and ratify the free trade agreement between the European Union and the Mercosur countries, I request answers to the following question:

Can the Commission indicate how it intends to counteract the risk of unfair competition from Mercosur manufacturers, who have lower production costs, weaker environmental protections and lower labour standards, which could destabilise the agricultural market and lead to the ruin of many EU family farms?

Submitted: 17.9.2025

Answer given by Mr Šefčovič on behalf of the European Commission
(24 November 2025)

The Commission is committed to ensuring fair competition and the protection of EU family farms.

In response to concerns surrounding the finalisation and ratification of the free trade agreement between the EU and the Mercosur countries, the agreement limits preferential agri-food imports from Mercosur to a fraction of EU production (for example, 1.5% for beef and 1.3% for poultry).

In addition, while the agreement includes robust safeguards to protect European farmers, the Commission is proposing to supplement the agreement with a safeguards regulation that operationalises the bilateral safeguards chapter of the agreement ([1]).

This proposed regulation aims to protect the EU's crucial and most sensitive agricultural sectors, recognising the concerns of European farmers.

It will enable the Commission to act swiftly and effectively to counteract potential negative effects, with specific provisions on the monitoring and launch of investigations for sensitive products.

All food products placed on the EU market, being domestically produced or imported from third countries, including Mercosur ones, must also comply with the EU's high sanitary and phytosanitary standards.

In addition, the Vision for Agriculture ([2]) foresees a stronger alignment of production standards applied to imported products, notably for pesticides and animal welfare.

In the unlikely event that the agricultural sector in the EU is negatively impacted following the implementation of the agreement, the new multiannual financial framework ([3]) proposal includes a 'Unity Safety Net' for crisis measures worth EUR 6.3 billion for 2028-2034 (EUR 900 million per year) underscoring the EU's commitment to protecting its agricultural sector.

([1]) https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52025PC0639#:~:text=On%203%20September%202025%2C%20the%20European%20Commission%20adopted,referred%20to%20as%20%E2%80%98the%20EU-MERCOSUR%20Interim%20Trade%20Agreement%E2%80%99%29.
([2]) https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025DC0075.
([3]) https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex:52025PC0571.